

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLE  
BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH  
ON WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2013  
AT 7.35 PM**

**Those present:**

**Chairman:** Cllr J Whelan

**Councillors:** Cllr Mrs. P Allen                      Cllr E Hicks                      Cllr M Rashid  
 Cllr M Hayes                                      Cllr I Hiley                      Cllr A Terry  
 Cllr Mrs. A Haywood                      Cllr E Knibb                      Cllr Miss J Ward

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

**Public:** 2 members of the public.

**1. Apologies.**

The apologies from Cllr J Horne-MacDonald and Cllr J Riordan were noted for the reasons given. Cllr R Amos was absent.

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

None declared.

**3. Dispensations.**

None received.

**4. Minutes of the previous Meeting.**

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

**5. Questions from Councillors.**

Cllr Rashid asked for poor street lighting and lack of cleaning of the storm drains in Park Hall Crescent on the Beechcroft Estate to be investigated. The Clerk was asked to convey his concerns to the Borough Council.

**6. Questions from the Public.**

Under Standing Order 70, the Chairman adjourned the meeting to invite questions from members of the public. A resident from the Bradford ward referred to the Remembrance Day photographs of the Parade shown earlier and thanked the Borough Council for cleaning the roads at The Green. He had been proud to be a resident and also expressed his thanks to Arden Hall staff who worked very hard providing refreshments after the service. He also thanked Bor. Cllr Richards for his help in finally getting the white lines at a junction on the Chester Road re-painted which had been a concern for a long time, although the junction with the Bradford Road was still poorly marked. Lastly, he referred to a complaint received by Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Trust about the display of publicity posters for their fundraising events, which he knew were fully compliant with the Borough Council regulations. The Chairman thanked the resident for raising these three points, which were endorsed by the parish council. He added that the displaying posters was important to local organisations to generate interest and income, both of which were vital, so it was sad to see a complaint being made.

**7. Communications.**

Members noted the information listed. Following consideration, members **AGREED** to invite a representative from the new Police Call Centre to a future meeting, where it could be explained how the public can help the police in practical and realistic ways. A member referred to the Local Council Tax Support Administration Subsidy for 2014-15, stating it

**ACTION**

Clerk  
4/12

Asst Clerk  
13/12

would be vital to have notification from the Borough Council on what amount it may pass on to the parish council by way of mitigation. The Chairman confirmed this had already been highlighted to members at the recent Financial Training held at Arden Hall.

ACTION

#### 8. Parish Plan.

Members noted the publication of the Castle Bromwich Parish Plan that had previously been presented to council and to parishioners at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. Cllr Hayes thanked everyone who had worked on the steering group in formulating the Plan. A feedback form was included in the Plan and it was hoped to develop an action plan once priorities were requested by parishioners. The Clerk undertook to arrange publication via the website shortly.

Clerk  
asap

#### 9. Charter for Better Working.

Members noted the successful adoption of the revised Charter for Better Working between Solihull MBC and Parish and Town Councils. Following discussion, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Knibb, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Charter be placed on the parish council website.

Clerk  
asap

#### 10. Bollards/Disabled Parking.

a) Members considered the continuing parking problems at the Small Green, noting the previous inconclusive consultation of residents/businesses that generated no suggestions or requests, parish council enforcement measures under the byelaws, possible installation of bollards, displacement of vehicles, feasibility of widening the road to the required adoption standard of the Borough Council, possible undergrounds services. Following discussion, it was **AGREED** that the parish council should delegate the Leisure Services Committee to consider an alternative option and investigate the feasibility/cost of installing a layby to provide additional parking, with measures to prevent access to the remaining grass. The Clerk undertook to arrange a site meeting with councillors and officers from the parish and borough council to assess the practicalities.

Asst Clerk  
Jan '14

b) Following consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the agreed additional disabled parking outside the front of Arden Hall for Windsor Room visitors be completed, utilizing the agreed capital projects budget/earmarked reserves as necessary.

Clerk  
tbc

#### 11. Members Allowances.

Members noted there had been no new recommendations from the Independent Parish Remuneration Panel and **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that that there should be no change to the allowance provision set in 2009 of £103 for members and £1250 for the Chairman, which was lower than the recommended level.

#### 12. Solihull MBC – Community Infrastructure Levy CIL – Statement of Representations Procedure/ Draft Charging Schedule and Draft Regulations 123 list – Consultation document.

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Knibb, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hayes, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that that consultation be noted with interest.

Asst  
Clerk  
2/12

#### 13. Solihull MBC - Consultation: Solihull Housing Allocation Scheme.

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Knibb, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that that Scheme be noted with interest.

Asst  
Clerk  
2/12

#### 14. Birmingham Development Plan 2031 – Pre Submission Plan.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Bor Cllr Richards explained that Solihull MBC had a duty to co-operate with neighbouring authorities. Members were invited by the Chairman

Members  
18/12

to read the Plan (on-line) and bring their views to the December Council meeting.

#### **15. Finance and Payments.**

Members asked several questions on invoices in the payment schedule, which the Clerk was able to clarify. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Knibb, **SECONDED** by Cllr Terry, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as listed be approved.

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

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

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

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hicks, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesdays, 30<sup>th</sup> October and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013, having been circulated, be received and noted.

#### **18. Representatives to Outside Bodies.**

Cllr Knibb reported that on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November he had attended the WALC 65th AGM in Warwick, which was opened by Cllr D Shilton, the Chair of the County Council before handing over to Mr. I Prosser, President of WALC. The planned guest speaker was unfortunately unable to attend but had arranged for Cllr Josie Compton (Warwickshire County Council Cabinet Member for Adult Services) and Dan Green (Group Manager for Localities & Partnership) to attend in her place. The County Council were required to make 92 million pounds cost savings over the next 4 years which would be achieved by turning street lighting off (also saving on CO2 emissions) and reducing grass cutting in the hope that it will be done by local councils. The subsidies applied to public transport would also be targeted but the major savings would come from the 627 projected job losses, which equated to 11% of their entire workforce. A document named "Let's Talk" had been produced in the hope that decisions could be agreed before the County Budget was set in February 2014. No indication was given as to the security of the current annual Grant funding to WALC. There were 548,000 residents in Warwickshire, of which 15,820 were currently classified as living in poverty and Cllr Knibb thought it would be interesting to see how the effects from the new Welfare Reforms would impact on these statistics. Another topic that caused considerable debate from the floor was the current negotiations between WALC and the County Council over the acceptance and adoption of a Charter for joint collaboration and respect between our two tiers of government. AGM business was then addressed with the adoption of the Annual Report for 2012/2013, the election of Officers followed by the appointment of a new Honorary Treasurer, the re-appointment of Auditors and appointments to the County Committee. Members then unanimously voted on the resolution to adopt the 2% increase in membership subscription levels for 2014/2015 as recommended by the County Committee.

Cllr Knibb also reported that on 19<sup>th</sup> November he had attended a meeting of the St Thomas Dole Charity when 19 applications were considered, requesting grants of between £300 to £1700. From those, 16 were successful and were granted the full amount they had requested, 2 were rejected as they failed to demonstrate how the grant would benefit the needy within their community and 1 refused for not showing how they would demonstrate that the recipients of the provision to be delivered would actually go to the qualifying needy in our area of provision. The 2012/13 accounts were then presented, followed by a presentation by the charities appointed investment advisors. Mr. Thursfield reported that

the past year had seen excellent growth in both capital and dividend return results. M&G had once again outperformed all other indices and investment funds within their sector. Cllr Knibb was pleased to report that the investment assets were in excess of £1 million and the charity had sufficient reserves to carry on the good work in the manner they were trusted to do. He would encourage local organisations to take advantage of this fund in meeting its charitable aims for the Ancient Parishes of Aston, which included Castle Bromwich and Water Orton.

Cllr Mrs. Haywood reported that on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, she and Cllr Mrs. Allen had attended the second meeting of the Dame Mary Bridgeman Charity in the Community Hall at St Mary & St Margaret's Church. Apologies for absence were recorded for the Earl and the minutes of the last meeting held in May 2013, together with a list of the grants awarded, were agreed and signed. Jerry Dutton confirmed that the closure of the Butler and Sadler Account had been completed and that letters of thanks had been received from all of the successful applicants who had been awarded grants in May. The financial statement was presented with letter confirming the value of the portfolio as at 30 September 2013 showing a half yearly increase by approximately 3.8% since April 2013. The Jupiter Strategic Holdings to which our Treasury Stock was transferred earlier, was performing well. Grant applications had been received from all local schools and various other local organisations within the Castle Bromwich area, with grants being awarded to all. It was noted that the Castle Bromwich Bell Restoration Project to restore the Peal of Bells in St Mary and St Margaret's Church (they would be 300 years old in 2017) had achieved Charitable Trust Status with the Earl of Bradford as their Patron. They were last renovated in the 1950's and the project had a total of £80,000 to raise before then. A further grant of £300 was approved towards their goal. Item 1 on the Agenda had been to find a suitable replacement for Jerry Dutton and the Rev Gavin Douglas would investigate the possibility of finding a replacement to take on the Secretary/Treasurer position. The next meeting would be on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in Community Hall at St Mary & St Margaret's Church.

The Chairman reported that on 13<sup>th</sup> November, along with Cllr Knibb, he had attended the Hurst Lane Place Meeting, which was a follow up meeting to the previous session on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. At that earlier meeting, Solihull MBC had presented a scheme to improve traffic flow and safety through the junction of Chester Road and Hurst Lane. The scheme was based on a project in Poynton where traffic flow was regulated through equal priority junctions without the use of traffic lights. Implicit in both schemes was an attempt to create a "sense of place" through the use of attractive materials, street furniture and trees. After a safety audit, Solihull MBC had been advised that vehicle speeds could not be reduced sufficiently to enable an equal priority junction and as a consequence the traffic signals would be retained. It was still intended to introduce mini roundabouts at the Morrisons entrance and at Hazelhurst Road. The Morrisons roundabout would also give access to the service road opposite. There would be additional parking on the service road which would be widened to allow safe two way traffic flow. It was still intended to use good quality materials and introduce street furniture and more trees. There was some discussion on the subject of the appearance of the area and Solihull MBC had agreed to produce some computer generated images for the next meeting which would probably be in January. A representative from Morrisons was present at the meeting and he was left in no doubt that the Parish Council was disappointed at the absence of a reply/action to our representations about the disruption to traffic and the danger caused by vehicles queuing on the carriageway to enter their petrol station. Solihull MBC agreed to deal with this matter which would be a serious impediment to the proposed scheme which sees Chester Road narrowed to allow a central median for safer crossing by pedestrians. At the close of

the meeting there was some surprise that some of the work completed on the cycle path would need to be replaced as the scheme proceeded. It was still anticipated that Hurst Lane Place work would commence next June.

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

The Clerk reported that documents relating to HS2 proposals were now available for public scrutiny at the Council Office between 9 am and 1 pm, Mondays to Fridays, on a dedicated computer provided by HS2.

#### **20. Report of the Chairman.**

The Chairman reported that a charity quiz had been held on October 4th with all money raised going to the Chairman's Charity Fund. There were 23 teams and an excellent night was had by all. Special thanks were due to Cllr Mrs. Allen for her hard work in organising the evening, which raised the amount of £536. The Remembrance Service had been held on 10th November in fine weather and with an estimated 1200 people in attendance. Thanks were due to all those who participated on the day and special thanks were given to our Clerk for all the hard work she put into this event and the Arden Hall staff for coping with the catering demands. On 13th November the Chairman had attended a meeting on the Hurst Lane project which was the subject of a separate report given earlier. On 23rd November he had been pleased to attend along with colleagues a full day's Financial Training and Budget Planning event which was a very useful session. On 26th November he had been most pleased to act as compere for the Carol Concert which saw the Christmas tree lights switched on and featured a special appearance of Father Christmas. The children from St Mary and Margaret's and Castle Bromwich Junior Schools sang very well and it was a very enjoyable evening. He expressed his thanks to Cllr Mrs. Haywood, Mrs. Haycock, Castle Bromwich Lions and everyone else who made the evening a success.

#### **21. Licence – Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club.**

The Chairman reported to members the outcome of the meeting with the council's solicitors and the revisions to the draft licence were noted. The Clerk had requested the Club to supply the information needed by the solicitor but was awaiting a response. Following discussion, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that a voluntary working group should meet quickly to review in detail the amendments made by the solicitor and summarise any clarification to recommend to the next meeting of the Leisure Services Committee to consider. All members were invited to contribute.

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