

and the Solihull Area Committee constitution and arrangements for operation.

7. Questions from Councillors.

Cllr Mrs. Allen asked the Council to grant approval, subject to price and quality being acceptable, to purchase polyanthus plants for the Garden of Rest flower bed. Following consideration, **IT WAS AGREED** that this could be granted. Cllr Miss Ward sought clarification about the future use of the former Redcroft site on the Chester Road and it was confirmed that a planning application for a pet store and vet had previously been submitted. Members were not aware of any changes to this application and concluded that rumours circulating locally may be untrue.

8. Questions from the Public.

Under Standing Order 70, the Chairman adjourned the meeting to invite questions from members of the public. Two residents from the Bradford ward reported a sewage problem experienced at The Green and the investigation/unblocking done by Severn Trent contractor (Amey's from the Wirral). They had been told that the 6" drain was insufficient for the number of properties connected to the sewer and although realizing this was not a parish council responsibility, urged members to consider supporting residents to get a solution in place and prevent further flooding in homes and on the village green. The Chairman was sympathetic to the residents' plight and the Clerk was asked to write to Severn Trent detailing the problem and seek a meeting to agree a satisfactory resolution. The residents expressed their delight in moving to Castle Bromwich but said that potholes at The Green and Old Croft Lane were also a concern, as was the steep verge by the shop across Bradford Road by the lights. Bor. Cllr Richards was present and heard their concerns, although commented that the verge was likely to be privately owned by the shop. Road repairs had already been approved and scheduled to take place shortly.

Asst Clerk
asap

9. Parish Plan.

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that there had been little public response to publication of the Parish Plan. All members were asked to complete the feedback forms tabled to highlight the areas they would wish to champion. He was however pleased to note that many of the action points were starting to be achieved, and having recently met the Chief Executive of Age UK, he looked forward to their new partnership with Castle Bromwich Library as another step forward. Sport and leisure facilities were improving with the tennis courts being refurbished by the parish council and the trial project for a café/public toilets in the park underway. The Hurst Lane Place project (by the Borough Council) was designed to address the concerns of residents/shoppers in that area and coming to fruition. He hoped to compile a list of action points that would be quick to achieve at moderate cost and although the whole Plan would take a long time to work through he urged members to do their personal best to try and achieve as much as possible.

Bor.Cllrs &
Members
19/2

10. Hurst Lane Project.

Following discussion and consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hayes, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the parish council should make a contribution to the Hurst Lane Place project by Solihull MBC in the form of a memorial plaque or bench recognizing the contribution which Alex Henshaw made to the war effort during his time as chief test pilot at the Castle Bromwich Spitfire factory.

Clerk
14/2

11. Government Consultation – Local Authority Parking.

Following discussion, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the response should be to suggest CCTV cameras should be used outside schools to improve safety and detect/deter

Asst.Clerk
10/2

dangerous and inconsiderate car parking. Members noted the problems at Park Hall Academy also caused serious issues for National Express as the bus circle had been blocked recently.

ACTION

12. Budget Plan 2014-2015.

Following consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the final draft budget as recommended by Standing Committees, be adopted. Financial plans were in place to have some longer opening hours in the park and the relocation of the council office would release extra capacity for customers of Arden Hall.

13. Precept 2014-2015.

Members considered the ongoing implications that the changes by central government under the Localism Act to the system of Council Tax Benefit the previous year had caused and the continued uncertainty due to the late decisions by government that could have complex ramifications and consequences for parish and town councils. After consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Knibb, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the precept for 2014/15 should be increased from £210,989 to £215,852 and supplemented by part of the government grant being passed on by the Borough Council of £13,143 (which had decreased from £14,878 last April). Members acknowledged that due to a slight increase in the tax base of Band D properties, this should result in a zero change for parishioners, remaining at £1.11 per week. Serious consequences remained for future years and all parish/town councils were having to adapt to changing financial conditions that were entirely out of their control as the reducing Government grant could disappear completely without due notice.

RFO
3/2

14. Vacancy for Parish Councillors – Bradford Ward and Timberley Ward.

Members noted there had been no request from parishioners to the Borough Council for an election and therefore the vacancies could now be filled by co-option. Forms would be sent to candidates who had previously expressed an interest and hopefully publicity given in the next edition of the Castle Bromwich Gazette. Members were asked to promote the vacancies and encourage anyone potentially interested to contact the Council Office for further information.

15. Solihull MBC Review Polling Districts/Places.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Council was content with existing arrangements.

Asst. Clerk
asap

16. Finance and Payments.

Following clarification of queries by 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
30/1

17. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 8th January 2014, having been circulated, be received and noted.

18. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesdays, 18th December 2013 and 8th January, 2014, having been circulated, be received and noted.

19. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that on Tuesday 7th January, she had attended a meeting of the Youth Council when the media students from Park Hall Academy reported on the video project that was nearing completion. She was endeavouring to arrange for the Youth Council to meet the Lord Mayor and attend a Solihull council meeting. The Chairman added that the earlier presentation to a former youth councillor underlined the worth of having a youth council and it was marvellous to see it blossoming, thanking Cllr Mrs. Allen for her support as Link Councillor. She in turn acknowledged the work of the Clerk, who added she was also most grateful for the enthusiasm that Cllr Mrs. Allen gave to her role.

The Chairman reported that on Thursday 23rd January he had attended a meeting of the Solihull Area Committee of WALC, along with Cllr Knibb and the Clerk. A presentation had been given by Community Energy Warwickshire who had led a community initiative in hospitals to share savings. He was convinced this could help the parish council and he suggested prompt investigation of both solar panels for Arden Hall and a heat pump for the Pavilion, although clarification would be needed on the financial model and the output envisaged for a heat pump. Members endorsed this suggestion and the Clerk would seek to invite the organisation to a future Leisure Services Committee meeting. The Chairman continued, saying that a valuable report on HS2 had been discussed, which fell in line with the parish council's previously declared aspiration in the Parish Plan to mitigate as far as possible the community impact during construction. Under the draft Code of Construction Practice it was possible to request HS2 cover the cost of specialist staff who were experts in environmental health, ecology and archaeology/cultural heritage. It was being proposed that a joint employment be undertaken by parish and town councils who would be most affected by the construction phase of the HS2 project and when the proposal had been drafted the Chairman would ask the parish council to consider it. Cllr Richard Lloyd from Berkswell Parish Council was registering as a petitioner so that he could continue with his work.

The Chairman also reported that on Wednesday, 22nd January he had attended a meeting of the Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee when it was reported that the Airport handled 9.1 million passengers in 2013 which was an increase of 2.3% on the previous year. December saw a leap of 8.0% over 2012 but this included some 17 flights diverted to Birmingham due to bad weather. Flybe had a new management team and had announced plans to close six UK bases so potentially Birmingham could gain aircraft and new routes as a result of this. This could be offset however if Ryanair moved aircraft into Europe as part of their new marketing strategy of flying to full service airports. Despite excellent load factors Air Blue had withdrawn their twice weekly service to Pakistan as a result of aircraft availability. Air India on the other hand was performing well and attracting custom away from Heathrow where prices have dropped to £90 for London/Delhi in an attempt to compete. A new airline Biman Bangladesh would commence operations in the spring. They would operate new 777-300ER aircrafts on a Dhaka, Birmingham, New York route. This would use the new runway extension and require a transit lounge to be constructed in the terminal. Initial New York (JFK) prices from Birmingham were £150. Lufthansa's introduction of a low cost subsidiary German Wings had seen their custom reduce by 50% reflecting the preference of travellers for a recognised brand. United Airlines continued to do well with the Newark route and would increase flights during the summer. Discussions continued with regards to additional North American destinations but the chances appeared slim at present. The A45 diversion was now complete and a new perimeter road had become operational on 19th November. The runway construction had been delayed by the heavy rain in recent weeks but it should be operational by end April. The Airport

Commission produced a report which had recommended additional runway capacity at Heathrow and Gatwick. Birmingham Airport had not been selected but the commission made key points to support the future growth of the Airport. The commission also recognised the impact of HS2 on the Airport's potential for future development. It was interesting to note that local business leaders had expressed their dismay at the continued focus on the South East.

20. Report of the Officer of the Council.

The Clerk reported that she had been unable to find a representative of West Midlands police to speak at a future meeting about the new Call Centre operation. However, Sgt. Mirza had provisionally agreed to be the guest speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 6th May.

21. Report of the Chairman.

The Chairman reported that he had attended the funeral of Mrs. Margaret Turner, MBE and the service had been conducted magnificently by Rev. Margaret MacLachlan. Condolences had been extended to her family.

22. Licence – Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the matter be discussed under confidential terms. The remaining member of the public left the meeting. The questions posed by members were clarified. The Chairman stressed that the council had committed time and money to get the licence finalised and had endeavoured to get a contract that was fair to both parties. The details were not onerous in terms of what hirers should expect and he felt that with adequate protection it was now time for both parties to move on - the Club to play cricket and the parish council to work for parishioners. The Clerk had received information from its insurers to pass to the solicitor. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the final draft be accepted and confirmed to the solicitor for presentation.