
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2008
AT 19.30 HRS**

Those present:

Vice Chairman: Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins

Councillors:

Cllr R Amos
Cllr D Feasey
Cllr E Knibb
Cllr Mrs. T Knibb
Cllr J Riordan
Cllr A Terry

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

1.
Apologies.
None. Cllr Ward had submitted his resignation to the Chairman, which would be reporting to Council at the next meeting.
2. **Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.**
None declared.
3. **Minutes of the previous Meeting.**
ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Knibb, **SECONDED** by Cllr Terry, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 9th January, 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. **Licensing Review – Spitfire Public House**
The above review was discussed and **IT WAS RESOLVED** the following views be submitted: “The concerns of the police were supported by the Parish Council who expressed a wish that the neighbouring residents could be protected from crime and disorder, kept safe and that children be protected from harm. The loss of a social amenity could be regretted but a public house had to be properly and lawfully managed.”
6. **Solihull MBC – Draft Sustainable Community Strategy – Consultation.**
Members noted the document. Cllr Mrs. Knibb and Cllr Knibb had attended a meeting and felt there would be benefit to Castle Bromwich with the government backed change of direction.
7. **Community Services Consultation.**

Clerk
15/2/08

Members noted the Ward Strategy Action Plan for Castle Bromwich 2007/08 and **IT WAS RESOLVED** to thank Ms Lush for her detailed plans but to invite her to return to the Parish Council as certain areas of the parish did not appear to be reflected in the plans, e.g. Hob Farm nuisance and alleyways in Whateley Crescent that had been highlighted previously.

8. Residents' Concerns.

Members noted the circulated information. The tree problem raised by a resident was discussed and to avoid further delay the recently received Tree Report would be considered by full Council at the end of the month.

9. Communications.

Routine communications as listed on agenda were noted.

10. Financial Accounting and Control – new software package.

The Clerk reported that it had not been possible to arrange a demonstration as requested and that since members had deferred the PWLB application she felt there was no longer the same urgency to upgrade the systems. After discussion, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to defer the purchase at this time due to the pressure of work and staff changes taking place.

11. Payments.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Amos, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as set out in the enclosure, be approved. The Clerk tabled the latest budget printout.

12. Clerk's Report.

Outstanding action points: time was required to update members details again following 3 resignations and 1 co-option so far this year; it was a very busy time with residents concerns (particularly during half-term) and councillors visiting the office. It was a reluctant step to use answermachine but the workload had to be addressed and uninterrupted concentration was vital to cope with additional events, Arden Hall staffing and park issues. She confirmed the precept request had been made to the Borough Council and that final copies would be distributed to members. An early appeal for help with public address system at the Remembrance Parade was made due to staff changes and Cllr Terry raised the suggestion of a choir to help lead the singing. The Chairman urged members to work hard to generate an interest in the Parish Council and revive the community spirit in Castle Bromwich – she was worried about getting volunteers to help, both for the Parish Council and in the wider community. Every opportunity should be used to let people know about the work of the Parish Council, how views are put forward and how to get their voice heard. **IT WAS RESOLVED** to publicise events, use the blog, the website and local radio stations. Members mentioned the following: the village green leaf clearing, use of a forum, suggested a Best Kept Garden competition and referred to late locking of Hob Farm the previous day.

13. Staff Matters.

The Clerk reported that staff matters were in hand, being progressed and receiving appropriate attention.