

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 9TH MAY 2012
AT 19.30 HRS**

Those present:

- Chairman:** Cllr A Terry
- Councillors:** Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr Mrs. A Haywood Cllr J Riordan
Cllr M Hayes Cllr E Hicks Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins
- Officers:** Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council/RFO
- Public:** None.

1. Apologies.

The apologies received from Cllr J Horne-MacDonald, Cllr Mrs. L Smith and Cllr J Whelan were accepted for the reasons given.

ACTION

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesdays, 28th March and 11th April, 2012, having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4. Planning Applications.

The Planning Applications received since the last meeting were considered and the following recommendations made to the Borough Council:-

Admin
Asst.
13/03

Application No	Applicant	Location	Type
Recommendation to the Borough Council			
2012/504	Mr & Mrs M Lawrence	80 Woodford Avenue	Minor Full Appl
Could be approved subject to any neighbours comments.			
2012/569	Mr Andy Winters	116 Blandford Avenue	Minor Full Appl
Could be approved subject to any neighbours comments.			

5. Licensing Applications.

Members discussed and considered carefully Licensing Application 714/12 by WM Morrison Supermarkets plc to vary hours for the sale of alcohol to 0600-2400 Monday – Sunday with the hours of opening the same and also to remove certain conditions relating to the sale of alcohol on Good Friday and Christmas Day. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hayes, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that a representation should be sent to Solihull MBC in line with the licensing objectives that this application should not be approved especially as the wishes of the local community were to respect traditional values giving rise to extreme concern that an extension of hours would not prevent alcohol abuse and would allow further irresponsible drinking in the area and would be contrary to public safety and would not protect children from harm; that the proximity to the existing Alcohol Restriction Zone in the parish is evidence of problems that existed and which is still needed to prevent public nuisance. The Council also wished to maintain existing restrictions on Good Friday and Christmas Day.

Clerk
17/5

6. Financial Year End 2011/12.

Members noted with interest and diligence the report of the Responsible Finance Officer, as tabled at the Annual Parishioners Meeting.

N.B. All Minutes are deemed as draft until formally approved and signed.

7. Email Policy.

Following discussion of the issues and previous requirements, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to defer the matter for further research by the Clerk and to incorporate the existing IT Policy, the social media guidelines, the Data Protection requirements and the Data Transparency.

ACTION

Clerk
07/12

8. Request for Financial Information.

The Clerk offered to withdraw from the meeting but **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that this was not necessary. Members considered the requests in turn in line with information available from the existing council Model Publication Scheme, the guidance from the Information Commissioners Office and the advice from the NALC Legal Department. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the response to the first request for information should be supplied with the Budget Plan that had been available since the 25th January council meeting and a copy of the financial report from the Annual Parishioners Meeting on 1st May, together with the wish that it answered the queries. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hayes, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the response to the second request for information would be in accordance with the Data Transparency Code and there were no disclosable salaries above £58,200 which was the threshold of the Senior Civil Service minimum pay band; that the council had to balance its employees' right to privacy with the public right to know. The council felt that disclosure of exact wages for individuals for 2011/12 would be unfair to its employees and under the Data Protection Act, information had to be processed fairly and lawfully and processing had to be justified in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Act. The staff structure was freely available on the parish council website and at meetings so a copy would be supplied to the parishioner, together with the Budget Plan and copy of financial report from the Annual Parishioner's Meeting and copies of the job descriptions for staff for 2011/12. **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** that on this occasion only the charge for photocopying would be waived for the amount of information requested and that the parish council stood by its decisions to spend money to improve parish facilities, although the cost of posting this reply would be borne by precept. The Clerk undertook to email the parishioner to alert him when the posted response had been sent.

Clerk
07/12

9. Working Parties and Steering Group.

Members noted that the Leisure Services Committee had set the date for the inspection of Hob Farm by all members who could attend for Wednesday 30th May at 5 pm. At 6 pm all members should assemble at the play equipment in the park to inspect the park, the pavilion, the theatre workshop, the business annex and Arden Hall. It was stressed that everyone's attendance was vital to cover all the necessary areas. Footpaths and other open spaces could be visited individually prior to the inspection, as the Clerk highlighted some concerns. Cllr Mrs. Haywood regretfully submitted her apologies.

N.B. All members
30/5
5 pm &
6 pm
please

N.B. All members

The Clerk reported that the application for Grant Aid to the Airport Community Trust Fund had not been successful in an endeavour to move the council office to the ground floor.

10. Residents Concerns.

Members noted details of recent concerns raised by residents and Cllr Terry undertook to follow up on one matter with a resident who had been troubled by anti-social behaviour.

AT
05/12

N.B. All Minutes are deemed as draft until formally approved and signed.

ACTION

11. Training.

Members noted the interest by Cllr Hicks in attending the Induction course on 23rd June costing £50 and details would also be passed to Cllr Mrs. Smith before the booking was made, in line with the training policy. The Clerk's report noted the recent training opportunities she had received. She planned to attend the annual health and safety course in Banbury on 30th May. Details of a course had been received on auto-enrolment of all employees into pension schemes, which would be a new legal requirement, but the Clerk had declined to apply as it cost £199.

12. Clerk's Report.

Members noted the Clerk's written report and the additional information on the date of the Investiture of the new Mayor of Solihull.

DRAFT