

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL,
CASTLE BROMWICH ON
WEDNESDAY, 6TH MARCH 2013
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

- Chairman** Cllr Mrs. P Allen
- Councillors** Cllr R Amos Cllr I Hiley Cllr M Rashid
Cllr M Hayes Cllr E Knibb Cllr J Riordan
Cllr Mrs. A Haywood Cllr A Terry
- Officers:** Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council/RFO
Mrs. T Kite, Hall Manager/Licensee [Items 1- 6 only]
- Public:** 12 members of the public [Items 1-part 5 only].

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr E Hicks, Cllr Miss J Ward and Cllr Mrs. Wilkins were noted for the reasons given.

2. Declarations of personal or conflict of interests.

None declared.

3. Dispensations.

None requested.

4. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Terry, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6th February, 2013, having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

5. Manager’s Report and Hire issues.

Members noted and considered the report from the Hall Manager, noting that since the last meeting the electrician had confirmed that the planned changes to the stage lighting controls were not viable due to the voltage of the wiring. The stage specialist had now suggested exploring purchase of LED lights which were more economical to run. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the public to ask questions. Members listened to the concerns expressed by the two hire groups who were represented and clarified the information that had been sent to all hirers who used the stage. The hirers asked to view the lights on the stage and the Chairman invited everyone to the stage where information and views were exchanged. As the previous action was not feasible, the Clerk suggested that a new report be supplied to the Committee, with details of what wiring work had to be undertaken, what lighting options were for a basic and for a full lighting rig, with associated estimated costs. The Clerk also suggested that a further meeting with stage hirers be held in due course and undertook to write to them once a date could be offered, confirming the addresses they had omitted previously when writing to Cllr Hayes. At 8.35 pm the Chairman recommenced the Committee meeting. The Hall Manager continued her report and members noted a new member of bar staff had been appointed.

6. Bar Stock Report.

The report was noted by members.

ACTION

7. Footloose Project.

Cllr Amos expressed his thanks to members who supported the recent consultation opportunity, although attendance had been a little disappointing. Forms were available for councillors to complete and would be added to the views expressed by the youth council the previous evening. Cllr Amos had assisted the Clerk in applying for a grant from the Airport Community Trust Fund to help fund the additional essential ground work, required as a result of months of excessive rain. The Clerk reported that a hirer had asked why this money was being spent on outdoor equipment instead of refurbishing the Windsor Room. Members hoped the order(s) could soon be placed. Cllr Hiley asked that Windsor Room refurbishment be placed on the agenda for Council and the prices for any remedial roof work be obtained.

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8. Residents' Concerns.

Members noted the information circulated and the photographs supplied of parking problems. An enquiry had been received from a resident regarding the independent investigation as he had not been contacted to discuss his concerns.

9. Tennis Courts.

Members noted the endeavours to obtain quotations for the remedial work to remove the excessive moss on the tennis courts. Members noted the tennis court maintenance budget was insufficient and agreed that a virement be made from earmarked reserves and playground safety works. This expenditure would protect the income earned from tennis court hire. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the quotation from Sweepfast for £3894 to remove the moss and repaint the courts be accepted, with an early start date for the work being agreed if possible.

The Clerk reported that Castle Bromwich Junior School had again requested free use of the tennis courts for their annual Fitness Week in May.

10. Working Party Reports.

Cllr Knibb reported on the design of the new Sports Pavilion in Warwickshire that he had recently visited. It was functional and usage of the main utility room was easily adaptable to suit most functions. A central kitchen area had serving counters on three sides to serve two rooms and a corridor that led to the Youth Club area. The unit was modern from the outside, with brick construction on three sides. There was however 4 or 5 glass patio doors on the one side which faced out on to the park area, making it a good choice for the holding local functions. The Youth club was run by volunteers and the youths themselves, which he thought was great. They raised their own funds for furnishings/equipment and therefore were able to choose what they wanted and decide the activities they took part in. They looked after what they had because they had provided it for themselves. They were not controlled or managed by council youth workers so it was a place where they wanted to be, under their own management. It taught them ownership and responsibility as well as self-motivation and self-worth. It was a place where they could go and solve their issues with the world collectively and supportively with their peers.

The Chairman reported that the Open Spaces Working Party had met to look at the garden areas, having being joined by a new volunteer with the possibility of two more helping too. She had met the Open Spaces Supervisor that evening and hoped to see about some minor branch work at the Village Green, which should be the responsibility of the contractor to undertake.

11. Clerk's Report/Open Spaces Report.

The Clerk reported that the repairs to the safety surfacing by the swings had now been completed under warranty, thanks to the diligence of the Assistant Clerk. The installation had been done in 2010 and should not have deteriorated just after 2 years. She believed insufficient ground work preparation was the problem. Snow had

delayed the repairs (twice) but thankfully now completed. On 15th and 19th February she had checked ditches and drainage in the park. Heavy rain and frozen water were evident but as the ground had been waterlogged for so long, it had not been possible for the contractor to get equipment in to clear the ditches as ordered last year. On a brighter note, the ground had been dry enough for the grass to be cut that day for the first time that season. Members noted a security breach had occurred and the Clerk would instigate quotes to replace a damaged area to reduce future risk to staff and property. The Fields in Trust e-zine had been forwarded to Committee members. A new product had been launched by Play Innovation, which could be a future possibility. A member of staff had returned on light duties and would require future support. All members were invited to attend the following week's Finance and General Purposes meeting to hear a presentation on financial investment. The Clerk would be available after the meeting if there were any questions from members on reports.

ACTION