

7. Communications.

Routine communications and bulletins were noted, together with supplier’s information. The Clerk was still awaiting the quotation for electrical repairs (since September). The debt query on electricity supply was briefly discussed and the quotation for door security intercoms questioned. Both Cllr Knibb and Cllr Terry knew of possible contractors who could be approached for additional quotations, which the Clerk or the Hall Manager would gratefully pursue.

EK/AT
asap

8. Improvements to Arden Hall and Future Plans.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Mrs. Knibb had just sent in the structural report which would need to be deferred to the December meeting so that members could receive and read it. After discussion, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Clerk be assisted with a specification for works so that companies could be invited to submit quotations, including their projected timescale and availability during February and March, that the planning application for disabled access enhancements be submitted as soon as possible, that the AMP budget be utilised for immediate improvements to promote and improve services to customers. Cllr Mrs Knibb had sent apologies that the draft response to participants of the consultation was not yet written. Marketing strategies would be pursued in due course.

Clerk
12/11

7/11

Dec.08

TK
ASAP

9. Hire Charges 09/10.

Mrs. Kite felt that the reputation and image of Arden Hall could be improved which should lead to an increase in bookings. She recommended some prices be reduced having surveyed costs at alternative venues. Following serious consideration and discussion, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to retain existing Arden Hall A rate prices but reduce weekend charges by 25%, extend the successful Friday residents evening rate to weekends (proportionally) and in addition introduce immediately a 25% ‘late booking’ discount on new A rate weekend bookings for events taking place within 3 months which should be advertised and promoted. Members were concerned about the financial viability of the large discount for rehearsal rates and **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the bookkeeper investigate the actual costs of different function rooms at Arden Hall, for possible consideration by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Following suggestions by the Clerk, members were content to be guided by the Hall Manager for B and C rate prices. Members noted sample costs for tennis, soccer and cricket and **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Open Spaces charges increase by 5%.

DM 11/11

TK 11/11

DM 18/11

10. Budget Planning 2009/10.

Following the resolution by the Council on the long-term future of Arden Hall, members felt able to make clearer decisions on the necessary investment required in the 5/10 year term. Members discussed heating and air conditioning in the York Room, Windsor Room, Lounge lighting improvements, fascia replacement and exterior decorating, Windsor Room windows but noted that essential works rather than enhancements had to be priority areas in future. After consideration of suggestions, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to update the draft budget plan with the following allocations: code 361 £10,000; code 380 be reconsidered after hire charge reductions finalised; code 413 reviewed and 415 reassessed from previous invoices; code 461 reduced to £5000 and income for cost centre 4 to reflect a forecast 5% increase. **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk and Bookkeeper review any additional income/expenditure since the budget plan was prepared if it was felt the year end forecasts were likely to be varied. Salary forecasts could also be reviewed to reflect recent changes (e.g. pay award).

DM
11/11

Clerk/
DM 18/11

11. Payments.

Following scrutiny by Cllr Riordan, the Clerk asked for voucher no. 748 and 754 to be deferred as there were issues requiring amendment or further investigation. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Allen, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the amended payments, be approved. Members noted the latest budget printout that had been circulated.

DM
11/11

12. Clerk's Report/Open Spaces Report.

The Clerk informed members that the application for reinstatement of the Dispersal Order at the Village Green and the creation of a new alcohol restriction order had been turned down. A brief statement expressing disappointment had been issued and hopes that a meeting could be held with community partners to find a way of moving forward with support in place for parishioners. Cllr Mrs. Wilkins felt the views of the Parish Council and the public had been ignored. The Clerk was asked to forward suggested dates to meet the agencies concerned. Correspondence had been circulated earlier from the Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club and at the suggestion of the Clerk **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that cricket dates already requested be deferred until hire bookings were invited; names of elected cricket officers, their future plans and the cricket outfield work quotation of £5-6000 be noted (although responsibility not accepted as site inspection by members was scheduled for January 09); written letter confirming request for junior soccer pitches for Castle Bromwich United for 2009/10 season be acknowledged, although this had already been made to the Clerk at the meeting held in September, in addition she would send a copy of the sports policy and copy the information to Caroline Spelman MP; the tennis court moss treatment would be actioned by the Council but if the Tennis Club could assist with contacts and a contribution that would be helpful; in August it had been agreed to meet again on 22nd October with the Chairman and Secretary of the Club but regrettably neither officers turned up. Cllr Mrs. Allen and the Clerk waited but one apology was received half an hour later. A new date has not yet been agreed. One adult football team has ceased to play but written confirmation of this was awaited. A report of tree damage was being investigated at Bradford Gardens but not yet clarified. Staff continued to work additional hours to cover vacant posts and their endeavours to provide the best service possible for customers was appreciated. Members were reminded about Remembrance Parade arrangements and although much work continued for this important occasion, the Clerk was grateful to Cllr Mrs. Allen, George and a volunteer resident who had delivered reminder letters to all residents and businesses affected by the road closures. The Clerk had made bookings for the newly arranged Parish Councillor Surgeries but until a volunteer offered to co-ordinate arrangements **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to defer the launch until January. Cllr Knibb undertook to discuss dates with the Hall Manager. Under confidential terms, the Clerk reported conclusion of 2 staff matters.

Clerk
7/11

Clerk to
ack 18/11

Ack. 18/11

Ack 18/11

Clerk
18/11

CBC&SC
TBA

Clerk
7/11

EK
asap

13. Business Proposals.

Under confidential terms, members discussed 2 business proposals and instructed the Clerk on agreed action for the next stage.

14. Village Green access request.

Under confidential terms, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that a letter of response be sent to the chartered surveyor confirming the Committee's views on proposals.

15. Breach of Regulations – Castle Bromwich Cricket & Sports Club.

Under confidential terms, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Clerk should write to the Club seeking a written report in 14 days with a view to arranging a special meeting to consider the matter further.