

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
 CASTLE BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL
 HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
 ON WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 2013
 AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr M Hayes

Councillors: Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr M Rashid Cllr A Terry
 Cllr Mrs. A Haywood Cllr J Riordan Cllr Miss J Ward
 Cllr I Hiley Cllr Mrs. L Smith Cllr J Whelan

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

Public: 2 members of the public[1 in attendance for all of meeting]

Prior to the meeting, the Chairman expressed congratulations on behalf of the Council to Youth Cllr Natasha Browne on her appointment to serve on the National Youth Select Committee for Education. He was pleased that the Chair of the Youth Parish Council had succeeded in putting Castle Bromwich on the national scene.

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr R Amos, Cllr E Knibb, Cllr J Horne-MacDonald, Cllr E Hicks and Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins were noted for the reasons given.

ACTION

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 Hiley, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 27th March, 2013 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

5. Questions from Councillors.

None received.

6. Questions from the Public.

In accordance with Standing Orders, the meeting was temporarily suspended so that members of the public could ask questions. Bor. Cllr Richards offered information to the council on highway and parking matters discussed at previous parish council meetings. The Chairman referred to the recent Borough Council pilot scheme to deter parking on verges and asked for details of the outcome. In return, members would gather evidence on inconsiderate parking in the parish. There was no feedback on matters previously raised.

7. Communications.

Members noted the information listed. Cllr Mrs. Haywood asked about the lottery report request and the Clerk explained that this would be completed for the Council at the end of the project, although she would send an interim update to Awards For All explaining the current status of the Footloose Project.

Clerk asap

8. Finance and Payments.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments and salaries, as listed and discussed, be approved. Members noted the 12/13 year end budget printout and the additional 13/14 new year summary that had been tabled.

Admin Asst
25/4

9. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 3rd April 2013, having been circulated, be received and noted.

10. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Terry, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesdays, 27th March and 10th April, 2013 having been circulated, be received and noted.

11. Parish Plan.

Cllr Whelan, as Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group, explained to members the process that had been conducted since being established in May 2011. He gave an informative presentation showing the majority of the Parish Plan proposals which would also be available at the Annual Parishioners Meeting. It would then be for the Council in future to decide the way forward, as it was the catalyst for the community of Castle Bromwich. Cllr Whelan paid tribute to the members of the Steering Group, whose members had resided in Castle Bromwich for 200 years between them, and thanked them for their endeavours. They had started with the detailed 2001 Community Appraisal report and he outlined their work on the topics that had been covered. Law and Order: Castle Bromwich was not deemed as a hot spot, although problems existed with alcohol related ASB and drugs. Over the intervening 10 years there had been changes to community policing but current resources were shared with a neighbouring area that may have higher needs. Community meetings were attended by councillors and borough councillors but not always known about by enough people. It was suggested that residents at police meetings should be joined by pub landlords and off-licence managers. Some initiatives were positive but it was feared with the imminent summer approaching that drinking might blight areas and that this could be reduced if parish land became alcohol free zones. The 'Cuppa with a Copper' was seen as a positive visible measure but a mobile police surgery at Morrisons and reports by the Sgt at parish council meeting would be thought valuable by the community. Environment: the Borough Council and the Parish Council were to be congratulated in many aspects since the Appraisal. Recycling facilities were good and some old derelict sites were now built on. Councillors had worked on parish council gardens and done a good job. Entrances to Castle Bromwich were not always by the best approach, with the Old Birmingham Road being particularly neglected and the footpath by the church not being well kept. Castle Bromwich Hall was now re-open and it would be good to have 'Welcome to Castle Bromwich' signs with images. The Hall Gardens were generally felt to be an asset to Castle Bromwich and needed help. The U3A organisation held an event to support the Gardens but raised hundreds of pounds, although it was felt that thousands were needed. It was suggested that a big joint event be held there for everyone in the community to support it. Schools needed support to encourage children to look after their area, perhaps with a poster campaign. New bins would be valuable in some areas, perhaps sponsored by the fast food outlets whose customers could benefit. Grass verges were becoming unsightly and measures needed to prevent the problem escalating. Flytipping cost both councils and residents to have it removed. The community would benefit from more colour, perhaps by encouraging shopkeepers to compete for the best floral displays in Castle Bromwich, possibly led by flower tubs being installed at the front of Arden Hall. Children and Young People: valuable information had been given by Sue/Adele from the Children's Centre in Castle Bromwich, which needed community commitment to support the important work they

did. Youth organisations were well supported and gave many opportunities – either in uniform, via the youth centre or other youth clubs. If leaders were invited into schools it would help children choose from the different things available to them. Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council was something to be proud of and their profile should be raised to help increase both the spectrum and the membership. Wayne Elcock, local world boxing champion, spoke inspirationally to the group about non-contact boxing and other ways to help disaffected young people focus their aggression. Older Generation: Christine Cherry from Age UK gave helpful information and highlighted the major problem of inadequate transport. Café facilities were needed where older people could enjoy socializing without the pressure of high street prices. The new initiative at St. Clements Church was filling a need and it could be something that Arden Hall could also do as it was more central to the parish. It was felt that an Age Concern surgery could also be valuable and perhaps something to be accommodated in the Windsor Room when it was refurbished. The older generation also needed more public benches within the parish. The Christmas party organised by Park Hall Academy was commended but it was felt that other organisations like U3A, the Youth Council and schools could get closer than they were. Sport and Leisure: the Steering Group thought the community would benefit from a Castle Bromwich Sports Association being formed to bring together all sports, with perhaps the Leisure Services Committee being the executive. A Summer Sports Camp could be held, perhaps hosting one in 2014. It was felt that public toilets were needed in the park and the tennis courts needed re-surfacing to perhaps encourage a new tennis club. Running a café from the pavilion could be explored, making facilities available for participants at the Summer Sports Club. The Footloose Project was underway and thanks expressed to Cllr Amos who was leading the initiative. Parishioners were encouraged to utilize their local library, which was an excellent facility and should not be taken for granted. Transport and Infrastructure: Bus links were needed from Castle Bromwich to Water Orton station and concessions for some fares. Taxi fares were quite misleading and inconsistent for some journeys/distances and it was suggested that a common tariff should be shown. Road surfaces had deteriorated and needed to be better, with road markings being re-instated as they were dangerously unclear in many locations. The Hurst Lane Chester Road project was underway but it was recorded with regret that Morrisons had failed to respond to requests to make improvements to the layout/entrances at the petrol station. Quad bikes caused a noise nuisance and were deemed to be a safety hazard to residents. 30 mph stickers on wheelie bins would raise awareness and 20 mph zones would improve safety. HS2 mitigation would be needed as it seemed that the project would be going forward, with engineering needs being likely to overtake environmental concerns. The Airport was responsive to local concerns and complaints were considered carefully. Employment Issues: There were small pockets of unemployment within the parish but the parish council Business Breakfast initiative was good and useful to local business people. Arden Hall could be the venue for a Recruitment Fair which would produce a buzz. Castle Bromwich could also build a relationship with big neighbouring businesses. It was suggested that Solihull MBC could encourage small starter businesses to use empty commercial properties. Parish Profile and Community: the Group suggested that parish borders should be better defined as many people claimed they lived in Castle Bromwich when they actually did not. It would be beneficial to have parish noticeboards on all parish land, as the mature population wanted communications in old fashioned ways. Local residents could adopt the boards and keep the information current and clear. The parish council could measure the effectiveness of its own website, perhaps produce a newsletter and councillors could

work to be more visible, especially in the wards that they represented. Castle Bromwich Radio could be started where young people could promote Castle Bromwich. Local Government: local people valued being in Solihull and wanted to remain in it, as the recent Boundary Commission Hearings had shown. Birmingham, Solihull and Coventry councils should all work together and the parish council should make it's voice heard with Castle Bromwich views. It was important to work together on environmental matters like dog fouling and to support local services like the library and the youth centre. It was suggested there should be a formal relationship to meet with Borough Councillors on a regular basis. Cllr Whelan asked members to reflect on the issues raised by the Steering Group who hoped in due course that the community would want to move on with ideas and complete the Plan. Copies of the presentation slides were handed to members.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Steering Group be thanked for the wide-ranging issues they had brought together and that Cllr Whelan make a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting to seek feedback from everyone present. The Council undertook to consider the matter again in June.

12. Independent Investigation.

Prior to discussion of the recommendations, members placed on record their opinion that Mr. Robinson had been uniquely placed to conduct the investigation as he had clear knowledge and understanding of both first tier local government and extensive personal experience of cricket club operations. Members also agreed that during the investigation some matters had been progressed which surpassed the report recommendation, particularly regarding keys as the council's policy decision to have a member of staff on duty when hire events were taking place was being fulfilled - therefore there was no support for keys to be re-issued. Members wanted to find a path that was mutually beneficial for both parties. It was noted that on 8th April during a meeting between staff and Club representatives it had been agreed that all matters regarding the Club's licence to operate the members' bar in the Parish Council's Pavilion would be raised jointly with an officer from Solihull MBC's Licensing Department. This had been requested on 10th April but unfortunately not yet taken place. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that all matters in the investigation report relating to consumption of alcohol in the pavilion be discussed at that meeting and the Council notified at its next meeting.

SMBC/Clerk
and Club
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Following further discussion/clarification **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** that:

1. a new no blame culture be endorsed by the Council and staff;
2. the Council endorsed that communication should be via the Clerk and Club Secretary in the first instance and meetings (as required) with other staff and Club representatives had already taken place and others were planned;
3. the Club be asked to confirm they recognise and accept that the ownership of facilities rests with the community and the Council has a mandate to manage it on behalf of the whole community, therefore the Club cannot act as if it was in ownership;
4. the Council endorsed that opening and closing of the pavilion for midweek matches be undertaken by Wardens/staff;
5. the Council endorsed that during weekend matches, the pavilion double doors remain open during matches. NB agreement already made

by the Council and staff instructed the park would remain fully open, past closing time if necessary, to accommodate the end of a cricket match (subject to matches starting on time or other constraints);

6. the Club be asked to confirm they recognise and accept that they cannot access the main pavilion when other hires are taking place;
7. the Club be asked to confirm they recognise and accept that bar premises and areas where alcohol is stored are adequately locked to prevent unauthorized access and a protocol be established, followed and signed;
8. the Council endorsed that after the Warden had locked the park and notified the Club's steward, the Club must have its members and guests bring their children away from any play equipment and have them in the building. The investigator repeated that the Council managed the park on behalf of the community and explained it is manifestly unfair to allow access by the Club when the park is locked to the community. The Council clarified that if staff saw members accessing the park after it was locked the Club steward (as responsible person for the Clubroom hire) would be notified and be required to get people inside.
9. The Club be asked to confirm they recognise and accept that it is responsible for its members conduct and must meet the conditions laid down for future use of the Pavilion and to demonstrate this by reviewing the Club rules and discipline policy and supplying a copy to the Council.

Following the initial response of the Council to the report at the previous meeting, members noted that the Club had not agreed the report be released to the public and issue a joint public statement on moving forward until it knew more details of the council's response; the Clerk had asked to meet with the Club Secretary to establish protocols to find a way forward to overcome the previous difficulties and jointly agree any relevant sanctions but this had been difficult to arrange due to Easter holidays; day to day hire issues were being well managed by staff, led by the recently appointed Open Spaces Supervisor; that the responses to the complaints made to the council had been delayed by not having an agreement from the Club about releasing the report; the Clerk had held verbal discussions with some staff regarding the outcome of the investigation.

13. Licence Agreements – Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club.

Members noted the legal advice sought since the last meeting and considered the draft licence agreements, that had previously deferred, and reviewed the questions previously submitted by the Club Chairman. Members noted the pitch and the pavilion were subject to two separate licence agreements and that the agreement for the use of the Clubroom related only to the current Pavilion building. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that:

1. the Clerk be delegated to instruct a solicitor to advise the council;
2. the licences be offered from 1st January 2013 for 10 years on an annual rolling basis and the solicitor insert an appropriate clause and due process required to 'roll' the agreement;
3. the solicitor insert an appropriate break clause into the agreements that would protect both parties;
4. the request of the Club for a 25 year agreement be declined;
5. the request for free use of changing rooms prior to the hire period commencing be declined as the Club now understood they should book, at no additional cost, the actual times they required the dressing rooms/pitch;
6. the request for refund of fees for non-play of cancelled matches be declined as

Clerk
asap

- mid-week alternatives had always been offered;
7. the request for matches to be played until 22.00 hours be declined as arrangements already in place if matches overran past 20.00 hours by the park being kept open;
 8. the request for 51% of 'team' members to be replaced with 'Club' Membership be granted as this had already been proposed by the licence working party;
 9. the request of the Club that breaches of obligations be subject to consultation between parties within 28 days with a view to resolution, the Club be given the opportunity to make representations within 28 days, the parish council adopt any reasonably alternative route to avoid termination of the agreement be declined as this had been superceded by the investigation. Breaches of obligations would be subject to discussion by the Club Secretary and the Clerk.
 10. the request of the Club to have bar extensions and drinking on the veranda be deferred to the meeting with the Solihull MBC Licensing officer;
 11. the request of the Club to park the Club minibus overnight at the car park be declined.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Ward, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Club be informed that funding applications for the pavilion building should either be undertaken by the council, as its owner, or preferably jointly with the Club as a hirer.

Clerk
05/13

14. Report of the Officer of the Council.

The Clerk reported that a major incident had occurred in the park during the preceding weekend, involving youths and alcohol. She hoped to have further information to report to council in due course but investigations were still taking place. Members were reminded that as the Council had instructed a shorter agenda for this meeting, other routine items would be re-appear at the next meeting.