

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE
BROMWICH ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH
FEBRUARY 2016
AT 7.30PM**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr J Riordan
Councillors: Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr G High Cllr J Horne-MacDonald
 Cllr Mrs. A Haywood Cllr I Hiley Cllr J MacDonald
Officers: Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council/RFO
Public: 1 member of the public

1. Apologies.

The Clerk said that a resignation had been received from Cllr E Hicks and would be reported to the Council at the next meeting. The apologies from Cllr M Hayes were noted for the reason given. Cllr A Terry was absent.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or conflict of interests.

None declared.

3. Dispensations.

None requested.

4. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr High, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Horne-MacDonald, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesdays, 16th December, 2015 and 13th January, 2016 having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

5. Questions from the Public.

Under Standing Order 3(d), the Chairman prepared to adjourn standing orders to invite questions from members of the public but there were no questions being put.

6. Planning/Licensing Applications.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, **SECONDED BY** Cllr MacDonald, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the following recommendations be submitted to the Borough Council:

Application No	Applicant	Location
PL/2016/00228/PPFL	Mr Manwar Hussain	Cedar Ct 10 Whateley Lodge Dr B36 9EX
Could be approved subject to any neighbours comments.		
PL/2016/00172/MINFHO	Mrs M Hawkins	61 Beechcroft Road B36 9TE
Could be approved.		
PL/2016/00213/DIS	Mr Zafar Iqbal	44 Clayton Drive B36 0AN
Could be approved subject to any neighbours comments.		

7. Land Registry Information.

Members noted the new optional mapping data that was available and would keep options open if it was thought to be useful at a future date.

8. Website Management.

Members were grateful for the preparatory work undertaken by Cllr High to construct a replacement website and the Wordpress version was displayed and details shared for all members to explore, review and send views and suggestions or preferences. Costs and options were discussed. Cllr High was willing to develop this if that was the wish of the council but he would need two more volunteers to share editor and administrator

ACTION

responsibilities. A decision was deferred to the next meeting.

9. Council Youth Award.

Following previous discussions, members felt that the award should be agreed by the full council, with confirmation of the budget to fund it, timing of consideration each year and a draft list drawn up of potential organisations to benefit, which would be held on a confidential basis until it was time for an award to be confirmed. The matter was deferred to the next council meeting.

10. Parish Plan – topic of the month.

The Chairman led members through a discussion of the chapter on Sport and Leisure and in the light of some recent issues, it was **AGREED** that action on encouraging a unified sports association should be deferred for now as the timing was not right to proceed. The Leisure Services Committee were asked to enquire how the summer sports activities went last summer, to discuss the provision of public toilets in the park, that enquiries be instigated on whether summer coaching schemes would be taking place; and to confirm whether the member’s request for moss to be cleared off the tennis courts should be actioned with the grounds maintenance contractor. The concept of a café in the pavilion and the establishment of a proper trim trail also be deferred for the moment. The support for services at Castle Bromwich Library however had been actioned and although other funding was not forthcoming, the committee was committed to consider alternative options if it was approached in future.

11. Working Parties.

Members noted the feedback from the latest Carol Concert review meeting, which recognised the refreshment donations from Tesco had made a big difference. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the ticket prices be increased to £2.50 (increase of 50p), that slight adjustments be made to arrangements which on the whole had gone well. It was hoped to promote the event via articles in the Echo.

12. Residents’ Concerns.

Members noted the list of concerns previously circulated.

13. Training.

Following consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Horne-MacDonald, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the requests of Cllr Knibb and Cllr MacDonald to attend the WALC annual briefing day, at a cost of £75, be approved. The summary of topics that 5 members wished to have training on was discussed and it was **AGREED** that budget and precept training could be held in house by the Clerk in the autumn; planning regulations had been explained by a guest speaker and the minutes contained helpful information. Topics would be noted for when future opportunities arose and the Clerk would check if past training papers could be helpful.

14. Clerk’s Report.

Members noted that new model financial regulations had been issued by NALC; that an initial visit had been arranged by the new internal auditor to meet the Clerk; that the anticipated insurance visit had not been requested; that the laptop was in danger of failing and a quote to be sought for replacement; that blacklisted software had been detected on one of the council workstations but safely removed; details of the council’s free entry in Solihull MBC Year Book had been confirmed; that the request for a cashing arrangements at a local bank had been costed by Unity Trust and the Clerk was asked to investigate two other local banks instead; the Clerk had tabled the final version of the agreed budget and precept calculations (blue papers) and members could now dispose of previous versions if they wished; the hirer investigation report had been received and was tabled for members to consider prior to the working party meeting on 17th February; the youth council questionnaire was being distributed and members volunteered to take copies to local

ACTION

Council
24/2

FGP
02/17

LSC
03/16

Asst Clerk
12/2

Members/
Clerk 10/16

Clerk asap

Council
tbc

Clerk
asap

Clerk
asap

Members
17/2

schools; a tennis survey had been received from Coleshill Town Council. |

DRAFT