

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLE  
BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH  
ON WEDNESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2013  
AT 7.30 PM**

**Those present:**

**Chairman:** Cllr M Hayes

**Councillors:** Cllr Mrs. P Allen                      Cllr I Hiley                      Cllr A Terry  
                          Cllr R Amos                                      Cllr J Horne-MacDonald      Cllr Miss J Ward  
                          Cllr Mrs. A Haywood                      Cllr E Knibb                      Cllr J Whelan  
                          Cllr E Hicks                                      Cllr J Riordan                      Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins

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

**Public:** 6 members of the public [mostly for Items 1-4]

Before the meeting started, the Chairman took the opportunity on behalf of the Council to formally congratulate Cllr Knibb on his recent election as Chairman of the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils.

**1. Apologies.**

The apologies from Cllr M Rashid and Cllr Mrs. L Smith were noted for the reasons given. [Clerk’s Note: Sgt. Mirza hoped to attend a parish council meeting soon, subject to his shift pattern, and had been given dates of future meetings.]

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

None.

**3. Dispensations.**

None received.

**4. Presentation of Award for Service to the Community – Megan McLaughlin, Park Hall Academy.**

The Chairman was delighted to welcome Miss McLaughlin to the meeting and on behalf of the Parish Council, presented her with a plaque and gift token in recognition of her service to the community for 2012. Miss McLaughlin told members that she had been an active member of Friends of Woodlands Cemetery for a few years and recently was placed fourth with a national application for funding. She was also involved in more charities and hoped to continue to raise awareness of the Friends project.

**5. Minutes of the previous Meeting.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hicks, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

**6. Questions from Councillors.**

None received.

**7. 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 reported that a vehicle had again driven on the Village Green and suggested that if the cost of wooden bollards were prohibitive, that the council could lay old tree trunks on their side as an effective, but environmentally natural, deterrent. Members noted this suggestion with interest. Feedback was given by the Clerk who confirmed that three replacement dog bins had been ordered for the Village Green, to deter tampering; Solihull MBC had applied for tree works in Old Birmingham Road; the parish council had requested

**ACTION**

02/13  
Tbc

LSC  
04/13

**ACTION**

Solihull MBC to review the need for a pedestrian crossing outside Arden Hall.

### 8. Communications.

Members noted the information listed. The request to rent an office was referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration, along with a review of the plans to relocate the Council Office to the Business Annex. Cllr Mrs. Allen referred to the request to co-host an event to promote all uniformed organisations and their work. Following discussion, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Terry, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Events working party meet with the applicant to look at possible dates and report back (to the Finance and General Purposes Committee). Cllr Terry suggested that the offer to undertake CRB checks with Birmingham Council be declined. Members discussed the SMBC letter regarding an overdue payment and the Clerk explained the change in procedures by the Borough Council that meant insufficient information was received on/with the invoice. She was asked to draft a letter, for the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Council, regarding the difficulties caused by their change of procedure that meant there was a delay in the necessary transparency for processing by the parish council.

FGP  
13/3

Events WP  
asap

Clerk  
asap

### 9. Boundary Committee review of constituency.

Members were most pleased to note that confirmation had been forwarded by Solihull MBC that the proposed changes by the Boundary Commission to the constituency of Castle Bromwich would not be taking place. The Chairman warned that this topic may be resurrected in 2015 and asked for everyone to remain vigilant if local government boundaries were reviewed.

### 10. Precept 2013/2014.

Following consideration of the explanation of changes to the localisation of council tax support, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Terry, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the statement from Solihull MBC be prefaced by the following statement of the parish council: "For the financial year 2013/14 the parish council has decreased the amount asked for in the council precept. For 2012/13 the precept was £225,867. For 2013/14 the precept is £210,989. Due to the ending of council tax benefit bought in by central government how the amount is collected has changed. In simple terms there are less households paying council tax. Central government no longer replace the money they paid on behalf of those in receipt of council tax benefit as in previous years. For this reason your council tax bill may show an increase in figure stated in individual household bills but the parish council is actually getting less money from the precept. Parishioners are urged to bear their responsibility for getting involved with the parish council to shape their future and help to decide what the priority should be at this very local level. Views would be invited on Tuesday 7th May at the Annual Parish Meeting. Despite increases in operating costs, members had agreed prudent savings from the first draft budget of £21,790. The council had secured additional income of £10,529 via successful grant funding applications." Members would be supplied with copies of the statement so that they could respond promptly to any enquiries from their parishioners.

Parishioners  
7/5 at 8 pm

### 11. Parish Council Risk Schedule.

Following careful consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Amos, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hicks, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Annual Risk Schedule be approved and duly signed.

### 12. Defibrillators.

Following discussion, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Amos, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Cllr Whelan endeavour to invite West Midlands Ambulance Service to attend a Leisure Services Committee

**ACTION**  
JTW asap

meeting to explain in more detail how defibrillators in the local community were operated and what the implications and requirements would be for Castle Bromwich.

LSC 04/13

### 13. Independent Investigation.

The Clerk reported that the investigator's report had just been received and informed members that the independent investigator would be available to members if they had any questions. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Horne-MacDonald, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Clerk should arrange for this to take place. Consideration of the report would be on the next council agenda. Copies of the report were handed to members.

Clerk  
AsapCouncil  
27/3

### 14. Finance and Payments.

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as listed and discussed be approved.

Admin Asst  
28/2

### 15. 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 Staff Panel held on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013, having been circulated, be received and noted.

### 16. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013, having been circulated, be received and noted.

### 17. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Terry, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesdays, 30<sup>th</sup> January and 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 having been circulated, be received and noted.

### 18. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Knibb reported that on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February he had attended the WALC Annual Meeting, followed by the quarterly County Committee meeting, held at Royal Leamington Spa Town Hall. The annual meeting had covered the approval and acceptance of the minutes from last year's annual meeting before moving on to the election of officers to represent WALC for the coming year. The first appointment was for a new Chairman to serve a two year period from 2013-2015. Cllr Eric Knibb having been duly elected, thanked the members for having appointed him and after paying tribute to the work of the previous Chairman, he assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting. The outgoing Chairman, Cllr Vaughan Owen in accordance with WALC terms of office, was duly elected as the new Vice-Chairman for a one year term. Next was a whole list of appointments of WALC representatives to serve WALC on numerous outside bodies. Finally a cycle of dates were agreed for County Committee meetings for the 2013 year. The annual meeting was closed and swiftly moved on to the Quarterly County Committee meeting. The first meaty issue on the agenda was matters arising from the last quarterly meeting (23<sup>rd</sup> October 2012) and the WALC AGM (7<sup>th</sup> November 2012). Other agenda items discussed were the third quarter financial statements, the effect of the Localisation of Council Tax Support scheme on council precepts, the Improving Transparency in Local Government and then the extension of the Sustainable Communities Act on Parish and Town Councils. This was all followed by a series of reports from representatives on outside bodies covering a National Association council meeting, a West Midland Regional Council Group meeting, a

ACTION

Warwickshire County Council Highway Liaison meeting and a WCC Safer and Stronger Communities meeting. The next Quarterly County Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April at Royal Leamington Spa Town Hall. Reports that had been presented were available after the meeting if any councillor wished to read them.

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February she had attended the annual Snowdrop event at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens. Although the weather was inclement, she hoped it was financially successful as income was sorely needed.

**19. Report of the Officer of the Council.**

There were no urgent matters to report.

**20. Report of the Chairman.**

The Chairman reported that on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February he had been pleased to host a charity quiz. Although he did not have the exact figure raised, a successful night had been most enjoyable. The next Chairman would doubtless receive more enquiries on when a repeat date could be set. On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February he had attended the annual presentation evening for Castle Vale Air Cadets. There was an incredible amount of work put in by their leaders which had been most commendable to see. On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February he had been pleased to attend the annual Thinking Day service for Castle Bromwich Guiding Association. Yet again lots of volunteers were putting work in to benefit the younger people and it was enlightening to see lots of events happening that gave a positive contribution to our community. The Chairman was unfortunately not able to accept an invitation on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March to the dedication of the new parish hall for St Mary and St Margaret's Church and Cllr Mrs. Haywood kindly volunteered to go and represent the parish council.

AEH  
2/3

DRAFT