

2. Declarations of pecuniary or conflict of interests.

Cllr Mrs. Allendeclared a pecuniary interest in Item 17 (b) as a payment to reimburse her was listed for approval and she would leave the meeting at that time.

3. Dispensations.

None received.

4. Casual Vacancy – Bradford, Park Hall and Timberley Wards.

At the invitation of the Chairman, the first candidate explained his passion for Castle Bromwich and why he wanted to become a parish councillor. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Mrs. Allen,**SECONDED** by Cllr Miss Ward,**IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Mr. Upton be co-opted to the parish council for the Park Hall ward. The Chairman congratulated him on his appointment and the declaration of office form was signed and Cllr Upton took his seat.

At the invitation of the Chairman, the second candidate explained his reasons for wishing to become a parish councillor. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Upton,**SECONDED** by Cllr Miss Ward,**IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Mr. Okanta-Ofori be co-opted to the parish council for the Timberley ward. The Chairman congratulated him on his appointment and the declaration of office form was signed and Cllr Okanta-Ofori took his seat.

5. To Receive Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF the Chairman,**SECONDED** by Cllr Terry,**IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Declarations of Acceptance of Office be accepted. Following consideration, both members were appointed to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

6. Guest Speakers: Anne Hastings and Gregg Duddy from Age UK speaking on New Opportunities in Castle Bromwich.

This item was taken prior to the start of the meeting.

7. Questions from the Public.

Under Standing Order 70, the Chairman temporarily suspended standing orders for this item and invited questions from members of the public. A resident from the Bradford Ward referred to the loss of green space in the Hurst Lane place traffic scheme. He also urged the council to support the request of Kingshurst Parish Council to object to the housing development planned for Babbs Mill Nature Reserve. Castle Bromwich residents used the Park which was a green artery and trackway for otters, only being designated as a Nature Reserve two years ago. People felt strongly that the north of Solihull had already had too much housing development and the loss of the green tracts was seen as obliteration of the area by the Borough Council. The Clerk gave feedback on a matter raised by residents at previous meetings and had received a copy of the maintenance map from Solihull MBC for part of Birmingham Road.

8. Questions from Councillors.

None.

9. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Terry,**SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen,**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 24th September, 2014 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

10. Communications.

Members noted the information listed.

11. Declaration of Vacancy – Bradford Ward.

Members noted the declaration of this new vacancy, which was in addition to the one remaining vacancy for the same ward that had remained unfilled.

Clerk
11/14

Asst Clerk
11/14

Asst. Clerk
11/15

12. Parish Plan.

The Chairman urged members to keep the Plan in mind and look for opportunities to fulfil its aims.

ACTION

Members on-going

13. NALC Model Standing Orders 2013.

The Chairman reported that the working party had met on 22nd October and added in the standing orders wanted for Castle Bromwich that were not covered by the NALC model. For the benefit of new members, the Clerk explained that the NALC book gave helpful explanations for the different regulations and all members were urged to read it when it was circulated. As required, the draft had stood adjourned and she would endeavour to have the new document ready for the next Council meeting. Cllr Mrs. Allen added that some areas would require debate to choose between options.

Clerk 19/11

14. Housing Development at Babbs Mill Nature Reserve and Park

Following consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Upton, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to wholeheartedly support Kingshurst Parish Council and also representation from Castle Bromwich residents during the public forum in objecting to the Borough Council's proposals to allow housing development at Babb's Mill Park and it's Nature Reserve. It was felt that too much green space was being lost and whilst understanding that there was a need for housing, the Parish Council would urge that the 70 homes be built elsewhere in North Solihull.

Asst Clerk 31/10

15. Notice of Conclusion of Audit for Year Ended 31st March 2014.

Members noted the satisfactory conclusion of the external audit by Grant Thornton and the publication of the statutory notice. Members accepted the need to review the Financial Regulations and noted the new NALC model that had just been released.

Members 01/15

16. Licence Agreements.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to defer this item to the next meeting due to the unfortunately high number of absent members. This would help ensure a full and fair decision.

Members 26/11

17. Finance and Payments.

a) Members noted the latest income and expenditure report. The VAT return, bank statements and reconciliations were scrutinized by the Chairman. The Clerk undertook to clarify if there were earmarked reserves for purchase of new furniture for Arden Hall and what the Capital expenditure had been spent on for the year to date. Cllr Mrs. Allen asked why £225 was allocated for professional fees for the bar and the Clerk replied it was a provision for independent stock take audit.

RFO 19/11
RFO 19/11

b) Cllr Mrs. Allen withdrew from the meeting. Following clarification of questions put to the Clerk on products purchased and services provided, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Terry, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as listed be approved. Cllr Mrs. Allen rejoined the meeting.

Admin Asst 30/10

18. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 1st October 2014, having been circulated, be received and noted.

19. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Terry, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesdays, 24th September and 15th October, 2014, having been circulated, be received and noted. Cllr Mrs. Allen asked what training she had confirmed she was attending on 21st January and noted it would be dates set by Council for in-house sessions on relevant topics as shown in recent minutes.

20. Report of the Staff Panel.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Staff Panel held on Tuesday, 7th October 2014, having been circulated, be received and noted.

21. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

The Chairman had received a report from Cllr Knibb who had attended the WALC County Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 7th October 2014 at Leamington Spa Town Hall at 7.15 pm. Two new county members had been welcomed to the committee - Cllr Mark Hayes representing Solihull Area Committee and Cllr Yvonne Moore representing Leamington Spa Town Council. Discussion on the current "Code of Conduct" and its lack of effective sanctions was high on the Agenda but deferred until after the NALC Policy Committee report expected in February. The treasurer reported that expenditure was in line with budget and the half year statement was accepted. The committee also decided to invest a further £60,000 in the CCLA account as it could be accessed inside 24 hours. Nominations for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Auditors were agreed along with some resolutions for proposal at WALC AGM on the evening of the 4th November. The important one being the new subscription fees increase of 1.8% to cover the NALC subscription increase in fees. (1.8% is the current rate of inflation). Virtually all Boroughs, District & County Councils were proposing to drastically reduce the funding levels they provided to the voluntary and community sector and WALC was expecting the grant from Warwickshire County Council to be cut by £6,000 or 25% this year. Another hot topic of debate was the old "Quality Parish Status Scheme", now being re-invented under the title of "Local Councils Award Scheme". Lastly, the progress on the creation of new town councils was discussed and the flagship WALC/NALC supported application by Royal Sutton Coldfield town. Debate about the progressing of WALC Area committees was also an issue and they urgently required a higher level of attendees from their local councils. Reports from NALC and outside bodies of WALC were then received before the meeting closed. The next meeting date was 20th January 2015.

Members noted that the report of the recent meeting of the Solihull Area Committee would be deferred to the next meeting but the Clerk alerted them to an opportunity for resilience training to be offered in Castle Bromwich and the request for questions to be put at the next meeting to the recently appointed Chief Executive of the Borough Council who was the guest speaker at the next meeting.

22. Report of the Officer of the Council.

The Clerk requested a volunteer to deliver letters to residents at the Village Green reminding them of the road closures on Remembrance Sunday; documents had been tabled for future meetings and a councillor request for training had been received. The Clerk would also value the opportunity to attend and there were no objections to £60 being used for Cllr Knibb and the Clerk to attend a briefing on Friday 7th November.

23. Report of the Chairman.

The Chairman reported that on 17th October he had attended an excellent show by Castle Bromwich Singers held at Arden Hall. He had been most impressed by the varied talents of the group with both choral numbers and marvelous duets and soloists. He thanked them for their kind invitation.

The Vice-Chairman reported she had represented the Chairman on Saturday, 25th October at the re-dedication of the Stephane Mason funeral parlour. She thanked them for their kind invitation.

[Cllr Okanta-Ofori asked about the Community Energy Warwickshire report on Arden Hall.]

BU
1/11Asst Clerk
31/10