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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH  
ON WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2008  
AT 19.30 HRS**

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**Those present:**

**Chairman:** Cllr J Riordan

**Councillors:**

Cllr Mrs. P Allen  
Cllr R Amos  
Cllr Mrs. A Haywood

Cllr A Terry

**Officers:** Mrs. C Tibbles                      **Public:** None.

1.  
**Apologies.**  
The apologies from Cllr E Knibb and Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins were accepted for the reasons given. Cllr Mrs. J Smith was absent.
2. **Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.**  
None declared.
3. **Minutes of the previous Meeting.**  
The Clerk had removed the printed duplication at top of page 2 and **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesdays, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2008 having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.
4. **Planning Applications.**  
The Planning Applications/Decision Notices received since the last Meeting were considered by the Committee, the recommendations thereon are set out in the appendix.
5. **Pre-Planning Applications Consultation.**  
Following consideration by members, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to recommend the mast should not be allowed on the grounds that had previously been made clear to the company with other consultations, namely inappropriate for the location chosen due to residents and nearby school and that mast sharing be considered with existing providers.
6. **e-Consultation Questionnaire – Solihull MBC.**  
The Chairman guided members through the questionnaire and views would be forwarded that practical and financial assistance would be required before progress could be made, which in principal members were happy to support.
7. **Residents' Concerns.**  
Members noted the circulated information and were appraised of the discussions from the last Leisure Services Committee meeting.
8. **Communications.**  
Routine communications as listed on the agenda were noted.
9. **Financial Scrutiny.**

After discussion, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the offer by the Chairman to scrutinise payment of invoices, systems in operation and undertake ad-hoc unannounced visits was both welcomed and appreciated. The Clerk welcomed this extra protection for the Council and for the staff and hoped the role could be extended in future.

#### **10. NALC Budget 2009/10.**

Following an apology from the clerk for the mistype on the agenda, members discussed options. **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that appreciation of their financial constraints be recorded and support for the decision that they felt they needed to make, even if that should include option C.

#### **11. Village Green Access Request.**

Members noted that no developments had taken place.

#### **12. Payments.**

The Chairman questioned a possible error relating to the report on the Chairmans Allowance and **IT WAS RESOLVED** to defer acceptance of the transactions, pending clarification. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Amos, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as set out in the enclosure, be approved. The Clerk reported that a further salary breakdown was due for approval and would be submitted to the next meeting.

#### **13. Clerk's Report.**

The Clerk reported that there were severe unexpected constraints on staff at present and commended the efforts and kindness of staff and councillors who were willing to offer unlimited support to keep Arden Hall open. The event on 17<sup>th</sup> October would reluctantly be cancelled as not a single volunteer had been forthcoming, with a probable cost of £240. Another Remembrance Parade planning meeting had been held but concerns remained about the route that until today had not been responded to by the Safety Advisory Group. A late meeting had now been arranged at short notice for 9 am on Tuesday morning, which Cllr Mrs. Allen was invited to attend to represent the Events Working Party. A choir and organ had hopefully been secured but a gazebo shelter may be required to protect equipment. A meeting with Lloyds TSB had taken place and more forms required completion and a new system may have to be devised for bank transfers. A bank error with transfers had been detected in July and instructions to correct and compensate had been followed through. A successful national committee meeting had been held, and attended by the Clerk, at Arden Hall, which she hoped could be repeated in future as a new business opportunity. Traffic concerns of parishioners had been raised with Solihull MBC and were being addressed and the small committee room had been booked for a meeting shortly. A request had been made by the Parish Council for additional emptying of glass banks to solve the repeated problems of them overflowing but Sue Kentish (SMBC) had confirmed that new black box kerbside collections was commencing in September and would wait to see the effect of this before considering. A request for ARZ and Dispersal Zone had been formally made to the Safer Communities Group but would not be considered until November. Special efforts would be made to send copies of the letter and minutes to residents who had provided their details.

#### **14. Staff Matters.**

Under confidential terms, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the staff matters be actioned accordingly by the Clerk

EK  
ASAP

Clerk  
ASAP

