

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLE
BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 28TH JULY 2010
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr Mrs. P Allen

Councillors:

Cllr R Amos	Cllr E Knibb	Cllr Miss J Ward
Cllr M Hayes	Cllr M Rashid	Cllr J Whelan
Cllr Mrs. A Haywood	Cllr J Riordan	Cllr Mrs. B. Wilkins
Cllr I Hiley	Cllr A Terry	

Officer: Mrs C Tibbles

Guests: Sgt D. Hewitt, West Midlands Police [Items 1-6 only]
Alison Lush, Solihull MBC [Items 1-8 only]

Public: 6 members of the public [3 for Items 1-6, 1 for Items 1-10 and 2 for Items 1-21 only]

The Chairman welcomed guests and public to the meeting.

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr J Horne-MacDonald and Cllr Mrs. J 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 Whelan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 30th June, 2010 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Guest Speakers: Sgt Hewitt, Neighbourhood Team, and Alison Lush, Solihull MBC.

At the invitation of the Chairman, members listened with interest to the issues being addressed in Castle Bromwich by Sgt. Hewitt, Ms. Lush and their teams. This included reporting of crime figures; new system of logging antisocial behaviour; potential initiatives announced by the Home Secretary; dog fouling; arson; existing police powers; alcohol restricted zones and dispersal areas; noise nuisance of scrap metal merchants; rat problems. Problem areas had been identified, mostly recreational spaces with historical aspects being discussed and views of members and public were keenly invited by Sgt. Hewitt. Ms. Lush appealed for specific information to identify unlicensed/problem scrap metal merchants (date, time, place, registration number, type of horn used etc). Ms. Lush undertook to forward the results of the Safer Road Smart Study for Chester Road to the Clerk as members requested feedback on this.

5. Questions from Councillors.

Members asked several questions on the above topics to both guest speakers, including level of police staffing under the Paragon initiative; deterrents and strategies for ASB and alcohol abuse; parental response; communal gardens; signage; restricted timescale for deterrents; youth service strategies; pub customer nuisance; litter. The Chairman summarized that the view of the Parish Council was still to fully support the creation of Alcohol Restriction Zones on all recreation areas in Castle Bromwich, preferably with all areas of the Parish included (as originally requested in 2003 and 2008).

ACTION

6. Questions from the Public.

In accordance with Standing Orders, the meeting was temporarily suspended so that members of the public could ask questions. Questions to guests were raised on cannabis (information required by Sgt. Hewitt to detect illegal growing in properties); other drug abuse; speeding traffic in Old Croft Lane; parking enforcement; false reports on youth activities; public failure to report incidents at the time of occurrence; support for alcohol restricted zones; parking damage to verges by parents at Park Hall Academy; thank you to the Parish Council for doubling the litter collections at the Village Green which residents had already noticed; need to enforce alcohol restrictions if they were brought in; request for off-licences within the Borough to consistently close at the same time (e.g. 10 pm); clarification that Arden Hall would be refurbished (confirmed by Cllr Hayes, although would take a few years to provide what was wanted); request to improve communication with residents about Arden Hall, with an offer to deliver a quarterly newsletter at no charge to the Council by a political party. Feedback was given on previous issues considered by the Staff Panel and Finance & General Purposes Committee but in the absence of Mr. Gibbins, this would be posted. Information from Cllr Hayes on Arden Hall finances was tabled and reported.

7. Communications.

Members noted the information listed. The Clerk clarified briefly the Standards for England Compact agreement, which had been the result of a national pilot project. Ms. Lush hoped members found the Streetcare information useful.

8. Chairman’s Chain of Office – Refurbishment.

Members considered the possibilities and following objections to the £876 quotation, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hayes, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that only engraving should be undertaken at this stage, with the other costs being budgeted for next year.

Clerk
Aug.10
FGP
Nov.10

9. York Toilets - Refurbishment.

Members considered the information previously circulated and the tabled information from the Hall Manager. The matter was deferred to allow the missing quotations to arrive, hopefully for lower costs.

T. Kite
Sept. 10

10. Solihull MBC – Emerging Core Strategy.

Members referred to the website document and concluded it was a lengthy and complex document, sadly not containing much relevance for Castle Bromwich as this area was excluded from the regeneration programme. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the document be noted with interest.

11. Casual Vacancy Procedures.

Following careful consideration, Cllr Hayes volunteered to prepare some information for council to consider using prior to the elections in May 2011. He felt potential candidates may welcome having more information on what skills they may need and what the expectations of the Council would be.

MH
Feb. 11

12. Working Parties.

Members noted the reports/information and **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the reports be accepted.

Persons
responsible
to be
confirmed

13. Payments.

Following consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as circulated/tabled be approved. Members noted the latest income and expenditure report

as tabled, and the Clerk and Cllr Hayes clarified that the budget would vary this year due to the splitting of some costs.

ACTION

14. Future Meeting Dates.

Following consideration by members, and **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **SECONDED** by Cllr Whelan, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the meeting dates in question be delegated to the Clerk for rearranging, subject to availability of Arden Hall up to 2012.

Clerk
asap

15. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 7th July 2010, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

16. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Whelan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesdays, 30th June and 14th July 2010, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

17. Report of the Staff Panel.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Staff Panel held on Tuesday, 13th July 2010, having been circulated, be noted.

18. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Riordan reported that on 8th July he had attended the WALC Solihull Area Committee AGM at Cheswick Green. The annual report was given and officers and representatives elected. Two guest speakers addressed the meeting – Sarah Barnes talked on the Solihull Partnership, its structure and purpose, currently reviewing the Sustainable Community Strategy. She also talked about the purpose of the four local Solihull Partnership Forums. Chris Barr then spoke about his role at Solihull MBC and responsibilities for street cleaning, litter picking, parks, open spaces and forestry, highlighting the current campaign organized to combat dog fouling.

On 15th July Cllr Riordan attended the WALC County Committee meeting in Warwick. Accounts and reports were presented and he highlighted two documents – the service and support of WALC to the parish council for its subscription and the report on Localism in Action NALC Conference when it was reported that “ it was not clear whether capping of local councils’ precepts was included in the drive to cap principal authority expenditure”. The view was that it would require new legislation and to date there was no indication that this legislation would be forthcoming.

On 21st July Cllr Riordan attended the Solihull Partnership Local Forum meeting in Chelmsley Wood. A DVD showed the work of the Partnership and the purpose of the Forum, followed by slides which profiled the area. In comparison with other areas, Castle Bromwich had the highest percentage of elderly people and the lowest percentage of 0-15 year olds. Key issues affecting the area were then discussed, with the issue of unemployment and public transport difficulties receiving the most response. Papers were available from the Clerk if required.

19. Report of the Officer of the Council.

The Clerk reported the Cricket and Sports Club wished to invite members to preliminary meetings being held on 18th August and 6th September to discuss potential developments

Clerk:
Book room

plans to improve the council's Sports Pavilion, with final proposals being put to full Council on 29th September. It was hoped all members would attend one or both of the first two meetings to explore ideas together. Members noted the following documents had been tabled for information: the Hall Manager's July report, the draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, summary of recent residents' concerns, progress on removing outdated legislative restrictions to allow councils to operate more efficiently, the review meeting set for 28th September by Solihull MBC for the Local Assessment of Complaints since 2008 changes, updated procedural advice on trespass breach of byelaws. Under confidential terms, a land matter and a security matter were reported.

20. Terms of Reference.

Following consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the documents circulated for FGP and Staff Panel be adopted and signed to take immediate effect. The LSC Terms of Reference was deferred to September to return to the previous year's wording. Increased delegated powers would be approved in May 2011 when the cost centre allocations could be more accurately forecast.

21. Report of the Chairman.

The Chairman reported that on Saturday, 10th July the official opening had taken place of the Playbuilder equipment in the park. She thanked Cllr Riordan, Vice-Chairman and Cllr Jim Hope from Balsall Parish Council for their help and information which enabled the wonderful new equipment to be installed. This was a marvelous occasion and she confirmed that she had (gently) tested the trampoline. She thanked Bor. Cllr Richards for attending, together with numerous Youth Councillors. She also thanked Dr Browne and the trampoline team from Park Hall Academy and invited everyone to view the photographs. Refreshments were then enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

The Chairman appealed for any donations for raffle prizes or items for the Macmillan Coffee morning on 25th September and hoped that helpers from the council would be forthcoming both on the day between 10 am and 1 pm and with the preparations beforehand. The Chairman's Charity Quiz was booked for Friday 8th October – more details later.

22. Annual Incremental Awards.

As the correspondence referred to personal circumstances of individuals, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that for this meeting, under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest, as if members of the public were present during the consideration of such business, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under paras 1 and 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act, that the public be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw. Members of the public withdrew. Following consideration of the tabled information, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hayes, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the recommendations be adopted and increments be awarded to qualifying staff at anticipated cost of £1120.39. Additional salary information was noted and clarification still awaited from central government on salary scales.

Clerk
27 Aug