

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2011
AT 19.30 HRS**

Those present:

- Chairman:** Cllr A Terry
- Councillors:** Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr J Riordan Cllr J Whelan
 Cllr M Hayes Cllr J Horne-MacDonald Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins
 Cllr Mrs. A Haywood
- Officers:** Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council/RFO
- Public:** None.

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr Mrs. L Smith and Cllr E Hicks were noted for the reasons given.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Wilkins, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesdays, 26th October and 9th November 2011, having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4. Planning Applications.

The Planning Applications received since the last meeting were considered and the following recommendation made to the Borough Council:-

Application No	Applicant	Location	Type
Recommendation to the Borough Council			
2011/1854	Cameron Homes Ltd	191-195 Bradford Road	Minor Full Application

Solely based on the merits of the application alone, the application should be approved.

5. Budget Planning 2012/2013

Members considered the draft budget for the Parish Council's Democratic Services. Following discussion of the proposed draft budgets for the next financial year and careful consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the amendments to the draft budget (see Appendix 1) be recommended to Council for approval.

6. Computer Network – Specification/Quotations.

Members noted the specification which had been made available for a new computer network and that quotations were being sought on an urgent basis due to problems with the existing system already known to members. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Clerk be delegated authority to accept the most suitable quotation, in consultation with three Chairmen. This would be jointly funded from the existing Communications (IT) budgets for Arden Hall and Democratic Services, from Capital Projects for Democratic Services and supplemented by using earmarked reserves if necessary.

ACTION

Admin Asst. 15/12

Council 21/12

Clerk & MH,PA,AT
Asap

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

7. Library Service– Consultation – Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Members considered the above consultation about Solihull Libraries and **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the response on behalf of the Parish Council should be that “Many people use this facility and view Castle Bromwich Library as a key resource in the community and one of the focal points for parishioners. It is considered a valuable place for people to find information locally, access resources, use computers and to meet others” and to emphasise that the Library service in Castle Bromwich was keenly supported by the Parish Council. **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the consultation and the parish councils response be widely publicised.

ACTION

Clerk
Asap

Clerk
Asap

8. Working Parties and Steering Group.

Cllr Riordan updated members on the recent Grant Working Party Meeting that was also attended by Alan Crawford who was providing valuable assistance with the application for funding to refurbish the Windsor Room. Cllr Riordan advised that when the application was complete it would be submitted to the Parish Council for approval. Members noted that the Open Spaces Working Party would be meeting in January 2012 and that the Standing Orders Working Party had still not met.

Standing
Orders WP
URGENT

9. Residents Concerns.

Members noted details of recent concerns raised by residents.

10. Training.

The Clerk commended the Financial Clinic organised by WALC to be held on 19th January 2012 and run by Peter Lacey, which unfortunately she could not attend.

11. Clerk’s Report.

Members noted that the Clerk had accepted the lowest of three quotes for the urgent asbestos safety work required to the boiler room, in accordance with authority delegated to her. A quote for lagging had also been accepted with work scheduled between Christmas and New Year. The Parish Council’s response on Affordable Housing had been sent and safely received by the Borough Council. The Clerk had researched rates for investment of reserves as previously agreed and the best rate was currently with Co-operative Bank at 2.09% and this would be an agenda item for the next Council meeting. Members noted that when the new computer network was installed, the Parish Council could consider an alternative provider for the BACS system. The Clerk advised that if this should be agreed, she would suggest a phased changeover and it was **AGREED** that this item be considered as an agenda item for the next Council meeting. The Clerk advised members that computer software upgrades were needed but the technician had failed to arrive so a new date needed to be agreed. The Clerk expressed thanks to all members who had helped with arrangements for the Carol Concert and reported that Cllr Mrs. Allen would attend the forthcoming Age Concern lunch on Friday in her capacity as Past Chairman.

Council
21/12

Council
21/12

Clerk
tba