



number of responses could be sent. The Clerk undertook to circulate details to all councillors not attending this meeting and spare copies of the consultation documents made available to visitors to Arden Hall. The relevant link for responding was on the Borough Council website at:

<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/About-the-Council/Consultations/currentconsultations/ArtMID/9878/ArticleID/547/Have-your-say> On behalf of members, the Vice-Chairman thanked the guests for attending the meeting, which had been informative and helpful.

**7. Planning/Licensing Applications.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Vice-Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Horne-MacDonald, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the following recommendations be submitted to the Borough Council:

Application No	Applicant	Location	Type
<b>Recommendation to the Borough Council</b>			
2015/38	AJ Cook & Son	30 Manor Park Road	Change of Use
Could be approved subject to any neighbours comments.			
2015/98	Mr James Foster	26 Elmfield Road	Minor Full Appl
Could be approved subject to any neighbours comments.			
2015/99	Mr James West	2B Beechcroft Road	Tree Preservation Order Appl
Should be approved subject to views of the Tree Officer.			

**8. Grant Aid Application.**

Members considered the application submitted by Castle Bromwich Singers and following discussion, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that, under Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972, a grant of £250 be awarded towards the cost of new stage outfits.

**9. Website Review.**

Members considered suggestions and existing arrangements and the opportunity for change to more readily meet the recommendations of the new Transparency Code. Discussions focused on the need to see events archived, active information on the Youth Council pages which had never been completed, whose role it could/should be for updating details like the forthcoming quiz night. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Cllr Hayes seek advice from a colleague and report back to members on possibilities and technical aspects.

**10. Electronic Banking – update.**

Members noted the progress made by Cllr Upton and the meeting attended with the Clerk at Unity Trust Bank. Cllr Hayes thanked Cllr Upton for his enthusiasm with this task and it was noted that testing of systems would commence soon, with a review of financial regulations being drafted for members to consider at the next meeting.

**11. SMBC Scrutiny Work Plan.**

Members noted the opportunity to submit topics but **AGREED** that there were no suggestions they wished to make.

**12. Working Parties.**

The Events working party had met to review the Christmas Concert and a report would be circulated for the next meeting.

**13. Residents’ Concerns.**

Members noted the list of concerns previously circulated.

**14. Training.**

No new training requests had been received. Cllr Mrs. Haywood had found the memorial training course most informative and it was **AGREED** that the existing council memorial policy should be reviewed at the next meeting. Cllr Upton reported he had attended the

12/2  
ACTION

Admin Asst.  
12/2

Clerk  
asap

MH  
asap

BU/JR/  
Clerk  
12/2

Asst Clerk  
asap

Asst Clerk  
4/3

FGP  
11/3

WALC New Councillor induction event on 24<sup>th</sup> January, which he had found really useful. Cllrs Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Haywood, Knibb and Riordan, together with the Clerk had attended the WALC Employment Briefing on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February which had given excellent clarity and helpful examples on the different employment topics covered. There would likely be further consideration of some topics at the next Staff Panel meeting, most likely starting with the step by step Appraisal guide that would be emailed to Panel members.

ACTION

Clerk  
asap

### 15. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk had tabled preparatory information on salary comparisons to budget, which would be developed carefully to provide accurate monthly information for scrutiny by members. Members clarified what additional information they would expect to see at Leisure Services Committee meetings, i.e. the breakdown of different categories of staff, hire income for the same period and some indication of the number of hirers/hours of occupation (whether sole or multiple). The council had been supplied with some helpful information by Nick Page, the Chief Executive of Solihull MBC, which was available to members. Alison Lush had asked for more specific information about ASB for the Ward Action Plan and members agreed that litter was also a topic of increasing concern, including that caused by their own waste removal contractors. During a recent office closure, the Clerk noted there were no answerphone messages at all, with people preferring to email (27 of those). A HS2 working party meeting was taking place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February. A celebration of the work of the County Secretary was taking place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. A new electric meter had been installed in the council office and the broadband upgrade for Arden Hall was booked for 20<sup>th</sup> February. An enquiry into the cost of internal audit had been drafted but with timing of audits being booked now it would be delayed until later in the spring. Renewal was now due of the firewall for the council network, costing £167.37 (same price as last year). Solihull MBC website was changing in regard to planning applications and greater use of technology envisaged, although implications not yet fully evaluated for this parish. There would be a phased start from 16<sup>th</sup> February and full changeover scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> March, giving planning history for all areas back to 1947. A letter of thanks and a receipt had been received for the Grant Aid given to Age UK under LGA 1972 S.133 (support for community buildings). Messages of thanks were still being received for the Youth Council promotional DVD's. A local resident had put a photo of the new memorial bench on facebook which had received 140 likes and 5 shares in less than 1 day. The date of the July Solihull Area Committee meeting had been changed from 23<sup>rd</sup> July to 9<sup>th</sup> July, to accommodate the return visit of the Borough's Chief Executive, who would also be accompanied by the Council Leader.