
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLE
BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH 2008M
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr Mrs. B. Wilkins

Councillors:

Cllr Mrs. P Allen
Cllr R Amos
Cllr E Knibb
Cllr Mrs. T Knibb
Cllr Mrs. A Haywood

Cllr J Riordan
Cllr A Terry
Cllr Miss J Ward

Officer: Mrs C Tibbles

Guest Speaker: Ms. A. Lush, Neighbourhood Manager, Solihull MBC [Items 1-4 only]

Public: 14 members of the public [some for Items 1-6 only]

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr D Feasey, Cllr Mrs. J Smith and Cllr M Rashid were accepted for the reason given.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Amos, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 27th February, 2008 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Guest Speaker: Ms. A. Lush, Neighbourhood Manager, Solihull MBC

The Chairman introduced the guest speaker, who was making a return visit to the Parish Council and invited her to talk about the draft proposals for improvements in Castle Bromwich that had previously been circulated. Ms. Lush outlined the anti-social behaviour problems in Hazlehurst Road, litter/rubbish in open space between Parkfield Drive and the collector road, speeding in Parkfield Drive, potholes requiring repair (especially since recent cold weather), and problem alcohol sales which Trading Standards were working to identify at source. The Action Plan was being developed with a plan to blitz graffiti and a wish to maintain the success on the Village Green areas. There had been ASB problems with interference to buses at Green Lane. Cllr Miss Ward referred to the cars parking on green verges in Parkfield Drive and Ms Lush said that letters had been put on vehicles to address this difficult matter. Cllr Mrs. Knibb reported litter and broken glass regularly in the alley from Victory Hall to the Village Green and Ms Lush hoped that a litter pick event could be arranged for the Environmental Champions and the community. Cllr Terry had often worked alone as an Environmental Champion but recognized the value of working together. Cllr Riordan referred to 2 areas mentioned previously but not appearing in the strategy document but Ms Lush replied the new draft was still being prepared and welcomed details by email. She confirmed that her work was done in conjunction with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership with a general focus on key crime issues. The Community Tasking minutes were not publicly available and police intelligence was useful, being considered in conjunction with residents views. Ms. Lush detailed the partners worked with and how to address problems since the expiry of the dispersal zone, particularly concerning ASB and intimidation at Park Hall School, vandalism to school windows and urged problems should be reported to Sgt. O'Reilly.

Ms. Lush concluded by presenting a certificate to the Chairman of the Youth Parish Council, Cllr Miss Clare Moylan for working together with young people to improve the local environment and knew the Borough Council £1,000 donation would be most valuable to support their next project. Castle Bromwich Cricket & Sports Club said they were working on sports projects with local schools and had been most pleased with the interest shown so far. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked Ms. Lush for her visit and her kind presentation

5. Guest Speakers: Development Team, Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club

The Chairman thanked Club members for attending and said the Council applauded them for the work undertaken in the Pavilion. Councillors had received a copy of their request to the Council for financial help to complete the work they had started and views were invited by the Chairman. Mr. Paul Messenger explained that £10,000 had now been spent which included partial retiling of the gent's toilets so funds were no longer available for the upholstery. He believed the level of interest for children's parties had increased over the last few weeks and the club wanted to be professionally run to do more as a family club. Cllr Knibb commended their tremendous work on the council owned building and **PROPOSED** that £5000 be given to the club. Cllr Amos, having recently rejoined the Parish Council, was already aware that Arden Hall had been deemed a priority this year and although he thought the Club should be assisted, he did not agree with giving the money as the Pavilion was often closed. Mr. Messenger said that £54,000 had been paid in hire fees over the years by the Club and Cllr Amos clarified that he was not objecting outright but felt a loan could be more appropriate to consider when looking at the whole picture. Mr. Duffield said the rooms in Arden Hall were also in a bad state and that the Pavilion Clubroom would be a much better room to hire out. Cllr Mrs. Knibb had been pleased with the support of the Club for the Council and she hoped this wish to help others would continue in their practical way. The Chairman said Parish Council finances had to be looked at and suggested a special meeting for their specific funding request so that details of their plans for future spending could be given. Cllr Riordan agreed he would like to help the Club but parishioners' money was public funding and could not just be given away, which could be deemed as reckless and foolish in the light of Cllr Knibb's clear view that the Parish Council annual budget was insufficient. The Club said the work needed to be complete by 3rd May. The Chairman felt it would be unwise to make a gift of £5000 as the club had requested a loan. Other options could be explored with the current financial position and asked if the Parish Council could provide materials but Mr. Messenger replied that other work was complete and that £4550 was required to do the seating. Cllr Mrs. Haywood supported the work done by the Club but asked where the money could come from, if the Council could legally undertake this and if it would place constraints on the Council as it had not been budgeted for. Cllr Knibb replied there was £25000 in the contingency budget and from 1st April but Cllr Mrs. Haywood replied the contingency fund could not be given away as it was needed for the Parish Council. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, a meeting was suggested with the Development Committee and the Club asked what the outcomes would be. The Chairman replied that financial resources would have to be considered as the Parish Council would not have undertaken the Clubroom refurbishment, that it had not planned to re-upholster the furniture and that a way forward would need to be found. Cllr Riordan said the money was not available in the budget plans already agreed. Cllr Terry **SECONDED** the earlier proposal by Cllr Knibb that £5000 be given to the club. 4 members voted in favour and 5 against – **NOT CARRIED**. Cllr Mrs. Allen **SECONDED** the earlier proposal by the Chairman for a meeting with the Development Committee and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that a meeting be held.

6. Questions from Councillors.
None.

Clerk:
Agenda
26/3 after
mtg.

7. Questions from the Public.

Standing Orders were suspended for a maximum period of 15 minutes so that members of the public could ask questions. Following an explanation of procedures by the Chairman, members of the public were invited to state their name and address prior to asking their question. A summary of the questions asked is appended for members.

8. Report and future meetings of Working Parties/Friends of Arden Hall.

Working Party – Village Green: Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that the Village Green Working Party had met and distributed drawings of their proposals for consideration. Members wished to cutback the shrubs and remove litter. Ideas had been discussed with the grounds maintenance contractor and could be completed at little or no cost with the support of local garden centres. If grants were successfully applied for then even more could be achieved. The drawings were commended and plans supported, with funding and grants being considered in the future. Cllr Mrs. Allen appealed for any other volunteers who wished to help improve this valuable public area. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the working party continue as outlined with the cutback and clean up of Castle Bromwich Village Green being undertaken first.

Working Party – Draft Newsletter: Members discussed some changes to the draft information leaflet and Cllr Mrs Knibb provided information on possible distribution options. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the newsletter be amended as outlined.

9. Vacancies – Election of members to Committees/Representatives.

After discussion, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to endorse the following appointments:

Cllr Mrs. Allen to serve as a Reserve Member of the Staff Panel;

Cllr Mrs. Wilkins and Cllr Amos to join Cllr Knibb on the Appeal Committee;

Cllr Mrs. Allen and Cllr Miss Ward to serve as Reserve Members of the Appeal Panel (providing they had not been involved in the same discipline or grievance issue under consideration);

Cllr Knibb to serve as a representative to the Colebridge Trust;

Cllr Knibb to serve as a representative to the Richard Knight Trust;

Cllr Knibb to serve as a representative to the St. Thomas Dole Charity Trust.

The following vacancies remained unfilled:

Representative to the Bacons End Centre Association; representative to the Chelmsley CAB Forum; representative to Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens; governor for Castle Bromwich Infants School.

10. Parish Council Risk Schedule.

After consideration, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to agree the Risk Schedule, which was then signed by the Chairman of the Council, Chairmen of Finance and General Purposes Committee and Leisure Services Committee and the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer.

11. NALC Advice on Working Parties.

Cllr Mrs. Knibb referred to the documentation received. **IT WAS RESOLVED** to accept the advice of NALC that the role of Working Parties was to undertake research, assess information and report back any recommendations for consideration and/or action for consideration by the Council or Committee that originally set up the Working Party.

12. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 5th March 2008, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

13. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Knibb, **SECONDED** by Cllr Amos, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesdays, 27th February and notes from 12th March 2008, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

14. Report of the Arden Hall Management and Promotion Committee.

Working
Party
TBA

Asst.
Clerk
4/4

A s s t .
Clerk
11/4

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Knibb, **SECONDED** by Cllr Amos, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Arden Hall Management & Promotion Committee held on Tuesday 4th March 2008, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

15. Report of the Staff Panel.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Terry, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Staff Panel held on Thursdays, 7th February and 6th March 2008, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

16. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Terry reported that funding had made opportunities available for voluntary Tree Wardens at weekends to learn about conservation, coppice woods, disease, woods and pathways management.

17. Report of the Officer of the Council.

Payments - Members were requested to approve payment of all invoices received since last Committee, a summary of which had been circulated to members and displayed with the agenda. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the payments be approved. Tree Surgery - Members considered the quotation for remedial tree works. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that all work quoted should be undertaken, with the 10% discount, as soon as possible at a net cost of £2142.00.

Admin.
Asst. 4/4

Members noted the CPRE details on working together for the environment, discussed the planned Safety Enforcement Cameras on the Bradford Road and Chester Road, were pleased at the return of officers to the police base in Arden Hall and noted the agreement for the new Theatre School. The Clerk reported the Waterloo/Fusion football coaching was being well attended, despite the weather. Staff shortages due to holiday and sickness continued to be difficult to manage and the vacancy notice for 3 parish councillors had been published, with members being urged to publicise this as widely as possible. Following the cancellation of the Mother's Day event, members selected 1st June as a possible date for the contracted entertainment (Ain't Misbehavin') subject to availability and investigation of a joint event with the Civic Service.

Clerk
ASAP

18. Report of the Chairman

The Chairman reported that on Saturday, 9th March the working party looked at the Village Green, as earlier reported by Cllr Mrs. Allen. She felt that when flower beds were tidied up by volunteers it would give a good basis to work from. On Saturday, 22nd March the Chairman had attended the Easter Event at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens with the Mayor and Mayoress of Solihull. Fortunately the weather behaved itself and the whole event had been extremely well attended. It was enjoyable watching the Morris dancing and she enjoyed a great tour of the Gardens accompanied by the new Gardens Manager. The trustees had very thoughtfully moved most of the event into the upper garden which was more protected from the wind. Between us we judged the children's Easter Bonnet parade, much hard work had obviously gone into these creations and we managed in the end with some difficulty to pick some real winners. Every child that took part had a little Easter egg as well. Afterwards we retired for much needed hot drinks and cake. She had enjoyed a lovely afternoon and saw much of the progress that was being made at the Gardens and heard a great deal about the improvements that were being made by the new owners of the Hall by the way of restoration work inside.

Finally the Chairman encouraged fellow Councillors to call in and support the Bridal Fayre at Arden Hall on Sunday 30th March.

