

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
CASTLE BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL 2014
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:**Chairman:** Cllr J Whelan

Councillors: Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr E Hicks Cllr E Knibb
Cllr M Hayes Cllr I Hiley Cllr J Riordan
Cllr Horne MacDonald Cllr Miss J Ward

Officer: Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council and RFO**Public:** 1 member of the public.**1. Apologies.**

The apologies from Cllr Mrs. A Haywood were noted for the reason given. Cllr M Rashid and Cllr A Terry were absent.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or conflict of interests.

None declared.

3. Dispensations.

None received.

4. Questions from the Public.

Under Standing Order 70, the Chairman temporarily suspended standing orders for this item only to allow an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions. In connection with item 5.2, Bor. Cllr Robinson clarified the current position of Solihull MBC, who were in direct discussions with the HS2 company on the borough wide issues, which currently had 50 ‘asks’ that it wanted to be addressed. This included having a guarantee that all road surfaces would be put back to their former condition and resolving concerns about the impact on Castle Bromwich residents if construction vehicles were to use the Water Orton Road. The Borough Council were already representing both the residents of Castle Bromwich and the parish council with their discussions to ameliorate the impact and the parish council could, if it wished, support the Borough Council petition which was being presented by legal briefs. Members asked several questions which were helpfully clarified. The suspension of standing orders was then concluded for the meeting to progress.

5. HS2 – measures to protect the interests of parishioners.

Members considered carefully the agenda points, as follows:

- 5.1 Members agreed that many residents may be unaware of potential implications and that raising awareness may be helpful, possibly with a future public meeting being held. It was noted the hybrid bill did not specifically name Water Orton Road as an intended route. There were financial implications on the cost of petitioning by the parish council, which had not previously been budgeted for.
- 5.2 Members noted, with thanks, the written information submitted by Mrs. Spelman, MP, who had sent apologies for being unable to attend this meeting.
- 5.3 The legal advice received from NALC was tabled and discussed, noting that the council did not oppose the hybrid bill. The Chairman also reported on his helpful discussion with Mr. Bailey, an officer at Solihull MBC, who had confirmed that

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the parish council could 'piggy back' their petition. HS2 would, at a later date, need to apply for planning permission from the Borough Council but HS2 could continue with its plans even in the face of objections. A discussion ensued on the correct procedural process for the parish council in light of the earlier resolution by its standing committee. Cllr Hayes, as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, clarified that the decision on 9th April was intended to recommend to the council to petition, based on the information available to them at that time. Members noted that new information gleaned by Cllr Knibb and the Clerk at the Solihull Area Committee meeting held on 10th April. Some members had expressed concerns about the petitioning process to the House of Commons and it was felt that a petition could be submitted by the parish council at a later stage to the House of Lords if deemed appropriate. This additional full council meeting had therefore been called to give all members the opportunity to consider the wider information now available.

- 5.4 At the invitation of the Chairman, no members were minded to propose that a petition be deposited at this stage. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Miss Ward, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the parish council should rely upon and support the Borough Council's current discussions with HS2 and put forward strong views about the inconvenience and danger of any HS2 construction traffic using the Water Orton Road to travel through Castle Bromwich.

Clerk
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Items 5.5 to 5.10 were not considered in light of the above resolution.

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