MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLE BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH ON WEDNESDAY 30TH JUNE 2010 AT 7.30 PM

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr Mrs. P Allen

Councillors: Cllr M Hayes Cllr J Riordan Cllr J Whelan

Cllr I Hiley Cllr A Terry Cllr Mrs. B. Wilkins

Cllr E Knibb [Items 7-end only]

[except Item 14] Cllr Miss J Ward

Officer: Mrs C Tibbles

Public: 6 members of the public [Items 1-13 only]

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and was pleased that Sgt. Hewitt was able to remain after the PACT meeting to hear questions from the public.

1. Apologies.

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The apologies from Cllr R Amos, Cllr Mrs. A Haywood, Cllr J Horne-MacDonald and Cllr Mrs. J Smith were noted for the reasons given. [Clerk's Note: apologies were also submitted by Cllr M Rashid.]

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared. [Cllr Knibb later declared an interest at item 13.]

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 19th May, 2010 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Questions from Councillors.

No questions had been submitted.

5. Questions from the Public.

In accordance with Standing Orders, the meeting was temporarily suspended so that members of the public could ask questions. Mr. Gibbins, 85 Kingsleigh Drive referred to his previous question about the terms of reference for the Staff Panel. The Chairman said his question had been referred to the Staff Panel. Mr. Gibbins also queried training of members, Arden Hall finance and other issues. The Chairman replied his question would be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee, in accordance with Standing Orders. Ms. Clare Lucas, 294 Bradford Road registered her unhappiness with a neighbours extension, which she thought was not in keeping with other properties. Cllr Hayes, as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee said the records would be checked and a response given. Mr. Young, Faircroft Road asked about the Birmingham Council refuse facility? Cllr Hayes replied there had been no official confirmation from the Borough Council about the pilot scheme. Mr. Young asked why the public noticeboard was showing the vacancy for the Timberley ward when a new member had been appointed? Cllr Whelan confirmed he actually represented the Bradford Ward and the Clerk confirmed that the Timberley vacancy was still current. Mr. Young asked why nothing had been put up in Arden Hall for fallen heroes in Afghanistan? The Chairman replied that the Council had discussed this at length and plans for a memorial were in hand. Cllr Hayes explained, as an ex-member of the Forces, that the council had been anxious not to do anything that could be deemed as

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disrespectful and it had been agreed that naming one person and leaving others out would not be acceptable, neither would discounting other conflicts such as Iraq, Falklands and Northern Ireland. Mr. Young asked if the family were contacted to attend the Remembrance service and the Chairman confirmed they were present last year. Mr. Holland, 22 The Green, asked that in light of the inordinate amount of litter being collected at the Village Green in recent weeks, could the Council consider a larger bin or extra collection of the waste? The Chairman replied this matter would be referred to the next Leisure Services Committee meeting.

LSC 7/7

6. Communications.

Members noted the information listed. Cllr Riordan asked, as the council's representative, that the letter from the Solihull Partnership be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration. Cllr Knibb asked when Cllr Riordan had been elected as this new body had only been formed. The Clerk referred Cllr Knibb to Minute 6, line 5 of appointments made at the last meeting. Cllr Knibb said the Solihull Partnership was a completely different organisation only just formed as he used to be the representative. The Clerk was asked to check and report back.

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7. Memorial Tablet and Restoration – Village Green.

Members noted the memorial mason could not assist and the Clerk would be seeking a specialist stonemason to assess remedial works on the existing memorial. Following invited views of the public, members discussed the new memorial tablet including, form of wording, publicity of the project, sensitivity to grieving families, existing tributes at the National Memorial Arboretum, advice from the War Graves Commission, views of the British Legion, finance of the project by the Parish Council to honour the dead on behalf of the public and local residents. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **SECONDED** by Cllr Whelan, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the arrangements for the tablet go ahead so that it would be in place for November with the inscription wording now agreed as "In memory of those who have fallen in conflicts since 1945". A press release would be arranged to widen public awareness of the project.

Clerk asap

8. Annual Inspection Reports.

Members noted the information previously circulated on the Open Spaces Inspection. Cllr Terry said that at the previous evening's inspection, members attending agreed to recommend the Spencer Hall (floor, stage, walls, ceiling, windows, heating, air conditioning) needed refurbishing; York Room kitchen cupboards and carpet needed attention and a loose banister rail; crack to be investigated in foyer entrance ceiling, likely to be linked to recent roof leak; Windsor Room (air conditioning, exterior fascia, exterior light/fan covers needed). Members noted this was in line with hirers views expressed at the recent consultation meeting and with previous inspections.

9. Youth Parish Council.

Members noted the information from the Clerk on the Village Green Sensory Peace Garden Project with revised costings being prepared to show savings on labour costs by utilising the Community Payback scheme; appeal letters being prepared for new donations/grants; the planting costs and schedules being drawn up for planting. Members also noted that some form of recognition was being arranged for the valuable service given by Youth Councillors, some for many years.

10. Grant Aid Applications.

Following careful consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Council in accordance with its powers under Sections 137 and 139 of the Local

Government Act, 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and would benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure, that Merstone School and This Way Up each be awarded a grant of £200. The application for £1,500 by the 231st Cole Valley Girlguiding unit was declined. It was further suggested that This Way Up organisation consider applying to other parish and town councils in North Solihull.

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Asst Clerk 1/7

11. Working Parties.

In the absence of Cllr Amos, the Clerk reported the recommendations of the working party regarding safety fencing to protect pedestrians from vehicles accessing parking, particularly the new dedicated disabled places at the front of the Hall. Drawings showing the 3 phases and photographs of possible designs were displayed. It was noted that a planning application for the fence work would be required when the council agreed a design, the tree would need crown lifting, a quote sought for tarmac of area in first phase, costs needed for extension of existing dropped kerb, costs for automatic disabled doors and porch construction (in compliance with existing planning permission) and grant funding applications pursued. Phase 2 would need a decision on pedestrian footpath route, resurfacing and line marking, number of gates required, replacement of speed bumps. Phase 3 would require decision of additional safety gate (automatic preferably); resurfacing and line marking, replacement of speed bumps. Members briefly commented on this topic. In response to a request by the Chairman, members supported Mrs. Riordan being invited to attend the Events Working party meeting as she would be helping with arrangements for the Macmillan Coffee Morning. Members noted the meeting with the Cricket & Sports Club to discuss building matters on 8th June.

Events WP

12. To appoint Representative to outside Bodies

Following Cllr Knibb's confirmation that he was willing to continue to serve, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Whelan, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the deferred appointments be confirmed for the Civic Year 2010-

2011: Castle Bromwich Youth Council

Cllr E Knibb

Chelmsley Wood Citizens Advice Bureau- Members Panel

Cllr E Knibb

Castle Bromwich Junior School – Governor

Cllr E Knibb

(Cllr Knibb wished to become a Community Governor and when this was arranged a vacancy would exist for a new representative from the Parish Council)

St Thomas Dole Charity Trust (4 years until May 2011)

Cllr E Knibb

The Chairman reassured Cllr Knibb that his work in these roles was appreciated.

13. Standards Board Appeal Tribunal - Notice of Decision.

Cllr Riordan informed members that he had appealed against the decision of the Standards Committee Hearing on 17th March 2010 and the First Tier Tribunal had considered the matter on 23rd June 2010. The appeal had been upheld. The decision of the Standards Committee was rejected and ceases immediately to have effect.

14. Correspondence received from Member.

After clarification, Cllr Knibb declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this matter. As the correspondence referred to personal circumstances of an individual, **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. Cllr Knibb and members of the public withdrew. Under Standing Order 23 (r) the meeting was adjourned for 5

minutes and then reconvened. Following consideration of advice from the solicitor, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** by members that the unfortunate matter be closed.

15. Hire Incident.

Cllr Knibb rejoined the meeting. As the matter referred to personal actions of a hirer, 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. 1 member abstained from the vote as he had not read the report. ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Hayes, SECONDED by the Chairman, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Standing Order 1 (a) be suspended for 30 minutes to conclude remaining business under consideration. Following consideration and discussion of the confidential report, ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, SECONDED by Cllr Terry, IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk make a complaint to the Chairman of the hiring organisation and ask their General Committee to investigate matters.

Clerk Asap

16. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Wilksin, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 2nd June 2010, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

17. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Terry, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 9th June 2010, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

18. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

The Chairman reported that on Thursday 20th May she attended a Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Trustees meeting as a representative of the parish council. On Sunday 27th May she attended Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens under the National Gardens Scheme as a Trustee for the parish council. [Clerk's note: members are reminded that representatives are asked to report to council meetings/events they have attended on behalf of the parish council and to hand a written copy of their report to the Clerk once it has been read.]

19. Report of the Officer of the Council.

The Clerk reported a busy month with incidents causing concern to residents, many of which had required her further action or reporting to the Borough Council or police. Alison Lush (Places Directorate) had asked if information could go in their monthly newsletter, sent to Ward Members and Parish Councils and this matter was deferred until Ms Lush attended as a guest speaker. All members were invited to attend informally prior to the next FGP meeting on 14th July to consider improvements to the Chairman's Chain of Office. A company would be attending from 7 pm to show samples and make recommendations. The bookkeeper would also be on hand for an informal training session on printouts from the new financial software and to answer questions on financial procedures. He would also share information on meetings he had attended in relation to HS2, the proposed new high speed railway. Members advised the start of the FGP meeting be changed to 8pm for July only. Increased police support had enabled

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staff to feel more secure but one more emergency closure had taken place on 25th June. Members were notified that email failures had caused delays to some communications over the past 2 weeks, some of which were still being resent. The new play equipment was nearing completion and seen to be in popular use earlier today. The Youth Offending team had confirmed they were able to start working on open spaces for the Parish Council on Friday 2nd July to improve the environment. The Solihull Area Committee had requested any questions on Environmental Maintenance to be emailed prior to their next meeting, when the guest was Chris Barr. The Annual Return had been sent, with supporting information, to the auditor.

Members Asap

20. Terms of Reference.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the matter be deferred to the next meeting.

21. Report of the Chairman.

The Chairman reported that on Tuesday 25th May she had attended the investiture of the Mayor and Mayoress of Solihull for 2010/11. She thanked them for the kind invitation to the Civic Suite for an interesting and pleasant evening. On Sunday 13th June she had attended the parish council's own Civic Service at St. Mary and St. Margaret's Church with members and officers of the parish council, together with the Mayor and Mayoress of Solihull and many other guests, representatives of the Firs Royal British Legion, other local organisations including Caroline Spelman MP. Also it was nice to see five members of the Youth Parish Council attending. The service was conducted by the Rector, Rev. Gavin Douglas who at the end of the service dedicated the new Standard of the Legion. The congregation then attended a reception at Arden Hall where a hot and cold buffet had been prepared by the Hall Manager and her staff. She thanked everyone who attended for their support at this annual event. On Thursday 17th June she had attended the 237th Birmingham (1st Castle Bromwich) Scout group AGM and various presentations were made during a very pleasant and enjoyable evening. She thanked them for their kind invitation. On Saturday 19th June the Chairman officially opened their latest development of cricket covers bought by the Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club. On Wednesday, 30th June she had attended Castle Bromwich Junior School Year 6 production of 'Hairdo'. This was a very enjoyable and well presented production and the she thanked them for their kind invitation.