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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLE  
BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH  
ON WEDNESDAY 30TH JULY 2008  
AT 7.30 PM**

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**Those present:**

**Chairman:** Cllr Mrs. B. Wilkins

**Councillors:**

Cllr Mrs. P Allen  
Cllr R Amos  
Cllr Mrs. A Haywood  
Cllr E Knibb  
Cllr M Rashid

[Items 1-13]

Cllr J Riordan  
Cllr Mrs. J Smith  
Cllr Miss J Ward

**Guests:** Sgt. O'Reilly, Castle Bromwich Neighbourhood Policing Team [Items 1-6]  
Gavin Morrice, Public Protection Manager, (SMBC) [Items 1-6]  
Gill Magee, Community Safety Manager (SMBC) [Items 1-6]  
Alison Lush, Neighbourhood Manager, (SMBC) [Items 4-6]

**Officer:** Mrs. C Tibbles

**Public:** 21 members of the public[17 attending for Items 1-6, 4 until Item12]

**1. Apologies.**

The apologies from Cllr Mrs. T Knibb and Cllr A Terry were accepted for the reasons given.

**2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.**

None declared.

**3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Amos, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2008 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

**4. Anti-Social Behaviour in Castle Bromwich.**

The Chairman thanked the guest speakers for attending the meeting and invited them to outline their responsibilities in addressing anti-social behaviour. Sgt. O'Reilly said his team of 2 constables and 2 PCSO's had robust powers and when off duty, Castle Bromwich was covered by a Tasking Team of 1 Acting Sgt, supported by 8 officers. The 2 areas of concern to the police were the Village Green and park by Brownsover Close but he was not aware of issues with Whateley Green. (A member of the public commented that he had passed a group of youths there now on his way to this meeting.) Sgt. O'Reilly explained that S27 of the Violent Crime Act allowed officers to ban people from an area if alcohol was involved, which he had done the previous Saturday. He explained current problems and tactics being deployed. He did not believe a Dispersal Zone would give more powers than were actually needed. Gavin Morrice explained his focus was to implement the Licensing Act and that the Borough Council could not deal with issues alone and had an advisory role. It was necessary for either Trading Standards, the police or another responsible body in the vicinity (which had not been legally defined) to raise concerns with him so that he could step forward and review problematic licensed premises, providing there was clear evidence. Under-age sales were dealt with differently and if a test purchase was failed twice he believed the trader was negligent. On occasions, the courts did not always fully support the action taken by the Borough Council. Gill Magee explained that her role with the Safer Community Partnership when housing, police, fire service, youth workers, leisure and a host of other organisations worked together. Dispersal Zones and Alcohol Free Zones were tools available to the Partnership but there were other options too. She commended the hard work of the police in Castle Bromwich. The Partnership met monthly to consider deterrents and prevention and she asked what residents expected from the Partnership and if they thought the problem would move somewhere else? She wanted to get residents on board but reminded everyone that young people also had rights and that the Village Green was a public open space. Alison Lush apologised for her late arrival as she had come directly from another meeting. She explained that measures were put in place for long-term benefit and domehawk cameras helped with congregating youths, although lighting could attract young people who liked to feel safe. There was a need for young people to be educated to be quiet and not a nuisance and asked for practical suggestions that could be of benefit.

The Chairman thanked guests for their explanations. She said the concerns of the residents were shared by the Parish Council, especially as parish councillors lived locally and witnessed the same problems. The lack of a police response was an issue for both residents and the Council and the invitation to this meeting had been issued to seek their help in alleviating the distress of residents. The Chairman reminded visitors that the lives of residents around the Village Green had improved when the dispersal order was imposed and effectively policed and since it had expired the problems had returned and escalated. There were also issues with the damage that was being done and the rubbish left behind.

#### **5. Questions from Councillors.**

Cllr Miss Ward read an extract from the letter received from Caroline Spelman MP (available for public to see) following the request by parish councillors for her assistance at a recent surgery. Cllr Mrs. Haywood said that there were similar problems in other areas of Castle Bromwich, and specifically highlighted areas she regularly walked by shops in Green Lane and Hurst Lane North. She felt that residents in Castle Bromwich lacked the response that should be expected. Sgt O'Reilly replied that police had to respond to the number of calls received according to priority and added that he would support an allocation of more resources because he wanted Castle Bromwich to have the best service. He was disappointed if a 9 pm call for help was not dealt with until 10.30 p.m. but stressed his team did their best when they were on duty. He said that patrol tasking plans were in place for the Village Green and Brownsover Close when the area was not covered by his team. He also added that exaggerated and erroneous reporting of incidents did not help because when a response was made within 1½ minutes to one report of 60 youths causing trouble, only 20 youths were actually there. Sgt. O'Reilly stressed there was no power to move youngsters on for sitting on a bench (a member of the public pointed out these had since been stolen from the Village Green). Cllr Mrs. Allen asked if there was any news on finding those culprits but Sgt O'Reilly was sorry to say there was no news on their bench theft investigations. The Chairman knew there was a difference between youths socializing and thought the wider general public appreciated that. Cllr Mrs. Smith referred to the poor support of the courts for licensing offences and asked Mr. Morrice if licenses were given back to traders? Mr. Morrice said one recent case did not have a licence to be reinstated and was given a fine. Generally he felt the review process was better than the court process as licences could be suspended for a period, with consequential loss of income and publicity was also a useful tool. Cllr Mrs. Smith had reported a newsagent to Trading Standards for selling alcohol to an adult who gave it to children and Mr. Morrice asked for details to be forwarded so that he could look into the matter.

#### **6. Questions from the Public.**

Standing Orders were suspended so that members of the public could ask questions.

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the session be extended to 30 minutes. Following an explanation of procedures by the Chairman, members of the public were invited to state their name and address prior to asking their question. A summary of the questions asked is appended for members only as the final page and the meeting was resumed after a brief recess to allow guests to leave.

Following the valuable and lengthy discussion, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Parish Council formally request the Safer Community Partnership reinstate the Dispersal Zone and establish a new Alcohol Restriction Order for the Castle Bromwich Village Green, including the Small Green and War Memorial.

#### **7. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Amos, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

#### **8. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Smith, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July and 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

#### **9. Report and future meetings of Working Parties.**

Clerk  
Aug.08

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> July Cllr Miss Ward, Cllr Mrs. Haywood, accompanied by George and herself planted the roses, shrubs and the recycled plants from her garden into the War Memorial Garden. Cllr Mrs Haywood and Cllr Mrs Allen had personally sponsored this, with no cost on the precept. On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July, Cllr Terry cut the privet hedges around the sides of the War Memorial Garden, helped again by her and George. The next task would be to level the slabs in the centre to improve disabled access, which Cllr Terry had agreed to do. The Working Party would need help as much as possible and when this task completed and ticked off, they would move onto the next one. She had been going to water the plants at 7 am before going to work and again in the evening but contrary to thoughts she was either mad or dedicated, she hoped it was the latter. She intended to purchase some more daffodil bulbs in September for the garden but plant them herself to ensure they got put in. Cllr Amos and Cllr Rashid volunteered their help with relaying the slabs and moving the sand.

Date TBA  
PA to  
liaise

Clerk TBA

TBA

The Clerk would endeavour to arrange a meeting of the Buildings Working Party to instigate drawing of plans for Arden Hall frontage. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Events Working Party would not meet until September.

#### **10. Representatives to Outside Bodies.**

Cllr Knibb reported he had represented the Parish Council on 9 occasions since the last meeting and briefly summarized them as follows (more details available if required):

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June he had attended a meeting of the governors Curriculum and Community Committee of Castle Bromwich Junior School, the contents of which did not impact or affect the Parish Council. On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July, along with Cllr Mrs. Allen, he had attended the Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council meeting and Youth Cllr Miss Ruth Jennings had been elected as Chairman. Members were continuing with their deliberations on spending the grant awarded to them for environmental and community improvement to benefit the youth of the area. On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July he went to Castle Bromwich Junior School and saw Year 6 pupils perform 'Joseph's Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' which was incredibly well done. On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July he attended Solihull Civic suite for a seminar on the future of school governance. On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July he attended the WALC County meeting at Warwick. On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July he went to Lanchester Project briefing at Kingfisher Drive for parish & borough councillors, which only Cllr Mrs Allen and he attended. On the same evening, he then attended the Solihull Area Committee of WALC in Meriden, where Inspector Starling of West Midlands Police explained the legal aspects and realities of Alcohol Free Zones and their enforcement. It was a pleasure to hear Michael Blamire-Brown (the Borough Council Solicitor) give legal advice on the numerous questions raised on this issue, prior to his imminent and well deserved retirement. On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July, he attended the first official Scrutiny board meeting for Governors and Head teachers at Castle Bromwich Junior School. He then went to Castle Bromwich Youth Club to attend a meeting for voluntary groups and organisations to co-ordinate the application for and obtaining of Grant allocations aimed specifically for the youth. However, only he and an unknowing caretaker were there so he assumes the meeting had either been cancelled or re-arranged, sadly without anyone being informed of the change. The morning of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July saw the new Citizens Advise Bureau opened by our local M.P., Caroline Spelman, which was followed by a meet and greet over a running buffet & drinks table. On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July he attended Castle Bromwich Junior School for the Governor's Award Ceremony, which was well attended by both Governors & Parents alike for the presentation of medals, trophies & certificates for the outstanding effort and achievement of the schools pupils last year. I must go on record and praise all the teachers and staff without whose dedicated support and guidance of their charges these tremendous results would not have been possible. That concludes my brief report but I will be pleased to expand on any of these attendances at the end of tonight's council business.

#### **11. Report of the Officer of the Council.**

The Clerk briefly referred to the availability of a Sustain questionnaire that anyone could complete to influence development of services and activities in Solihull; the draft catering agreement had been prepared; summary of the recent annual inspection by members that would be discussed further by Leisure Services Committee in September; and a reminder had been given to staff about the safety aspects of stacking chairs.

LSC  
Sept

Clerk  
ASAP

After discussion, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk utilize her delegated powers to arrange prompt renewal of the gas supply contract. The Chairman asked about the tree that had been felled near to the Village Green and the Clerk replied that she would need to visit the area to investigate further. Following concerns about a recent hire event, members discussed guidance to Hall Managers and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that unless exceptional circumstances dictated, weekend hire functions should always be fully licensed and that a minimum bar takings level may need to be stipulated or subject to additional charges. Clearer guidance could be formulated at the next Leisure Services Committee meeting. **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** that a letter be sent to the recent hirer to notify them of the problems caused for staff at their event.

LSC  
Sept

#### **12. Report of the Chairman**

The Chairman reported that on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> July, she had attended the investiture of the new Rector of Castle Bromwich, Rev. Gavin Douglas, who wished to be known as Rev. Gav. It was the first time she had attended this fascinating and most enjoyable occasion. She had been surprised to be asked to make a welcome speech afterwards at the reception held at St. Mary & St. Margaret School but hoped she had managed to do justice to the event.

The Chairman had also seen the improvement work done at the War Memorial garden and officially thanked and commended Cllr Mrs. Allen, accompanied by George, and everyone else who had supported her and those who had given their practical help.

#### **13. Staff Matters.**

Under confidential terms, a staff matter was discussed. **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Staff Panel be extended to form an Appointment Panel for the appointment of a new Hall Manager. Cllr Mrs. Allen and Cllr Knibb volunteered to do this and the Clerk would make the necessary arrangements when the closing date was reached. Cllr Amos and Cllr Rashid volunteered as Reserve Members for the Appointment Panel.

Clerk  
6/8/08

#### **14. Village Green – access request.**

Under confidential terms, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that agreement be reached in principle to proceed with access and parking agreement on a lease or licence basis and the Clerk be delegated authority to instruct the Councils professional advisors accordingly.

Prior to closing the meeting, the Chairman announced she wished to resign her position as she felt unable to do justice to the role. She could not continue due to her work and other commitments and whilst remaining as a Parish Councillor this would be her last meeting as Chairman. Cllr Mrs. Haywood expressed her personal appreciation to the Chairman, whilst understanding her reasons and **MEMBERS UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED** this view, knowing the tremendous work and commitment the Chairman had given to her duties undertaken on behalf of the Council. The Clerk added her personal thanks and sadness at this unexpected announcement.