

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLE
BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 28TH MARCH 2012
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr M Hayes

Councillors: Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr J Horne-MacDonald Cllr Mrs. L Smith
 Cllr R Amos Cllr E Knibb Cllr A Terry
 Cllr Mrs. A Haywood [Items 8 – end] Cllr J Whelan
 Cllr I Hiley Cllr J Riordan Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins

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

Public: 4 members of the public

1. Apologies.

ACTION

The apologies from Cllr E Hicks, Cllr M Rashid and Cllr Miss J Ward 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 Mrs. Smith, **SECONDED** by Cllr Horne-MacDonald, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 29th February, 2012 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Questions from Councillors.

None.

5. Questions from the Public.

In accordance with Standing Orders, the meeting was temporarily adjourned so that members of the public could ask questions. A parishioner from the Park Hall ward said he had been pleased to hear about the Dog Fouling Campaign and suggested the initiative should be publicised in the Solihull News. He also passed on information about recent vehicle crime in his ward. He expressed his support for Cllr Mrs. Haywood’s request for 20 mph in residential estates, highlighting Blandford Avenue as a particular problem area. The Chairman thanked him for the suggestion and the information. A resident from the Bradford ward referred to his previous request for a parish council noticeboard, the improved advertising for the forthcoming police meeting and wondered if fines for dog fouling would be retained by the parish council. The Chairman thanked the resident for his comments. A resident from the Beechcroft ward expressed his grave concerns about the problems at this time of year when young adults and children were outdoors drinking and felt the authorities were not combating it. Action should be taken to stop litter, foul language and drug taking. Several parish councillors and the Clerk endorsed these concerns and highlighted specific incidents they had witnessed in the past week, including groups deliberately standing in the road, abuse of the bus shelter outside Arden Hall, throwing at cars, attacking pedestrians and their dogs who were trying to walk past, throwing eggs, urinating in public places, trespassing on roofs of buildings, disrespect to Park Wardens and leaving mess at the Village Green. This behaviour was not appropriate or acceptable in Castle Bromwich and the Chairman reminded everyone that incidents should be highlighted to the police

so that they were aware. The resident acknowledged there were times when large groups did gather without excessive noise or nuisance and Cllr Mrs. Allen commended the local schoolchildren and volunteers who had recently undertaken litter picks in the Spinney to improve the environment. Cllr Terry undertook to raise these issues with the police at the forthcoming meeting at Arden Hall on 18th April. Members suggested the alcohol restriction zone be extended and the dispersal zone be reinstated for the Village Green area. Cllr Whelan said the parish plan steering group had received similar concerns and suggestions. The resident, supported by fellow members of the public in attendance, asked for prompt action to prevent the problems from becoming more serious. A resident from the Park Hall ward acknowledged the positive action of the police who had made arrests as a result of having detailed information.

AT
18/4Police &
community

Feedback was given on a question from the last meeting and members of the public were invited to take the tabled information explaining the process of setting the precept. In reply to the question from Bor Cllr Richards, the parish council would be sending a written response to clarify that the Parish Council's Financial Year runs from 1st April – 31st March each year, that budgets are planned for the different powers and duties that the Parish Council undertakes and is in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972. Councillors receive financial information regularly and comparisons are made between forecast budgets and actual income and expenditure. In the autumn preparations are made to assess provisions needed for the following financial year. After calculating the possible year end position and the use of any reserves, the budget is agreed by the council. It needs to combine cautious forecasts for any income and allowances for expenditure that could occur or need to be accommodated. The precept is then set based on these figures and has to be agreed no later than the January council meeting to comply with the notification deadline set by Solihull MBC. For 2012/13 the precept at Castle Bromwich was set at £225,867 which was an increase of 3% from £219,288 set in 2011/12. Due to changes in the number of Band D properties in the Parish (as calculated by Solihull MBC) the increase was 2.98% per household to £54.65 per year, from £53.07 in 2011/12. Band D parishioners will pay £1.051 per week, which is an increase of 3.04p per week, from £1.0206 in 2011/12. The Parish Council does not receive any funding or grants from central government to offset rising costs. From the Solihull MBC information on the 15 parish and town council precepts for 2012/13, there were 8 increases in precept (ranging from 1.05% to 39.78%), 4 remained the same and 3 were reduced. The average increase was 10.90%. The Parish Council will be required to pay £10,763 business rates in 2012/2013 for Arden Hall (and associated buildings), an increase of 3.09% from £10,440.44 in 2011/12. The Parish Council receives income for services (e.g. hire of function rooms, bar sales, sports facilities and photocopying) and, when successful, receives grants for special projects (e.g. Youth Council ideas). In 2012/2013 the Parish Council has forecast receiving £118,284. Figures giving a breakdown of net revenue expenditure, with capital expenditure shown separately were also available. It was also clarified that 54% of the budget was not spent on democratic services. Of £413,995 planned expenditure, there was £122,881 expenditure allowed for democratic services (29.68%), although if the contingency of £25,000 was unspent this reduced to £97,881 which was 23.64%. The Clerk reported that following last month's discussion on the lack of Chester Road safety improvements, she and Cllr Whelan had met with the Store Manager at Morrison's supermarket to discuss concerns and suggest practical improvements that may help prevent a fatal accident. A copy of the suggestions was tabled and endorsed by members.

Clerk
30/3

6. Communications.

Members noted the information listed. In response to a question at the previous meeting, the Clerk clarified that the Information Commission Officers guidance

N.B. All Minutes are deemed as draft until formally approved and signed.

document confirmed that councillor's personal email accounts could be subject to a search under the Freedom of Information Act if it held information on council business. The Chairman thought this would apply if the information was not held elsewhere. It was suggested members could either set up a separate email address for council information or the council consider establishing an extranet system for secure access by members when information needed to be read. Cllr Riordan suggested the Finance and General Purposes Committee research an email policy and in the meantime members could send a copy to the Clerk of all emails they initiated or replied to from personal accounts.

FGP
11/4

In response to a question from a resident asking what the 3% increase in precept would be spent on (£6,579), the Clerk would write to explain that the parish council had to pay an increase of 3.09% in business rates for Arden Hall and had set an additional £9,000 allowance for replacing part of the safety surface in the playground. The Chairman reminded everyone that the increase amounted to just 3p per week for a Band D householder and that savings had been made in the previous year and the Council had no more ability to do that this year, unlike Solihull MBC.

Clerk
30/4

7. Boundary Commission.

The Boundary Commission website reports had been scrutinized by Cllr Whelan and he expressed his disappointment that there had been no personal representation by any of the Borough Councillors at the Birmingham hearing. Following consideration **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Parish Council re-state its objections to the proposed change in constituency boundary, pointing out that this was a community response and that the political responses should be discounted.

Clerk
3/4

8. Campaign for Mitigation – HS2.

Following discussion of the letter from Caroline Spelman MP inviting views and requests for mitigation, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk arrange a possible date to take Cllr Mrs. Allen, Cllr Mrs. Haywood and the Chairman to view the maps before the council agreed a response.

Clerk
4/4

Council
25/4

9. Diamond Jubilee.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Council Chairman and Youth Council Chairman write a letter of congratulation to HM Queen Elizabeth II on her Diamond Jubilee and send details of the Picnic In the Park event being organised by the Youth Council to celebrate the occasion.

Asst
Clerk
30/3

10. 20 mph Traffic Regulation Orders.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the parish council request the Borough Council introduce 20mph speed limits within residential estates in Castle Bromwich, as recently proposed for other parts of the Borough.

Asst
Clerk
6/4

11. WALC – Up2Date Bulletins from Local Associations Information Service.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Knibb, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the bulletins being received in the past six months had been most helpful in highlighting useful and pertinent information in an excellent format. The service was also commended by the Clerk.

Clerk
4/4

12. Finance and Payments.

a) **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Amos, **IT**

N.B. All Minutes are deemed as draft until formally approved and signed.

WAS RESOLVED to accept the earlier recommendation of the Clerk to proceed with a deposit of £50,000 in an Investment Account with Co-operative Bank for a fixed term (non-negotiable) of 12 months.

Clerk
17/4

b) In accordance with normal procedures, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the remaining balances for all repairs and maintenance, capital projects, tree planting, Arden Hall furniture and tennis court maintenance be combined with the existing earmarked reserves.

Clerk
4/4

c) Following resolution of a query regarding the quantity of anti-climb paint purchased, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Amos, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments and retrospective salary costs as circulated and tabled, be approved. Members noted the latest budget printouts.

Admin Asst
29/3

13. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 7th March 2012, having been circulated, be duly received and noted.

14. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Smith, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 29th February and 14th March 2012, having been circulated, be duly received and noted.

15. Report of the Staff Panel.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Smith, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Staff Panel held on Thursday 1st March 2012, having been circulated, be duly received and noted.

16. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that she had been occupied extensively with painting at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Trust since the last meeting.

17. Report of the Officer of the Council.

The Clerk reported that the views of the council had been submitted to Solihull MBC on the Local Development Framework; on behalf of nominated representatives she had declined the request received for the parish council to chair the initial HS2 Forum meeting; she had tabled a summary of residents' concerns for members; information had been received on forthcoming planned changes to traffic regulations in and near the parish; a report had been received on tennis court repairs that would be referred to the Leisure Services Committee and exceeded budget provision. Invitations had been sent to Arden Hall hire groups to the open evening on Friday, 20th April.

LSC
4/4

Council
20/4

18. Report of the Chairman.

The Chairman reported that he had not attended any official functions since the last meeting.