
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY 2008
AT 19.30 HRS**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr E Knibb

Councillors:

Cllr R Amos

Cllr J Riordan Cllr A Terry

Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins

Officers: Mrs. C Tibbles

Public: None.

1.

Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr Mrs. T Knibb were accepted for the reason given.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **SECONDED** by Cllr Terry, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesdays, 30th January, 13th and 27th February, 26th March 2008 having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting. Members noted the details of the Working Party that met on 12th March, 2008. Meeting on 9th April had been cancelled due to apologies received.

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. Residents' Concerns.

Members noted the circulated information. Cllr Terry raised the problems of alleyway nuisance between New Street and the Green and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that a reminder be sent to Alison Lush, Solihull MBC, for the planned Neighbourhood Strategy to include action on ASB at Hob Farm Open Space, the alleyways at New Street/The Green and Whateley Crescent/Springfield Road, as previously highlighted by the Parish Council and numerous residents.

6. Communications.

Routine communications as listed on agenda were noted.

7. Quotations for Professional Advice.

After discussion, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Clerk follow the advice received from the solicitor at the forthcoming meeting and engagement of the appropriate chartered surveyor be actioned promptly to advise the Parish Council on highlighted land issues.

8. Computer Network.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Amos, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk proceed to upgrade the computer network flexibility, in line with the circulated quotation of £599, which would be subject to revision as specification and price changes would have occurred due to the delay in action.

9. Grant Aid Applications.

Asst Clerk
30/05

Clerk
16/5

Clerk
16/5

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that £500 be granted to the Castle Bromwich Cricket & Sports Club for their application for sports equipment for youth activities.

10. Terms of Reference.

Due to the impending AGM, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to defer this item to the next Committee meeting. The Clerk asked members to clarify a previous view expressed about 'dilution' of powers for this Committee and members agreed that the terms tabled and previously agreed did correctly and accurately reflect the powers from Standing Orders that had been in place for many years.

11. Payments.

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

12. Clerk's Report.

Members had been updated at other meetings by the Clerk due to Committee meetings not taking place but she had asked Cllr Knibb about re-arranging the April meeting. Draft Year End Accounts and budget documents were tabled explaining large variances between all planned and actual expenditure. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that members take the opportunity to meet informally at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday 28th May to have details clarified and learn more about the financial printouts and systems in place, in preparation for the Council approving the Accounts, considering the internal audit report and completing the Annual Return for external auditor at the Council meeting later that evening. The internal audit had commenced.

Under confidential terms, the Clerk requested consideration of the temporary staffing situation in the Council Office and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that a six month extension be approved. Also under confidential terms, the Clerk expressed concerns raised by members of the public and shared by herself on the manner of some views expressed publicly and privately about 'the Clerk', both with and without her knowledge and involvement at times.

Members noted the amendments to the Pension policy would require further work before being submitted to the Council for approval. The Chairman's Chain of office had been engraved and duly updated. Solihull MBC had requested permission for a second paper bank to be installed in the Playing Fields but members felt with the kerbside recycling schemes this should not be necessary, although Cllr Terry asked about recycling facilities for plastic bottles. The Youth Council had held an interesting meeting with discussions continuing on future projects they had voted for.

Since the last Leisure Services Committee meeting, the Clerk had been busy with open spaces issues, ensuring the restored and improved security of the pavilion. Football contracts and payments were being received with overdue replies being pursued. Cllr Amos referred to Arden Hall matters he had witnessed at the weekend.

13. Review of Staffing Matters, Incremental Awards and National Minimum Wage.

The Clerk withdrew from the meeting at this point and, under confidential terms, councillors reviewed the incremental points in her absence. A recommendation was duly recorded by members and is appended (for members only).

Clerk
2/06

Clerk
I n v i t e
members
ASAP

Clerk
June 08

Asst Clerk
23/5

