

**MINUTES OF THE 121ST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
OF THE PARISH OF CASTLE BROMWICH
HELD ON TUESDAY 5TH MAY 2015 IN ARDEN HALL,
CASTLE BROMWICH COMMENCING AT 8.05 P.M.**

PRESENT: Electors of the Parish

CB05 418	Cllr M Hayes	CB01 709	Cllr E Knibb	CB02 55	Cllr I Hiley
CB04 1389	Cllr J Riordan	CB01 710	Mrs. T Knibb	CB02 56	Ms M Slyfield
CB04 1390	Mrs. M Riordan	CB01 466	Mr. S Stanton	CB01 755	Ms. J Willis
CB05 409	Cllr Mrs. A Haywood	CB02 503	Mr. K Lewis	CB03 663	Mrs. W. Carter
CB03 538	Mrs. J Payne	CB02 502	Mrs. G Lewis	CB02 2548	Cllr B Upton
CB02 1596	Cllr M Rashid				

No of Electors: 16

Members of the Public

Cllr Mrs. P Allen	Youth Cllr Miss J Browne	Flt. Lt S Jennings
Mrs. F. Nicholas	Mrs. L Browne	Mr. D Jorden
Mr J MacDonald	Mrs. P Prior	

8 public

Officers

C. D Tibbles, Clerk to the Council.	1 Officer
	Total Attendance 25 people

The Chairman, Cllr Hayes, welcomed everyone to the annual parish meeting and thanked them sincerely for attending. Prior to the meeting commencing, everyone had been given the opportunity to discuss informally the future priorities for the parish plan and the potential operation of a Community Speedwatch Scheme.

1. The Notice to convene the meeting.

The Chairman read the notice to convene the meeting, copies having been circulated and published on notice boards.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr E Hicks, Cllr A Terry.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting had been made available prior to the meeting and were taken as read. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr M Rashid, SECONDED BY Cllr Mrs. Haywood, IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the 120th Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 6th May 2014, having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4. Report of attendance.

	Actual Meeting	Possible Meetings	
Cllr Mrs. P Allen	49	49	100%
Cllr M Hayes	43	43	100%
Cllr Mrs. A Haywood	36	43	84%
Cllr E Hicks	32	43	74%
Cllr I Hiley	33	43	77%
Cllr J Home-MacDonald	28	33	85%
Cllr E Knibb	22	29	76%

	Actual Meeting	Possible Meetings	
Cllr M Rashid	14	23	61%
Cllr J Riordan	42	49	86%
Cllr A Terry	23	42	55%
Cllr B Upton	14	16	88%
Cllr Miss J Ward	16	23	70%
Cllr J Whelan (resigned 09/14)	3	10	30%
Cllr Okanta-Ofori(res. 04/15)	4	16	25%
Average - whole Council			72%

Many councillors continued to serve on numerous Working Parties/ Committees that were not reflected in these figures above, which related to full Council and Standing Committees.

[Clerk's note: the attendance for Cllr Upton was mistakenly omitted when the list was read.]

5.a) Report of the Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee

In the absence of Cllr Terry, the Chairman of the Council reported that like other national and local authorities, there had been a strain on finances. Demands for expenditure were high but income had not increased being nearly £350,000, which included the £230,000 precept. Expenditure had been reduced by £40,000 on the planned budget but income had only reduced by £1000 in these trying times. Councillors remained focused on working for the community.

The Clerk's report on the accounts had been available before the meeting and is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

5.b) Report of the Chairman of Leisure Services Committee - Cllr I Hiley.

Cllr Hiley explained that the Committee was responsible for overseeing Arden Hall, buildings and Open Spaces owned by the parish council. Since 2010 there had been a rolling refurbishment programme with the Hall done in 2012 and now due for more work again. The Council Offices had been relocated and the York Room and old office had since been decorated and fitted with new windows. The parish council owned and operated the playing fields, Whateley Green, Village Green, Hob Farm and Bradford Gardens opposite Castle Bromwich Hall Hotel. The council had renegotiated the grounds maintenance contract for this considerable acreage and in the first year had saved money. Help had been received from the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust who would be planting in and around the parish. Volunteers were needed to help with this but the council was pleased it was being implemented at no cost to residents and would give extra colour if the community got involved. The triennial tree survey had been completed and the council was pleased to learn that there was no increased risk to the substantial number of horse chestnut trees, many of which were suffering from a condition known as 'bleeding canker'. The council had worked with an organisation called Community Energy Warwickshire and the buildings had been surveyed. The next stage would be to assess if there were any green initiatives to follow (e.g. led lightbulbs, water monitoring, possible solar panels) – whilst this was not yet confirmed, it would be good to look at options. He hoped the summer weather would be good so that residents could enjoy the many facilities that the parish council provided.

6. Report of the Youth Parish Council – Youth Cllr Miss J Browne.

Youth Cllr Miss J Browne reported it had been a successful year with a trip taking place to Westminster and being guests for lunch with Caroline Spelman, MP. Everyone was then most pleased to have the opportunity to sit in the Strangers Gallery in the House of Lords and watch part of a debate. Two donations has been given to the Youth Council for the Sensory Peace Garden – one from the Dame Mary Bridgeman Trust and one from Cllr Whelan, former Chairman of the Parish Council from his charity fundraising endeavours. Another project by the Youth Council had been completed with the production finished of the DVD on "How To Set Up a Youth Council". Members were proud to form the wreath carrying party to represent young people at the annual remembrance parade. Members also helped with the Carol Concert held in the Spencer Hall. They were in early discussions for their next project – to have outdoor table tennis facilities in the park and would hope to apply for funding to cover this cost. She concluded by thanking Cllr Mrs. Allen and the Clerk for their help and support to the Youth Council which was really appreciated.

7. Future Projects involving the Parish Council.

Cllr Hayes said that following on from last year, the council continued to ask what was important to the people of Castle Bromwich. In addition to the facilities that had historically been provided, the parish council set aside a sum of £10,000 to help provide financially for project delivery to drive things forward from the Parish Plan. Speedwatch was one of those projects but it needed local people to come forward too – was there a road that residents knew was a problem with speeding traffic? There was money set aside and if 12 or more volunteers came forward a scheme could be set up. When trained, they could stand at the roadside with a speed gun, with the parish being covered by enough people to protect you from doing your own road – he hoped this would be a reassuring factor. Castle Bromwich Library and Age UK were working together on providing new facilities and the parish council had granted money towards that. He urged residents to contact the council about parish plan priorities and/or the Speedwatch scheme.

8. The Chairman's Address - Cllr M Hayes.

Cllr Hayes explained this meeting fulfilled two purposes – the council's legal obligation to hold an annual meeting to inform parishioners of the work done by the council in the past year and to provide an opportunity for questions from residents. Cllr Hayes had chaired every meeting of

the full council, which had proved both rewarding and interesting but also led to many late sittings. In common with other organisations, the council faced continued financial pressure to stay within budgets and efficiencies had been made. The Council had maintained the budget for implementation of the parish plan and spent money on improvements in the community, like installing bollards on the little green. In the year ahead the council would look further at all aspects of its operations. Cllr Hayes thanked Councillors Hiley and Terry for chairing the two standing committees, to all councillors and the Clerk for their work and commitment. He also thanked the Hall Manager and her staff for their work. He reported that there were three vacancies on the council and invited anyone interested in finding out more to speak to him afterwards or contact the council office.

The Chairman then reported on events he had attended throughout the past year, being grateful for support from Cllr Mrs. Allen as Vice-Chair on occasions that he could not make. On Sunday 8th June he had attended the North Solihull Cup to present soccer trophies and Cllr Mrs. Allen had attended on other days. On Sunday 8th June he had also attended the annual Parish Civic Services. On 10th June he attended the Mayor making at Solihull civic suite; on Monday 16th June he had attended the Image Fest at the Bluebell Centre in Chelmsley Wood which was a showcase of North Solihull talent. On Monday 4th August, he had attended two services commemorating the start of the first world war – one in Solihull and one at St. Mary & St. Margaret's Church in Castle Bromwich. On Friday 22nd August he attended the pavilion to present medals to participants in Vision Sports Academy Summer football camp, again assisted by Cllr Mrs. Allen. On 17th October he attended a concert by Castle Bromwich Singers held at Arden Hall. On Remembrance Sunday he had attended the community service of remembrance along with the majority of councillors and been honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the council and then take the salute on the march past. In November he attended the parish Christmas Tree Lighting and carol concert. In December and April two Charimman's Charity Quiz nights were held that raised money for the presentations he would be making at the end of the meeting. In February he attended the annual presentation evening for 165 Castle Bromwich Squadron Air Cadets and finally on 17th April he had been proud to host the presentation to Mrs. Phil White of the British Empire Medal that took place here in the Spencer Lounge with the Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands as the Queen's representative. It had been marvellous to see someone from our own community rewarded and recognized.

9. Questions from Parishioners.

The Chairman invited questions from members of the public present. Mr. Stanton asked what data was available on Speedwatch and whether new calming measures would be included as sometimes these were hazardous to cyclists. The Chairman replied that the scheme was not about chicanes but to be a visible presence with a speed camera. Data would then be passed to the police and it would be their decision to send letters out to motorists with a warning. He would be pleased for the area of Castle Bromwich to be known as a place not to drive at speed. Mr. Lewis said his car had been written off in an accident with a speeding car and asked for a mini-island before Park Hall school to slow traffic down. The Chairman replied that this was a matter for the Borough Council and, as they faced financial constraints too, it could be difficult to achieve. However, if a Speedwatch scheme was launched he hoped there could be a reduction in driving speed of motorists.

10. Presentation of Cheques.

The Chairman was pleased to present the annual Chairman's Charity Fund donations which were shared among a large number of local organisations.

Cllr Hayes also presented a Service Certificate to the Chairman of the Youth Council.

Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31 March 2015

31st March 2014		31 March 2015
	Operating Income	
56,586	Arden Hall	57,543
46,805	Bar	37,464
504	Theatre Workshops	378
13,476	Pavilion	17,498
6,359	Open Spaces	5,431
227,124	Democratic Services	231,313
350,854	Total Income	349,627
	Running Costs	
141,504	Arden Hall	128,395
27,584	Bar	22,493
447	Theatre Workshops	423
62,270	Pavilion	35,001
47,458	Open Spaces	56,509
100,441	Democratic Services	96,659
0	Council Reserves	0
379,704	Total Expenditure	339,480
	General Fund Analysis	
147,702	Opening Balance	113,636
350,854	Plus : Income for Year	349,627
498,556		463,263
379,704	Less : Expenditure for Year	339,480
118,852		123,783
5,216	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	31,370
113,636	Closing Balance	92,413

Financial Information – Annual Parishioner’s Meeting

As always, the records of the Parish Council (both financial and general) are available for personal scrutiny and I am willing to answer any questions as the person responsible for preparing Year End accounts. However, if a detailed answer is requested I may not have the full information or specific background to individual transactions at this meeting.

Reporting by the council of financial training, accounts and audit process is shown via the parish council noticeboard, the website and in council meeting minutes, as required.

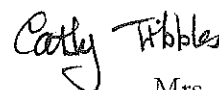
2014/2015

The latest Financial Year End information is still being prepared and subject to both independent and external audit. A draft breakdown of income and expenditure is above.

Income has increased for Arden Hall, Pavilion and Democratic Services, with the overall income very nearly matching the previous year. Some running costs have been re-categorised (e.g. cost of employing Mobile Wardens now more closely linked to Open Spaces rather than being mostly charged to the Pavilion). Running costs have been reduced for all areas, with the exception of Open Spaces and future budgets set with prudence reflecting the economic constraints. Interest from investment of earmarked reserves and contingency monies has again been beneficial.

Vandalism and Anti Social Behaviour

Direct costs have fallen but time spent reporting issues like unauthorised parking, fly tipping, litter and dog fouling etc seems to be increasing.



Mrs. Cathy Tibbles.
Responsible Finance Officer.

1st May, 2015