

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLE
BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 27TH JUNE 2012
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr M Hayes

Councillors: Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr E Hicks Cllr A Terry
 Cllr R Amos Cllr M Rashid Cllr Miss J Ward
 Cllr Mrs. A Haywood [Items 1-7 only] Cllr J Whelan
 Cllr I Hiley Cllr J Riordan Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins

Officer: Mrs. C Tibbles

Public: None.

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr J Horne-MacDonald, Cllr E Knibb and Cllr Mrs. L Smith were noted for the reasons given.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 16th May, 2012 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Questions from Councillors.

Cllr Whelan asked the parish council to request financial information from the Borough Councillors following the presentation on highways matters in Castle Bromwich earlier in the year. Following discussion, an amendment was requested and **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Council ask Emily Walsh what the total budget was for 2013/14 in terms of road, parking and transport for Solihull and what the budget was for 2013/14 in the same terms being spent in Castle Bromwich?

5. Questions from the Public.

None. The Clerk reported apologies from Sgt. Mirza, Castle Bromwich Neighbourhood Police Team.

6. Communications.

Members noted the information listed and the latest letter from a resident about Arden Hall and Pavilion finances was referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. A late communication was highlighted by the Clerk on a short consultation by Solihull MBC for young people aged 11-19 and members were asked to encourage anyone they knew to take part.

7. Code of Conduct.

Members discussed the numerous documents that had been circulated and the Clerk recapped on the drafts, re-issued amendments from NALC and late additions that were tabled. After comparing differences and options, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Whelan, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the draft code supplied by Solihull MBC be adopted, subject to insertion of the name of the Parish

ACTION

Clerk
9/7

FGP
11/7

Members
Before
22/7

Council, change of 'constituents' to 'parishioners' and insertion of Solihull MBC in relation to the Monitoring Officer. Members noted the vital training opportunities that would follow soon. The draft Register of Interests form was tabled for information and members would await the final version to be issued by Solihull MBC, being aware of their responsibility to ensure these were duly completed by 28th July. The Chairman offered to collate these to assist the Clerk. The Clerk had received clarification on spouse/partner interests but would await information on 'other interests'.

ACTION

Clerk
9/7

Members
25/7
MH
28/7

8. Audit 2011/2012.

Members noted the Internal Audit completion of the Annual Return, received without any recommendations. Members also noted that the Annual Return had been submitted to Clement Keys and that the year-end pension and payroll procedures had been satisfactorily completed.

9. Finance and Payments.

Following the resolution of several queries from members, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as listed be approved

Admin
Asst
28/6

10. Quotes for War Memorial Safety Work.

Following explanation by Cllr Mrs. Haywood of the aim to improve disabled access and the need to replace the crumbling slabs, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Amos, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the cheapest quotation from Heartlands Garden Services for £1895.00 be accepted, subject to a site visit with the Clerk, as requested by Cllr Mrs. Allen, to ensure that work details were clarified. This was felt to be a fitting project in the Diamond Jubilee year and would be funded from earmarked reserves for Open Spaces. **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** that a plaque could be installed saying the Shrine was owned and maintained by Castle Bromwich Parish Council. The Clerk alerted members to the cracking of roadside slabs caused over many years by the parking of vehicles.

Clerk
13/7

11. Request for Pedestrian Crossing.

Members noted with disappointment the negative response to the request for a pedestrian crossing outside Arden Hall, which would be copied to hire groups and visitors to Arden Hall and the Playing Fields. Following discussion, it was felt to be contradictory as other sites with the same constraints had pedestrian crossings and **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hicks, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the officer from Solihull MBC be invited to a site meeting with members to explain in more detail.

Clerk
13/7

12. Funding Arrangements for Localising Support for Council Tax.

Following consideration of the implications for Castle Bromwich, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Solihull MBC be asked for their intentions and to indicate what their consultation timetable would be.

Clerk
13/7

13. Project Footprint.

Consideration of Project Footprint was deferred.

14. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by Cllr Amos, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 13th June 2012, having been circulated, be received and noted.

15. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Terry, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 20th June 2012, having been circulated, be received and noted.

16. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that on Saturday 2nd June she had attended Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens and Castle Bromwich U3A Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. This had been very well supported and a good afternoon was had by all. She and David Adams had judged the fancy dress competition. ON Monday 4th June, the Youth Council held their Jubilee Picnic in the Park, which was also well attended. Unfortunately the weather was not as good but a good time had been had by all. She thanked the Clerk in acknowledgment of the hard work they had done together. On Sunday 17th June she had attended the 1940's event at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens. It was a very good day with everyone taking part and it was hoped to do a two day event the following year.

17. Report of the Officer of the Council.

The Clerk reported that she had major concerns about the increase of inappropriate activity in the car park which had been reported several times to the police. Cllr Whelan had heard of several attacks on BMW cars and members hoped the police could enlighten the Council further. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Whelan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Miss Ward, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Sgt. Mirza be invited to explain what the police response was to address drug dealing in Castle Bromwich, which, at the suggestion of Cllr Riordan, would be copied for information to the Solihull Partnership Safer Communities group.

Clerk
3/7

18. Report of the Chairman.

The Chairman reported that on Tuesday, 22nd May he had attended the investiture of the Mayor of Solihull at the Civic Centre. On Sunday, 10th June he had attended the parish council's Civic Service at the parish church and he thanked Cllr Riordan and Cllr Mrs. Allen for standing in for him with the readings due to his last minute arrival back from holiday. On Thursday, 21st June he had attended the presentation evening for the 237th Birmingham 1st Castle Bromwich Scouts. As he had reported last year, they were a strong group which, in the last twelve months, had grown with over 204 scouts and adults divided into nine groups spread over 5 nights. They were the biggest group in Birmingham district. On Sunday 24th June he attended St. Alphege church and the Council House in Solihull for the Solihull Borough Council Civic Service.

19. Hirer Issues.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Miss Ward, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the matter be discussed under confidential terms. The Chairman **PROPOSED** that he hold an urgent meeting on Friday evening to re-assess the eligibility for hire discounts; to invite the hirer, parish councillors and a borough councillor who would supply their electoral roll for councillors to verify members names and addresses, to defer the suspension of new bookings and to instruct that outstanding issues be addressed by September and then suspend bookings if that was not satisfactorily done. Members discussed this proposal at length. With the permission of the Chairman, the Clerk clarified for members how the verification process worked and the opportunity given to hirers to resolve queries in accordance with council procedures. Members were reminded of the agreed process that had been followed consistently by staff and hirers for many years. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the

Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Amos, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Standing Order No. 1a be suspended for five minutes to allow the item to be concluded. After consideration of all factors including protocols for communication, hire agreements/licences in operation and challenges by the hirer to previously accepted practice. An amendment was requested and **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hiley, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that due council process be followed and the Clerk invite the hirer to supply the information to the Council by prior appointment, offered as soon as possible, for two staff to verify if 51% of members were registered as living in the parish, for the hirer to supply a signed letter that all members being declared were currently fully paid up members; that until the A or B rate status was re-examined the hire charges be paid in full, with retrospective credits being issued by the Council if necessary; members were in agreement that this situation could have been prevented if information had been supplied in accordance with the two agreements in place and hire regulations had been complied with. Although appreciating that frequent changeover of officers had made matters difficult for the hirer, **IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the list of current council concerns and outstanding issues be sent to the Chairman, with the offer to discuss by telephone with the Clerk, with a reply in July to urgent matters and a commitment to resolve the other issues by 5th September.

ACTION

Clerk
Asap

Clerk
6/7

DRAFT