



**8. Minutes of the previous Meeting.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hiley, **SECONDED** by Cllr Horne-MacDonald, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

**9. Communications.**

Members noted the information listed, accepting the kind offer of free defibrillator training organised by the U3A organisation (limited places available); declining the offer to decorate tree stumps in the parish into gnome homes, and requesting that Unity Trust Bank bulletin and changes to payment processing be placed on the next Finance and General Purposes Committee agenda.

**10. Demolition of garage.**

Following discussion of the information available, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Leisure Services Committee should continue its work in addressing the storage needs of the council and make the necessary decisions during the current economic constraints. Members thanked the committee for sharing the feasibility options and accepted that it was not economically viable to repair the existing garages.

**11. Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 5th May – Community Speedwatch and Parish Plan review.**

Members noted that flyers were available to publicise this event and copies were requested to hand deliver to parts of some wards.

**12. Finance and Payments.**

a) Members noted the latest income and expenditure reports for both financial years. Due to year end deadlines, the latest bank statements and reconciliations had been signed by a member. The Clerk clarified the credit balances on the new year printout was provision to pay liabilities from the previous year.

b) Following detailed scrutiny of several invoices, the Clerk undertook to scan other relevant documentation to members. It was noted that payment of these bills would be authorized online by two signatories for the first time and members also discussed implementation of the new financial regulations that related to this change. Salary payments concluded for the first tax period would be reported to the next council meeting. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as listed be approved, subject to additional scrutiny by signatories. Following recent failures to empty all bins by the collection company, it was **AGREED** that the Customer Service Manager should be invited to meet with the Hall Manager, if possible a Warden, and a councillor to discuss the problems and what measures they would take to improve. This was in light of the unexpected 9% increase in charges after the council had set its budget.

c) Members were updated by the Clerk on new procedures being introduced for internet banking and the resulting training needs being addressed by her.

**13. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.**

ACTION

Clerk  
6/5  
Asst Clerk  
15/5  
FGP  
10/6

LSC  
6/5

AEH/BU/  
JW 30/4

Admin Asst  
asap

Clerk  
30/4

TK/PA  
29/5

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hiley, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015, having been circulated, be received and noted. Under Standing Order 3u, Cllr Upton requested a recorded vote, which was as follows:  
 In favour: Cllr Mrs. P Allen, Cllr M Hayes, Cllr Mrs. A Haywood, Cllr E Hicks, Cllr I Hiley, Cllr E Knibb, Cllr M Rashid, Cllr Miss Ward.  
 Against: Cllr B Upton.  
 Abstentions: Cllr J Horne-MacDonald, Cllr J Riordan.

**14. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Horne-MacDonald **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2015, having been circulated, be received and noted.  
 Under Standing Order 3u, Cllr Knibb requested a recorded vote, which was as follows:  
 In favour: Cllr Mrs. P Allen, Cllr M Hayes, Cllr Mrs. A Haywood, Cllr E Hicks, Cllr I Hiley, Cllr J Horne-MacDonald, Cllr M Rashid, Cllr J Riordan, Cllr Miss Ward.  
 Against: Cllr B Upton.  
 Abstentions: Cllr E Knibb.

**15. Report of the Staff Panel.**

a) **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2015, having been circulated, be received and noted. Members noted the revision of the Pension Discretions Policy, as required by WM Pension Fund.  
 b) This question was deferred to Item 19.

**16. Representatives to Outside Bodies.**

The Chairman reminded members that reports were only to be given for attending outside body events that this parish council appointed them to be its representatives.  
 Cllr Knibb reported that he had attended the WALC Solihull Area Committee meeting at Kingshurst on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015. The guest speaker was David Jamieson who was the current WMPolice & Crime Commissioner. He told the meeting of the New Police Plan being the first in the country to encompass being a part of the Economic Integral Development Plan for our region. Crime in the region was falling generally which was good news. However, there was a rise in cyber crime against our personal finances via either card fraud or computer hacking. This was an International Operational issue and governance was extremely difficult to co-ordinate between nations. Another plus point was that within the next 12 months, victims would be able to track the progress of their crime number via the internet, just like you would a parcel delivery. Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, Victim Support Services and the £2.5m budget that went with it, was transferred to the WMP Crime Commissioners control. At present nearly 30,000 victims per annum took help from Victim Support Services. Over the coming years it was expected that contacting the police services would be via the internet with the 101 service fading away along with front desk services. 999 emergency calls would obviously continue as of now. The importance of our Central Motorway Policing Group was emphasised because in economic terms, every time the M6 motorway came to a standstill, the cost to our Midlands economy was £1.7m per hour due to late delivery of goods, bringing industrial production to a halt. Thieves stripping wire from railway track, had a similar effect in terms of cost and damage to our economy. Cllr Brian Brown, the SAC chairman thanked David Jamieson for his informative talk and question/answer session that followed. Members moved on to approving the minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015 meeting held at Arden Hall but due to some queries being raised this was deferred to the next

meeting. The question of how effective the Charter agreement with SMBC was working would be taken up by Rosie Weaver and Brian Brown with Nick Page (CEO of SMBC) when they next met. Changes in Planning rules came in for criticism and members were informed that a new head of Planning Department was to be appointed. In addition, Phillip Lloyd Williams would be leaving SMBC, with Paul Johnson assuming his role at the end of June. HS2:- Richard Lloyd reported that all was quiet until the Mid July revision would be published and then objectors would start registering their challenges yet again. The question had been asked that WALC issue a Transparency Code Check list to all member councils explaining the requirements at each level under the Code. The next meeting would be held on Thursday 9th July at Meriden.

ACTION

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that on 4<sup>th</sup> April she had attended Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens event and helped judge the Easter Bonnet competition. She reported that the Gardens were looking good and at their best in a long time. On 17<sup>th</sup> April, she had attended their Open Day in connection with the Royal Horticultural Society, when the new Patron was formally welcomed by the Mayor of Solihull.

Cllr Mrs. Haywood reported that on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April she had attended a meeting of the full governing body of Castle Bromwich Junior School, although she had to leave at 7.15 pm to attend another function which meant she missed two items on the Agenda. The minutes from the previous meeting held on Monday 2nd February 2015 were agreed and accepted. The Chair asked under matters arising from the above meeting if Governors had been successful in finding any notes from a previous meeting; unfortunately this had not been the case. Minutes from the two committees were tabled i.e. Finance & Premises had held two meetings one on the 16<sup>th</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> April when budgets were set for the forthcoming year. Curriculum and Community Committee had met on 23 March 2015. The Chair asked if in future it would be possible to present these to match those of the Finance and it was agreed that in future this would be possible. Certain works that had been budgeted for would go ahead i.e. the refurbishment of the school hall in particular. The work scheduled for Easter had been done i.e. Stop sign at the new gates and class names for fire evacuation purposes. Both sets of minutes were accepted with approval of budgets as tabled accepted and agreed by the Committee. The Head Teachers Report had been sent to Governors beforehand and Sarah Hobden explained that it was prudent to have a summary from the previous term (Autumn in this case) with the Spring presented in green. All agreed that this was helpful and saved time in looking back at what had happened previously. Sarah took the committee through the report explaining how incidents such as racial and the number of exclusions had been dealt with. The school now had adopted the new Anti Bullying Policy with the number of reported incidents dropping from 71 in the Autumn term to 42 in Spring. This had been well received with 96% of parents reporting that their children feel safe in school. Work is continuing to reduce this number further. The schools marking policy is now more embedded, consistently applied and valued by pupils. The school continues to develop leadership capacity at all levels. Half termly meetings and discussions about progress and pupil achievement continues. The school teaching is good and/or improving strongly as a result of accurate monitoring, effective performance management and professional development which are closely matched to the needs of the school and staff. The Governors continue to challenge / go into school and good steady progress is being made with further work to be done. Unfortunately at this point Cllr Mrs. Haywood had to leave but next on the Agenda for review was the Whistleblowing (Public Interest Disclosure) Policy and the Governor Action Plan; - Development Area: Governance. Governors to understand and be custodians of the school vision. With clear understanding, actions and initiatives, monitoring and

updates. Castle Bromwich Junior School continued to work with parents, having an open door policy and engaging with pupils on all levels. If and when there was an update on the two items she missed, she undertook to report it to Council.

**17. Report of the Officer of the Council.**

The Clerk informed members that there had been a delay in setting a date for community planting with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust but it should be completed by the end of June. Members were asked to help find more volunteers and community groups and to contact schools with details again.

**18. Report of the Chairman.**

The Chairman reported that on 17<sup>th</sup> April, he had held a charity quiz night at Arden Hall. He thanked Cllr Mrs. Allen and Ken Simpson (the quizmaster) and other helpers for a marvelous evening. He had asked Cllr Mrs. Allen and Mr. Simpson to nominate charities to receive a donation from the funds raised.

On 18<sup>th</sup> April, he had attended Fordbridge Town Council Charity Night held at Chelmsley Wood. The entertainment had been very good and he had had an enjoyable time.

On 27<sup>th</sup> April, he had been proud for Castle Bromwich Parish Council to host the award ceremony for Mrs. Phil White, BEM. It was a tremendous evening and each time he had spoken to Mrs. White about her charitable works she always paid credit to the other volunteers who worked with her. He saluted her humility and congratulated her warmly on the presentation that was made by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands, Mr Paul Sabapathy CBE.

**19. Staff Working Party.**

On behalf of the working party, the Chairman reported to council that the issues being addressed had been concluded and therefore its role was complete. Roles had been fully and completely clarified and as the Working Party was now defunct, it would therefore cease. At the next council meeting, members would be asked to form a new working party (possibly called Smarter Working Group) which would be tasked with reviewing the efficiency of council operations and how procedures worked for 'it' and the staff. The Chairman wished to thank the Clerk personally, on behalf of the Staff Panel, the Staff Working Party and the council for her patience, perseverance and professionalism during these difficult times.

ACTION

Council  
AGM  
20/5