

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLE  
BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH  
ON WEDNESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2012  
AT 7.30 PM**

**Those present:**

**Chairman:** Cllr M Hayes

**Councillors:** Cllr Mrs. P Allen                      Cllr E Knibb                      Cllr Miss J Ward  
                          Cllr Mrs. A Haywood                      Cllr M Rashid                      Cllr J Whelan  
                          Cllr I Hiley                                      Cllr J Riordan                      Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins  
                          Cllr J Horne-MacDonald                      Cllr A Terry                                      [Items 4-end only]

**Officers:** Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council and RFO

**Public:** 1 member of the public, [1-6 only].

**1. Apologies.**

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

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

None.

**3. Dispensations.**

None received.

**4. Minutes of the previous Meeting.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Whelan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November and 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

**5. Questions from Councillors.**

Cllr Mrs. Allen explained that she and Cllr Terry, in a personal capacity, would be organising the Poppy Distribution in 2013 for the Firs Branch of the Royal British Legion and asked if the parish council could help by providing temporary storage and/or a meeting room for a short period in 2013. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the strong relationship between the parish council and the Royal British Legion for Remembrance events should continue and support in principal was agreed, subject to needs and availability nearer the date. Cllr Hayes asked the Council to consider whether interim measures were required pending the hirer investigation outcome and current licence run out date but members **AGREED** that existing arrangements the Council had already put in place were sufficient. The Clerk confirmed that she and the Club Secretary were the only current and authorised points of contact.

**6. Questions from the Public.**

In accordance with Standing Orders, the meeting was temporarily suspended so that members of the public could ask questions. A resident from the Bradford ward asked what progress had been made by the parish council in promoting itself to Castle Bromwich. At the invitation of the Chairman, Cllr Mrs. Haywood replied that a new Business Breakfast Briefing had taken place and appreciated by those who managed to attend. The Events working party would meet in January to plan and review council events. Further questions were asked about provision of noticeboards at Arden Hall and

**ACTION**

the Village Green, what parish councillors were doing within their own wards as he had not been contacted as a resident, if ideas had been tried and not worked, whether a press release would be issued about the new WALC Chairman coming from Castle Bromwich and about using councillors who had expertise. The Chairman reminded everyone that a press release had been committed to by the parish council after the WALC elections which was planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> January and agreed to send a copy of the council's press release to the member of the public. The Chairman added that noticeboards were still being considered but there were budgetary considerations, leaflets had been distributed at recent community events to publicise the parish council and that had the past six weeks not been quite so hectic it was possible that more might marketing have taken place.

**ACTION**

EK to supply info

Asst. Clerk Jan.13

**7. Boundary Commission.**

Members noted the response of the Parish Council sent to the Boundary Commission.

**8. Communications.**

Members noted the information listed. Cllr Whelan highlighted the changes to the Approach procedures at Birmingham Airport, meaning planes would be flying lower. Cllr Knibb referred to the Solihull MBC information and expressed his thanks to Trish Willets, former co-ordinator of the Environment Champions scheme operated by the Borough Council. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk should write a letter of thanks for the tremendous work done in Castle Bromwich by Mrs. Willets. Cllr Mrs. Allen reported she had met the new co-ordinator and requested that work should be done in the Spinney.

**9. Defibrillators.**

Following discussion of the report by Cllr Whelan, it was **AGREED** that further information was required and the Clerk undertook to seek out local contact details to pass on to Cllr Whelan.

Clerk asap

**10. Budget Planning 2013/2014.**

Members noted that the Borough Council had written to confirm that part of the government grant would be passed on to the Parish Council this year to help offset the changes to the Council Tax Base (e.g. number of properties in Band D). Although £14,878 would be set as an allowance for the next financial year, this still left a shortfall of £12,846. The latest draft budget plan was tabled and deferred to the January Committee meetings for detailed scrutiny by members. A Budget working party for members would be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion and it was hoped that all pertinent government announcements would be made public by then.

LSC-2/1 FGP-9/1

Members 16/1

**11. Revision of Standing Orders.**

Members considered the recommendations of the Working Party for revision of Standing Orders that had previously been circulated and adjourned without discussion at the last November meeting. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the changes recommended be assimilated to the NALC electronic version for the Council to adopt. A new model by NALC would be issued in 2013 in light of recent legislative changes.

St. Orders WP Asap

**12. Finance and Payments.**

After satisfactory resolution of a query regarding the gas bill, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Rashid, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as listed and discussed be approved.

Clerk 20/12

**13. Report of the Staff Panel.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT**

**WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the StaffPanel held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012, having been circulated, be received and noted.

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**14. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012, having been circulated, be received and noted.

**15. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Terry, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesdays, 28<sup>th</sup> November and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012, having been circulated, be received and noted.

**16. Representatives to Outside Bodies.**

Cllr Whelan reported that on 21<sup>st</sup> November he had attended a meeting of the Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee. The major points emerging from this meeting were as follows:

1. The CEO Paul Kehoe presented his report and advised that the prospects for this winter trading period were bleak. A number of airlines were parking aircraft and this was in evidence at Birmingham with a number of Ryanair aircraft parked up for winter.
2. The load factor required for break even by airlines is very high and one operator at Birmingham requires 97%.
3. Birmingham was however maintaining its market share and year to date traffic was up by 3% on 2011. Route development continued with Easy Jet, Flybe, Monarch, SAS and Turkish all increasing operations to Belfast, Amsterdam, Madeira, Sharm-el-Sheikh, Grenoble, Munich, Stockholm and Istanbul.
4. Meetings continued with airlines in China, North America and the Middle East with a view to establishing new services from Birmingham in the future. On balance the prospects for China and the Middle East looked better than North America at present.
5. The Number One lounge was now open and provided a standard of service almost on a par with the Emirates lounge.
6. The Airport won the final of 2012 Airport of the Year competing against Manchester, Glasgow and Stansted in the final.
7. Monarch had now confirmed their intention to open a major maintenance facility at the airport. This project was won against stiff competition from Gatwick, Stansted, Luton and Manchester. The facility would service 787 aircraft and would be one of only six in the world with this capability.
8. This facility would create jobs and fitted well in the cluster of aerospace companies in the vicinity of the airport.
9. Soon to be announced was a project to develop the old Elmdon building into a technical college. This further underlined the role and worth of the airport in the community.
10. The Flight School, which was the subject of a previous report, continued to function well attracting schools from the area to enjoy this unique learning experience.

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December she had attended the Christmas Fayre at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, as a Trustee. It was a very well attended event and most enjoyable. During the open season she had knitted 100-120 hand puppets

which had raised £120 for their charity.

Clerk's note: Other activities were mentioned by members but these were not official appointments to outside bodies. Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that she had raised £119 for the Chairman's Charity Fund by selling ham/cheese rolls at entertainment events held in Arden Hall by Beebee Productions and the U3A.]

**17. Report of the Officer of the Council.**

Members were informed by the Clerk that a cheque payment to a supplier had gone astray in the post and would need to be cancelled before a replacement payment of £1520.00 could be arranged.

**18. Report of the Chairman.**

The Chairman reported that on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> December he had been delighted to attend the annual Presentation Evening at Park Hall Academy, accompanied by Cllr Mrs. Allen, Cllr Riordan and the Clerk. Tributes were paid to the outstanding success of students and as a school there was real pride in the achievements of both students and staff.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Mrs. Allen, Cllr Mrs. Haywood and Cllr Terry for representing the Council at the funeral of George Hopkins, a local war veteran and invited Cllr Terry to report on the service. Cllr Terry said he had been extremely touched by the life story of Mr. Hopkins who had been born in Nechells, suffered hardship as a child, served on defence duties at the age of 15 at the BSA, joined the Staffordshire Regiment and trained in Scotland before being parachuted behind enemy lines on his birthday and fighting in the Battle of Breville, the Battle of the Bulge, then fighting through to Wismar on the Baltic. He then fought against the Japanese in the Far East and eventually served in Palestine before his Squadron was disbanded in Tidworth in 1947. He later worked at the Drews Lane plant for Wolseley and became a pillar of the community who would be sadly missed. The Chairman reminded everyone that this democratic council was only able to meet as a result of people like George Hopkins – Lest We Forget.