

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH  
ON WEDNESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2008  
AT 19.30 HRS**

**Those present:**

**Chairman:** Cllr J Riordan

**Councillors:** Cllr Mrs. P Allen      Cllr E Knibb      Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins  
Cllr R Amos

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

**1. Apologies.**

The apologies from Cllr Mrs. A Haywood and Cllr Mrs. J Smith and were accepted for the reasons given. Cllr A Terry was absent.

**2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.**

None declared.

**3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Amos, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesdays, 24<sup>th</sup> September and 8<sup>th</sup> October, 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. The Clerk was informed that an application had been re-submitted for a development on the car park at rear of the Chester Arms public house.

**5. Residents' Concerns.**

Members noted with interest the circulated information.

**6. Communications.**

Routine communications as listed on the agenda were noted. The residents letter on suggestions to improve Arden Hall was read. Following information reported by Cllr Knibb, the Chairman volunteered to draft a reply to all respondents from the recent consultation and Cllr Amos volunteered to deliver them.

JR/RA  
asap

**7. Christmas Tree Lighting Event.**

The Clerk reported that arrangements were progressing as previously outlined. Cllr Knibb submitted his apologies. Cllr Mrs. Wilkins asked about the price and it was confirmed that £1 tickets were already on sale.

**8. Hire Charges 2009/10.**

Members were informed of the recommendations of the Leisure Services Committee and studied the draft hire charges tabled by the Clerk. Under confidential terms, members considered additional information that had been hastily prepared. On the proviso that the Hall Manager scrutinise the charges tabled (currently unseen by her) and **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to accept the new hire charge structure. In the absence of any progress, the Hall Manager would be asked to market the Hall for funeral receptions.

TKite  
asap

### **9. Budget Planning 2009/10.**

After discussion and following decisions made by Council, members were able to finalise the following alterations to the draft budget: Code 268 year end forecast amended to £800 and estimate for following year reduced to £2500, earmarked for new accounts package by end of March 2010; contingency fund to remain at existing level and the photocopying and office services prices to be increased as they had not changed since 2003. It was agreed that as some hire charges for Arden Hall had gone down and some up, the forecast income for 09/10 would remain the same as current year's budget, £49,451.

### **10. Grant Aid Application.**

Following consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that £500 be awarded to support the work of the Castle Bromwich Homework Club, held at the local library.

### **11. Youth Council.**

Members were informed by the Clerk that the last meeting of the Youth Council had not been quorate, although the 2 guest speakers spoke informally to members present. The youth event that had been planned for 5<sup>th</sup> December was therefore postponed again. Cllr Knibb felt the Youth Council were in need of greater support and direction and he had approached Dave Pinwell (Colebridge Trust/Sustain) to help, hopefully with input from Park Hall School, Solihull Youth Council, National Youth Council and the Endeavour section of the local Scouts. He felt the youth of the community should be more engaged.

### **12. Village Green Access Request.**

Under confidential terms, members were informed of the recommendations of the Leisure Services Committee and had no additional views to be recorded.

### **13. Payments.**

Following a correction to a supplier name, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Amos, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as set out in the enclosure, be approved.

### **14. Clerk's Report.**

The Clerk reported on the successful SLCC conference and outlined the presentations that she had attended. She had also taken the opportunity to meet a variety of suppliers and companies and tried to promote the Parish Council by offering opportunities to consider working in future partnership. The main focus of her recent work had been the Remembrance Parade but budget preparations, website updates and Youth Council matters had also received her attention. The contract of services was now in place with the bookkeeper and details of duties each month were detailed on invoices, as a report of activities undertaken. The order to NALC for emailed Direct Information Service newsletters had not been processed and there were no objections to this subscription being cancelled. Cllr Mrs. Smith was continuing her research on newsletter opportunities and this would be an agenda item at the next Council meeting. Cllr Knibb and Cllr Mrs. Knibb had indicated they would like to attend a national training event and there was sufficient monies remaining in the budget for this to be possible. Following criticisms after the Parade, the Clerk explained that an apology had been sent by her to Solihull MBC on behalf of the Parish Council stating there was no Vice-Chairman currently in post. Although some members seemed unhappy about this decision there were several

Clerk  
Dec 08

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

general (and at time specific) appeals for more help with this event which were not forthcoming and she hoped that next year the situation would be different. As usual adjustments would be made to Parade Orders for 2009 by the Parade Planning Group when they next meet in July 2009. The Action Plan meeting, being chaired by Alison Lush SMBC, had been arranged as outlined to members. A request had been received for a new Toy Recycling Bank in the car park for 3 month trial period and no objections had been recorded so the Clerk, under delegated powers, would confirm acceptance of this request. Members noted the Arden Hall Booking Office and the Council Office would be closed on Friday due to staff holidays. Also noted was the suspension of the Blog site until a decision on its future was made.