

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

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr M Hayes

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

[except Item 15]

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

Public: 19 members of the public, [majority attending Items 1-8, some remaining until Item 21].

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr R Amos and Cllr Mrs. L Smith were noted for the reasons given.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or conflict of interests.

Cllr Hiley declared a pecuniary interest in Item 15 as a payment to his company was being considered so he would withdraw from the meeting at that point.

3. Dispensations.

None received.

4. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 31st October, 2012 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

5. Parish Council Footloose Project.

The Chairman was sorry that Cllr Amos was not present at the meeting and announced that the Parish Council had been awarded over £9000 of Big Lottery money to put adult fitness equipment in Arden Park. Members agreed with the Chairman that Cllr Amos be congratulated and recognized for his work towards obtaining this grant.

6. Questions from Councillors.

None.

7. Questions from the Public.

In accordance with Standing Orders, the meeting was temporarily suspended so that members of the public could ask questions. [N.B. This was for a longer period due to the number of public attending.] Many parishioners expressed objections to or asked questions for clarification about the proposals of the Boundary Commission to take Castle Bromwich out of the Meriden constituency and form a new constituency called Birmingham Erdington and Castle Bromwich. Concerns were expressed about what it would mean for the people of Castle Bromwich; whether the views of the MP of the new constituency on major topics like the airport, housing development and roads would fairly represent those living in Castle Bromwich; why flyers had not been delivered in Green Lane as residents were not aware of this important issue; that being included with Erdington could be the start of a slippery slope; that Castle Bromwich had never been part of Birmingham and that this was clearly not wanted by people in Castle Bromwich; whether Shard End should be put with Erdington instead; that this was purely a mathematical exercise; that the cost of this review was contrary to the government view

ACTION

on saving unnecessary expenditure; whether the Boundary Commission had a history of ever changing their mind; the proposed new constituency was divorced from the Castle Bromwich ward by the railway, canal, river, spine road, motorway and the proposed High Speed 2 train line; that serving MPs did not support the reshuffle; that one letter from the council to the Boundary Commission would not carry enough weight and that everyone should be told to write and complain; whether the views were known of residents in Knowle and Dorridge; whether more changes would quickly follow if the new constituency with Erdington was approved; to simply publicise the implications of one MP democratically representing 9,000 Castle Bromwich voices against 64,000 from Erdington residents.

The Chairman stated that the Boundary Commission deadline was short and that flyers were still being delivered to some homes by parish councillors. He also confirmed that council tax would still be paid to Solihull MBC; the number of Castle Bromwich residents in comparison to Erdington would be 9,000 and 64,000 respectively; that the Boundary Commission had no responsibility to notify affected people individually; that the constituencies had to be physically joined, that the Parish Council did campaign on this topic 12 months ago and was represented by Cllr Whelan at the Hearings; that the parish council hoped to have publicity via the Gazette and other media; had used its own website but urged everyone to make individual replies as they were extremely important; and finally that schools and doctors' surgeries had been asked to raise awareness.

Bor. Cllr Richards said that the Parish Council and the Borough Councillors did conduct a campaign to raise awareness. 5,000 leaflets were distributed in November 2011 and the key point now was for the Parish Council and residents to respond by 10th December stating that the four criteria laid down by the Boundary Commission themselves had not been followed. The geography had been completely ignored, the local government boundaries not observed, the constituency boundaries as they stood had been ignored and the local ties had been disregarded. The Boundary Commission were recommending that Water Orton and Coleshill be returned to the North Warwickshire constituency and that was welcomed. However Bor. Cllr Richards said that it was not possible to swap Shard End with Castle Bromwich as the population was twice the size and felt it was good to be linked with Shard End as there were historical ties. The A452 and the M6 blocked realistic links with Erdington and if Castle Bromwich was in a new constituency with Erdington it would get a lesser service as any MP would be less interested in one ward attached at the bottom as shown in the maps. He felt that Knowle and Dorridge were very much a community that should remain linked and therefore could be placed with the Kenilworth constituency. He strongly felt that the solution was to retain Castle Bromwich in the Meriden constituency at the expense of Knowle. Referring to the recommendations made in the Boundary Commission report, Bor. Cllr Richards disagreements were with paraAC211 which should retain Castle Bromwich with Meriden as it better reflected the current local ties with other parts of north Solihull and Shard End; paraAC213 which should keep Knowle and Dorridge together and should recognise there were clear links with Meriden and Bickenhill; paraAC218 as alternative recommendations were put forward by residents for the Birmingham ward of Shard End to be placed in the Meriden constituency provided Coleshill was returned to Warwickshire to make space; paraAC228 as it was completely wrong to say that residents wanted to swap the Castle Bromwich ward for the Shard End ward. The report did not refer to the submissions made by Borough Councillors and the Conservative Association. He recalled the fight in 1981 against changes to local government boundary review with Birmingham Council and their long held aim to have the NEC and the airport within the

city boundary. He confirmed that the Boundary Commission would they make recommendations to parliament and they would decide whether to reduce 50 MP constituencies, although if a decision was not reached the report could be set aside for consideration by a future parliament. Bor. Cllr Richards asked that all objections be copied to Caroline Spelman, MP, who should represent the views of the Castle Bromwich constituents.

Members noted that a resident had that day started a petition at the Age UK shop which had received immense support and a website set up too. Also that Bor. Cllr Richards had a letter published by the Solihull News to ask for publicity to the recommendations and the deadline of 10th December for responses. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council and the Solihull Borough Councillors would respond officially to the Boundary Commission and urged everyone else to do so individually too.

A resident from the Bradford ward gave thanks to the Parish Council and its Officer for the tremendous organisation of the Remembrance Parade and Service. Due to time restrictions, there was no feedback given on recent questions.

8. Boundary Commission – Consultation on revised proposals for Castle Bromwich.

The Chairman read the draft letter that he had prepared. Cllr Whelan said that the Boundary Commission report did not recognise what he and others had said at the Hearing and their recommendations defied logic, with the changes now recommended for Knowle and Dorridge being a different matter. He suggested objections made now should ask the Commission to go back to the transcript of the Hearing. After consideration of all public questions and concerns, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the submission to the Hearing by Cllr Whelan be added to the draft letter and that Cllr Whelan and the Chairman be delegated authority to produce a final letter that would strive for Castle Bromwich parishioners to have their rights under the Representation of the People Act. Cllr Mrs Haywood urged all fellow members to individually make their views known via the Boundary Commission website or letter and repeat what had been said before.

9. Communications.

Members noted the information listed and Cllr Knibb highlighted the HS2 consultation opportunity the following day at the Bluebell Centre.

10. Technical Reforms of Planning Appeals.

Following discussion, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that Cllr Knibb prepare a draft response for the Clerk to submit to NALC on the removal of the right of parish and town councils to contest any planning decision, which appeared to be contrary to the ideals of localism as a democratically elected body that existed to represent local people. Members felt that checks and balances were needed.

11. School Crossing Patrol sites on Water Orton Road.

Following consideration by members, the end of these positions was noted with interest.

12. Members Allowances 2013/2014.

The Clerk confirmed that she was not aware of any new recommendations from the independent Parish Remuneration Panel, and reminded members that the annual allowance for members currently was set at £103 (maximum Panel recommendation was £780) and the allowance for the Chairman was set at £1288 (maximum Panel recommendation was £1560). Members noted the importance of ensuring there were no

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MH/JTW
& Clerk
10/12

EK/Clerk
6/12

financial barriers to prohibit future individuals who may wish to become parish councillors. Cllr Knibb asked if the budget allocations were ring-fenced and the Clerk confirmed they were not, with any unspent balance would return to general reserves. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **SECONDED** by Cllr Terry, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that there be no change to the current allowances. The Chairman reminded members that these allowances were not normally claimed and the Clerk asked members to complete their forms for this year to state if they wished to renounce their right to claim. If this was also done in advance for 2013/14, it would assist the Clerk in preparing the year end forecasts and indicate the required allocation for the following year.

ACTION

Members
5/12

13. Budget Planning 2013/2014.

Members noted that the Borough Council had reported an unexpected government announcement the previous day which would require recalculation of the local tax base. Therefore the preliminary work done by the Clerk for this meeting was no longer valid and would have to be redone when information was received from the Solihull MBC. At the invitation of the Chairman, Bor. Cllr Richards confirmed that Solihull MBC would have to reconsider their original proposals in the light of the government announcement and this would take place on Tuesday 4th December.

14. Revision of Standing Orders.

The Chairman announced that the recommendations of the Working Party for revision of Standing Orders had been circulated and, in accordance with Standing Order 80, would stand adjourned without discussion to the following meeting. The Clerk informed members there would then need to be an assimilation to the new NALC electronic model. The Chairman asked the Clerk about procedures if this consideration was deferred at the next meeting and she undertook to seek advice.

Council
19/12

Asst.Clerk
12/12

15. Finance and Payments.

The Chairman was asked to note that Cllr Hiley left the room before this item was considered. After satisfactory resolution of two queries to the Clerk and confirmation of the credit note received, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as listed and discussed be approved. Cllr Hiley was invited to rejoin the meeting.

Admin
Asst
29/11

16. Report of the Staff Panel.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Staff Panel held on Tuesday, 6th November 2012, having been circulated, be received and noted.

17. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

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

18. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Terry, **SECONDED** by Cllr Whelan, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesdays, 31st October and 14th November 2012, having been circulated, be received and noted.

19. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Whelan reported that on 31st October, 2012 he had attended a meeting of the

Birmingham Airport Environment Monitoring Working Group and the main points arising were as follows:

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1. Noise control statistics for the 3rd quarter were the best recorded for 5 years with almost 100% of aircraft below the 87db limit.
2. There had been only one night time noise violation by a privately operated Gulfstream G3 aircraft.
3. There had been a switch of some night flights into Coventry airport.
4. There had been 152 noise complaints in the quarter. Most (60) were from Balsall Common who now appeared to be in a direct flight path and the second highest number of complaints (20) came from Tamworth and were all from the same person.
5. The Airport currently replied to all complaints within 7 days but were striving to reduce that to 5 days.
6. The Airport had a major initiative to reduce and recycle waste. Of particular interest were the aerosols and sun creams confiscated at Security, which were recycled to produce commercial gas. In the year to date they had recycled 7 tons of aerosols and 2.5 tons of sun cream.
7. A project was currently under consideration by Monarch to build a major aircraft maintenance facility on the Elmdon site. This hangar would maintain a wide range of aircraft types and provide employment for skilled personnel starting with 130 jobs in 2013 rising to 440 in 2017.
8. The new Radar replacement had now been installed and would be fully operational in February 2013. It had been sited to provide minimal impact on the local community as well as for operational reasons.
9. The Airport Company confirmed its strong support for the HS2 project which it believed would support the sustainable growth of Birmingham Airport.
10. The Runway extension project was now well under way with the commencement of the A45 realignment. Disturbance of the natural habitat had resulted in the rescue and transfer to temporary ponds of protected crayfish and the erection of bat boxes. Construction of the Runway Extension itself would commence in 2013 and it would be fully operational in 2014.

Cllr Riordan reported that in his role as Vice Chairman, he had attended the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial, Solihull on Sunday 11th November where he had laid a wreath on behalf of the Chairman, Councillors & Officers of this Council.

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that on Thursday 15th November, she had attended a lunch for volunteers and Trustees of Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Trust and she thanked them for their kind invitation.

Cllr Mrs. Haywood reported that on Saturday 17th November, along with Cllr Mrs. Allen, they had attended a meeting of the Dame Mary Bridgeman Charity Trust, which in the absence of the Earl of Bradford was chaired by the Revd. Gavin Douglas. The minutes of the previous meeting held in May 2012 were agreed and signed. It was noted that any future grants made to the Girls and Boys Brigade at St Clements should be paid via their PCC who were to administer the Brigades funding in future. Letters of thanks from the various recipients who had received grants in May had been received and were duly noted by the committee. The financial statement – Allocation to Funds as at 17/11/2012 - was presented by the Secretary and various grants were agreed. A letter from the Theatre Group had been received after the deadline but it was felt that support for their forthcoming pantomime in January should be given. Cllr Haywood reminded the committee that serious thought needed to be given for someone to shadow Jerry Dutton

as per his request at the May meeting. Revd. Douglas had a couple of people in mind that might be willing to undertake this position and he would report back to the committee at the next meeting, planned for Saturday 11th May 2013 in the Committee Room at Arden Hall (to be confirmed).

Cllr Knibb reported that on Wednesday, 7th November he had attended the AGM of the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils held in Warwick. The opening address was given by Cllr M Doody, the current Chairman of Warwickshire County Council and was well received by all present. This had been followed by the usual formalities before the guest speaker, Cllr Ken Browse, Vice-Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils and current Chair of the Devon County Association, who gave an inspirational talk about seizing the moment and it being the time for all local councils to engage with each other and co-operate wholeheartedly with our Borough and District Councils and local voluntary organisations. Localism was becoming a reality and would become a very harsh reality if councils did not work together to protect the services and lifestyles of our communities. There were severe budget cuts and withdrawal of grant aid being imposed both nationally and locally and where communities did not work together, they would endure the greater hardships. Election of officers and auditors then took place and a unanimous resolution passed to formally accept the new subscription rates for member councils for 2013/14, which would ensure that WALC would remain sustainable for at least another year, even if grants were withdrawn. The President then thanked all attendees and speakers before formally closing the meeting.

Cllr Knibb also reported that on 21st November he attended a meeting of the Trustees of St. Thomas Dole Charity at the impressive new Diocesan offices in Colmore Row, Birmingham. The business began with the re-appointment of Rev. Dr. Jolley in the capacity of co-opted trustee until 2017 and confirmation of Rev. Traynor, the new area Dean of Aston, as an ex-officio trustee. Rev. Dr. Jolley was then re-appointed as Chairman of the trustee board, the minutes from the May meeting were accepted, the accounts for 2011/12 presented and the accountants re-appointed. A review of the £1m worth of investments was given by Mr. Peter Knapton of M&G Investments who managed over 170 similar charity investment funds. Although times had been difficult over recent years they had continued to outperform the market and they were re-appointed as the charity's investment adviser for 2012/13. Finally, the main point of the meeting arrived and 24 applications for charity were considered but as there was only £21,000 available to distribute, the grants had to be scaled back a little, albeit granting sufficient levels to enable the charity works to be continued. The next meeting would be in May 2013.

20. Report of the Officer of the Council.

The Clerk reported that the incoming council email had failed for 4 days and an extensive backlog had just been received. A consultation bulletin had been tabled, prior to discussion at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.

21. Report of the Chairman.

The Chairman reported that on Sunday 11th November he had been honoured to represent the Council at the annual Remembrance Parade and Service. It was a daunting event and one that the Council would not want to get wrong. It had been good to see so many people attending this year – Lest we Forget.

On Tuesday, 27th November the Chairman had attended the council Christmas Carol Concert which had an audience from the opposite end of the scale. The children never ceased to amaze him and £200 was raised for the Castle Bromwich Age Concern group

and £83 for the Chairman's Charity Fund. He thanked all people who helped to organise the event.

Sadly, the death of George Hopkins, a local war veteran, had been announced and all members invited to attend the funeral, including two youth councillors who had been privileged to know him personally. Unfortunately, he would be unable to represent the council but members were grateful to Cllr Mrs. Allen, Cllr Mrs. Haywood and Cllr Terry who would do so on his behalf.

22. Licence Steering Group.

Following consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that this item be taken under confidential terms as the discussion of terms of contracts and legal advice was classified as exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The Chairman invited members of the public to leave so that discussion could take place and thanked them for their attendance.

Members had received the confidential recommendations of the steering group but as the Clerk was unable to confirm that the stipulated conditions set by the Council had been met in full, consideration by council of the licences was deferred. The Chairman informed members that he had received a complaint from the Chairman of the hire group making serious accusations that he said should be dealt with as a matter of utmost urgency. The Clerk confirmed that since Friday 23rd November, several complaints to the Council had been received by email, which was after the agenda for this meeting had been issued. Cllr Knibb raised a point of order and the difficulties in finding a way forward were explored by all members. The Clerk was requested to supply copies of the complaints to members. The Clerk would acknowledge the complaints and she would call an extra meeting of the Council to take place on Wednesday, 5th December at 7.00 p.m.

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