

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLE
BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 25TH JANUARY 2012
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr M Hayes

Councillors: Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr J Horne-MacDonald Cllr Mrs. L Smith
 Cllr R Amos Cllr E Knibb Cllr Miss J Ward
 Cllr Mrs. A Haywood Cllr M Rashid Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins
 Cllr E Hicks Cllr J Riordan
 Cllr I Hiley

Officer: Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council/RFO

Guest Speaker: Sgt. L. Dalton, West Midlands Police - Community Team [Items 1-6]

Public: 7 members of the public [mostly for Items 1-4]

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr A Terry and Cllr J Whelan were noted for the reasons given.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared.

3. Presentation of Award for Service to the Community – Lauren Phillips, Park Hall Academy.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman was delighted to present Lauren Phillips with her Award. The Chairman knew that Lauren served as a member of the Youth Parish and acknowledged how many other activities that she had been busily involved with in the community, which he admired tremendously. Mrs. Kernan, Deputy Headteacher from Park Hall Academy, was also pleased to also present Lauren with a plaque and certificate on behalf of the Academy.

4. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Amos, **SECONDED** by Cllr Horne-MacDonald, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesdays 21st December, 2011 and 11th January, 2012 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

5. Guest Speaker: Sgt Liam Dalton, West Midlands Police.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Sgt. Dalton gave an updated picture of the general position in Solihull and was pleased to report that in December 2011 there had been fewer victims of crime than in any month of the last decade. The work done to ensure that known offenders were closely monitored by managing their behaviour, adhering to curfews/bail conditions and gathering targeted information was showing success. He personally made visits to monitor specific individuals. Unfortunately in Castle Bromwich there had been several burglaries in January but 3 arrests had just been made and an appeal given for vigilance by residents to pass on information for the priority police teams who were working on foot, on bikes and in plain clothes. Information was being shared with other areas to detect patterns. Castle Bromwich had less anti-social behaviour than other areas but at a recent partnership meeting, he had learned of speeding buses, flytipping, rogue traders, thefts of metal dog bins. There were still issues with dangerous parking outside some schools, although a liaison meeting to improve communication had led to extra gates and video cameras to reduce problems at one location. He thanked everyone from the parish council and the community who

ACTION

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had been helpfully engaged in searching for a missing person, who thankfully was safe. Sgt. Dalton would be leaving Castle Bromwich soon but was pleased to commend his replacement, Sgt Mirza, who would start on 22nd February. He was already familiar with the community and the police team so he looked forward to making a difference. Sgt. Dalton thanked everyone for the enjoyable year he had spent in Castle Bromwich and valued the communication and trust that had been established, which was vital for the police to do their job. Cllr Rashid asked about drug problems and Sgt. Dalton confirmed that warrants had been issued for cannabis the day after information had been received but this was not in Castle Bromwich. So he again appealed for information that would enable the police to act. Cllr Hiley asked if Sgt. Dalton was remaining in the police force as the next change would be the fourth sergeant in 2½ years. Sgt. Dalton said he would have preferred to remain in the force but confirmed he was leaving. The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, thanked Sgt. Dalton for the work he had done in Castle Bromwich and, said he was truly sorry to see him leave.

6. Questions from Councillors.

Cllr Miss Ward expressed her grave concern about the traffic risks at Morrisons petrol garage, having witnessed a serious near accident the previous evening. Members supported this concern and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the Store Manager inviting their views and/or representative at the next meeting, with the hope that discussions could lead to reasonable suggestions for a practical solution and explain the reasons for the existing layout and design.

Clerk
3/2

7. Questions from the Public.

In accordance with Standing Orders, the meeting was temporarily adjourned so that members of the public could ask questions. A parishioner from the Bradford ward reminded the council of a suggestion at a previous meeting for a notice board at the village green, which could be useful to get information to a wider part of the community for both council news and local organisations, for example the police beat surgeries. The Chairman noted this request that would be passed to the Leisure Services Committee for consideration.

LSC
Feb/March

8. Communications.

Members noted the information listed. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the request for a charity football match be approved in principle, with the detailed arrangements being delegated to the Leisure Services Committee.

LSC
Feb/March

9. Precept 2012/2013.

Members carefully considered the financial options, including a zero increase but it was felt that this would lead to a substantial increase for 2013/14. Members **AGREED** to reduce the expenditure plans by a total of £3,450 [being for Community Support (£2000), Grant Aid (£1000), Jubilee Events (£250) and Councillor training (£200)]. Members expressed their views and, with the consent of the council, a member of the public gave an opinion also. Following a zero increase in the precept last year, and in the light of inflation and the effect on reserves, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to increase the precept from £219,288 to £225,867, which was an increase of 3%. This would equate to an increase of £1.58 per year for a Band D household, equivalent to 3p per week.

Clerk notify
SMBC
Urgent

10. HS2 Consultative Committee – appointment of representative.

The Clerk tabled recent documents. Following discussion and support for the committee, there were unfortunately no volunteers who had time available to attend the

Asst. Clerk

meetings. The Clerk undertook to ask for the council to be kept informed.

11. Prohibition of Waiting – Water Orton Road.

Following consideration and clarification, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to support the extension to the prohibition area.

10/2

Clerk
1/2

12. Spencer Hall refurbishment – additional works.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the quotation for painting the stage frontage be accepted at a cost of £998 with the work being completed during the existing February timeslot. The Clerk would request a colour chart so that recommendations for the décor could be put to the Leisure Services Committee.

Clerk
26/1

LSC
1/2

13. Review of Charter Agreement – Better Working.

Cllr Mrs. Wilkins commended this good document, which members **AGREED** would be noted with interest.

Clerk
Feb '12

14. Payments.

Cllr Mrs. Wilkins asked about the invoice from a prior year and the Clerk explained it had not been issued by the company at the time of the work. A second invoice had also been received but the Clerk was disputing the charge being levied and would report back to council in due course. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Horne-MacDonald, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments and retrospective salary costs be approved. Members noted the latest budget printouts.

Clerk
asap

Admin Asst
26/1

15. 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, 4th January 2012, having been circulated, be duly received and noted.

16. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Smith, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 21st December 2011, having been circulated, be duly received and noted.

17. Report of the Staff Panel.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Staff Panel held on Wednesday, 18th January 2012, having been circulated, be duly received and noted.

18. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that on Tuesday 3rd January she had attended the Youth Council meeting, discussing some of the items for Picnic in the Park. It was also hoped to arrange a skittle evening with Coleshill Youth Council in March or July. On Sunday 8th January she had attended a volunteers meeting at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens as a trustee representing the Parish Council. Their visitors centre needed decorating and yes, she had been nominated to do this but would 'encourage' others to help her. On Monday 9th January the Chairman and herself had been invited to attend Castle Bromwich Junior School to see where the money donated by the Chairman's Charity Fund last May had been spent. Unfortunately the Chairman had been unable to attend due to work commitments but she had been most pleased to have been taken on a tour of the school by Mr. Backhouse, the Headteacher. She had been most impressed. On Thursday 19th January she had attended a Trustees meeting at Castle Bromwich Hall

Gardens. On Saturday 21st January, Youth Cllr Natasha Brown, as Chairman of the Youth Council, and herself had visited Hall Garden Supplies for Carl Ferris to be presented with an award from the Youth Council for the help he had given to them with planning the Sensory Peace Garden at the Village Green. Finally, Cllr Mrs. Allen reminded members that the sapling trees were due to arrive soon and she appealed for suitable areas for consideration for planting. Ideas should be put forward to the Open Spaces working party.

Cllr Knibb reported that on Monday 16th January he had attended the WALC County Committee meeting held at the Town Hall in Leamington Spa. The Chairman welcomed new members to the Committee and this was followed by the annual election of appointees of WALCs representatives to outside bodies. He had been pleased to be appointed to the Quality Parish Status Accreditation Panel and also appointed as a member of the Policy Advisory Sub-Committee. No other appointments were made and the position of Vice Chairman was deferred until the next County Committee meeting in May. Normal business was then discussed which included finance, grants, service level agreements, partnership schemes and events. The Localism Act 2011 was discussed and reports given by representatives to outside bodies. The next meeting would be Wednesday, 2nd May.

Cllr Riordan reported that on Thursday, 12th January Cllr Knibb, the Clerk and he had attended the a WALC Solihull Area Committee meeting at Balsall Common. The guest speaker was Andrew Shipway, Corporate Information Governance Manager at Solihull MBC and he had presented a briefing session on data protection and freedom of information, highlighting the implications for parish and town councils. A copy of his presentation could be obtained from the Clerk. He concluded by listing 4 mandatory requirements that Parish councils must have: a Publication Scheme; that all electronic data must be encrypted; that Parish Councils must register with the Information Commissioner's Office; and that CCTV must be subject to an audit. A report was given on HS2 by a SAC Member. Following the Government announcement approving this project with changes to the route, these had been examined in detail and it was reported that these changes were disadvantageous to the Solihull area with more roads and footpaths affected than previously expected. SAC representatives then gave various reports including:- the Solihull Standards Committee had met that afternoon when the future of the Solihull Standards regime following the Localism Bill being enacted was discussed. A summary of the discussions would be circulated as soon as it was available. Feedback was given on the recent workshop on Localism and Precept and Double Taxation. Feedback was also given from the Working Group looking at the Charter between SMBC and Parish and Town Councils. The next SAC meeting would be on Thursday 12th April at Bickenhill.

The Chairman thanked everyone who attended meetings and gave time to represent the parish council. On behalf of the Council, he particularly thanked Cllr Mrs. Allen and highlighted the tremendous amount of work she did for Castle Bromwich as month after month, she gave extensive reports of the very many occasions that she had represented the council and served the parishioners.

19. Report of the Officer of the Council.

The Clerk reported that she had tabled a consultation letter from SMBC on the draft Local Development Framework and urged members to view the document via the Connect Centre or SMBC's website before the next Council meeting as views were required by 5th March. Documents also circulated to members were the WALC briefing day and recent residents concerns. An invitation had been received from Western

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Power for a morning seminar with stakeholders on Wednesday 22nd February and members were asked to let her know if they wished to attend.

Members
10/2

20. Report of the Chairman.

The Chairman expressed his regret at not being able to visit Castle Bromwich Junior School and thanked Cllr Mrs. Allen for her kind attendance.

21. Hirer Complaint and Issues.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, it was advisable in the public interest, as if members of the public were present during the consideration of such business, there would be disclosure to them of information under paras 1 and 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act, that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw. Members noted that the overdue account had been settled in full, although the hirer still intended to dispute some charges that had previously been withheld by them without explanation. The Clerk was instructed to request an acknowledgement of the email asking for a meeting, as no reply had yet been received and a meeting was urgently needed to begin rebuilding a better working relationship. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the draft papers from the confidential meeting be duly accepted and a letter sent forthwith notifying the hirer of the council decisions. Members also discussed activities at a recent hire event and the Clerk was instructed to alert the Liaison Officer to the council policy on private functions, prior to discussion at the first Liaison meeting.

Clerk
27/1

Clerk
Asap

Clerk
asap