

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLE
BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 31ST JULY 2013
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr J Whelan

Councillors: Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr I Hiley Cllr M Rashid
Cllr Mrs. A Haywood Cllr J Horne-MacDonald Cllr J Riordan
Cllr E Hicks Cllr E Knibb Cllr A Terry
Cllr Miss J Ward

Officer: Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council and RFO

Public: 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr R Amos, Cllr M Hayes, Cllr Mrs. L Smith and Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins were noted for the reasons given.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or conflict of interests.

None declared.

3. Dispensations.

None received.

4. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Knibb, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 26th June, 2013 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

5. Questions from Councillors.

Cllr Hiley asked with the recent spell of hot weather and the positive interest/feedback in the parish councils new adult exercise equipment in the park, could consideration be given to selling cans of pop and bottled water from the wardens office? The Chairman reminded members that the draft Parish Plan had indicated a need for refreshments in the park and if a sports festival was held next summer then a community café could be beneficial. The Chairman asked that this matter be referred to the Leisure Services Committee in September and this was **AGREED**.

Cllr Miss Ward referred to the recent car smash outside Arden Hall and **PROPOSED** that the parish council should request information from the Borough Council and the police about the cause of the accident and what measures they would instigate to improve safety at the notorious junction of Marlborough Road and Water Orton Road? This was **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, and following a vote, **WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**. Cllr Miss Ward said that, in a personal capacity, she planned to do a petition about the excessive speed of motorists and motorbikes. Cllr Mrs. Haywood referred to the parish council's previous request for a pedestrian crossing that the borough council had investigated to see if the bus layby could be utilized. The Chairman expressed the councils thanks to the staff for the assistance they had given to the emergency services and the Clerk in turn thanked local residents for their support too. Cllr Riordan asked if Bor Cllr Richards could confirm if a Speedwatch scheme could be given to local residents to operate and pass details to the police.

6. Questions from the Public.

Under Standing Order 70, the Chairman adjourned the meeting to invite questions from

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LSC
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Asst. Clerk
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members of the public. Bor. Cllr Richards replied to the question from Cllr Riordan and said the parish council may wish to set up a voluntary Speedwatch scheme in Castle Bromwich. He explained that, after training, residents could take registration numbers of speeding vehicles which would stay on record with the police. If the same motorist was later caught by the police the records had a clear effect on the proceedings. The vehicle activated speed signs on Water Orton Road drew attention to speed but enforcement was the responsibility of the police. He also explained there was a long procedure to get a new pedestrian crossing and he had been trying for two years to get one on Green Lane by St. Clements Church. This had now passed the first stage and was awaiting a second assessment. If that was successful it would then go on the waiting list.

A resident and member of Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club from the Whateley ward referred to the question regarding sale of refreshments in the park and suggested that as the Pavilion was open as a social club on Tuesday, Fridays and Saturdays that they could work together with the parish council to help supply the public with drinks.

7. Communications.

Members noted the information listed. The Chairman referred to the first item and asked that a letter of thanks to be sent to Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club who had sent congratulations on his appointment as Chairman. He said that all communications were currently taking place between the Club Secretary and the Clerk and he hoped that after issues were concluded that some normality could return to procedures. Members noted additional communications had been received about North Solihull Summer Football scheme, community café, park run idea, North Solihull Ward newsletter and letter of thanks from Castle Bromwich Singers for the time given to them by the Leisure Service Committee meeting to discuss stage lighting. The Clerk reported to members that she had driven around the parish with PCSO Collins and a Civil Enforcement Officer one Friday morning to address the parking problems discussed at the last parish council meeting. Appropriate measures were taken between the team, with verbal requests for 3 vehicles to be moved from pavements and 2 written warnings placed on vehicles on parish land. A further warning on 2 vehicles were issued by the Clerk warning of impending prosecution if further breach of byelaws took place. Another PCSO (on his bicycle) issued a ticket to a motorist at the Green for using his mobile phone while driving. Although no tickets were issued by the CEO, the team felt it was very valuable to make a start on trying to get the message through, hoping to repeat this exercise at different times and on different days in future. The Clerk was also pleased to report that following her application for a free new heating system for Arden Hall a letter had been received saying it had been successfully shortlisted, with results to be announced in September.

With the consent of members, the Chairman invited a member of the public to speak. A resident from the Bradford ward reported that Birmingham City Council were starting a new initiative nearby, in partnership with the police, who had approached tenants to inform them it would become illegal to park their vehicles on grass verges. Offenders had been told they would be prosecuted by the police and he undertook to get details for the parish council on the process being adopted. Bor Cllr Richards also clarified that the grass verges being removed on Chester Road near Hurst Lane were to provide the cycleway connections from the Birmingham boundary through North Solihull.

8. Standing Order No. 70 – Amendment.

Following adjournment at the last meeting, members individually expressed their views on whether Standing Order 70 should be amended to change public participation during Council and Committee meetings. Following consideration, **IT WAS PROPOSED** by the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, that existing style of public participation be

extended to Committee meetings and sub-committees and brought in line with the NALC Model Standing Orders section 1, as circulated. **IT WAS PROPOSED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, that the motion be amended that changes should be for a trial after six months and be reviewed after that time. Following a vote, this was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**. The Clerk confirmed that agendas would reflect these changes from September.

9. To appoint Representative to outside Bodies.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Knibb, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Cllr Knibb be the second representative of the Council to serve on the HS2 Community Forum, noting that he could only attend if the dates did not clash with his other commitments.

10. Terms of Reference.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the tabled terms of reference for the Staffing Panel, unchanged from the previous year, be approved.

11. Footloose Project – Publicity and Official Opening.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the press release approved by the sub-Committee be accepted and issued. Following consideration of the message sent by Cllr Amos and the options previously explored, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Rashid, **SECONDED** by Cllr Miss Ward, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the official opening should be done jointly by Chairman of the Parish Council and the Mayor of Solihull, recognising the work and success of the sub-Committee on the project. An early date should be sought preferably taking place at a weekend if possible. Members then clarified the sub-committee's unscheduled discussion about an extra door in the pavilion and this was referred to the Leisure Services Committee in September.

12. Village Green Notice Board.

Following consideration of the financial quotes, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that a notice board for the Village Green should be ordered from Capital Joinery, with agreement on the section sizes of the display boards to be delegated to the Clerk. **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** that a site visit should take place for all members to assess the precise location for installation of the board.

13. Storage of Equipment/Demolition of Garage.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Knibb, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the garage should be demolished, as previously recommended by the council's surveyor. Members questioned whether there should be an inventory of equipment, assessment of floor area required and if a storage container was recommended then to agree on its location. A resident and member of Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club from the Whateley ward said that storage containers were not ideal as a permanent solution and offered for the Club to provide a second opinion to the Council on the structural state of the garage and options for repair. This offer was duly accepted but as pointed out by the Clerk, the decision to demolish had actually been made. She would delay taking action to allow the Clubs view to be submitted for the September meeting. Cllr Knibb referred to the safety of the building and the Clerk confirmed it was not too dangerous to be in use, provided nothing further was stored on the roof as had happened before and signs warned that no access should be attempted. After a query, she undertook to have any missing signs replaced.

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Asst. Clerk
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Asst Clerk
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Members
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Club
Asap

Clerk
Urgent

14. Pay Award.

Members noted the revised pay scales received from the National Joint Council for Local Government Services, confirming the results of national negotiations. A 1 % increase would need to be implemented in line with contractual agreements from 1st April, 2013, which was the first change since 1st April 2009. Members also noted the deletion of Spinal Column Point 4 from 1st October 2013.

Clerk
Asap

15. Solihull MBC Main Modifications to Solihull Draft Local Plan – July 2013.

Following confirmation from several members that the website link supplied was not operational, there were no comments to be submitted on the changes.

16. Independent Investigation.

Members had received the views of the Cricket and Sports Club and considered this, together with the advice from WALC that the independent investigation report commissioned by the parish council into the issues with Castle Bromwich Cricket & Sports Club could be published in the absence of a joint statement and agreement by the Club. The Chairman read to members the relevant part of the resolution by the Council at its meeting on 5th December 2012 setting out the terms of the investigation: "... that the findings of fact would be binding on both parties and made public in the shortest timeframe; ...". The Chairman invited members to individually state their views and **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the professional advice received should be followed by publishing the report. The Chairman reminded a member of the public that questions were not appropriate at this stage of the meeting.

Clerk
asap

17. Licence Agreements – Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club.

The Chairman said that the Council wished to have relations with the Club back on good standing and wanted to encourage sport with young people too. As soon as the Council's solicitor provided the information needed in a format the council could agree, the licences would be signed and issued to the Club. A member asked if the information was with the solicitor and the Clerk confirmed it was, although separate clarification had been sought on one area. The Solicitor would then summarise the options open to the Council. The Chairman asked for this to be provided for the September meeting.

Clerk
18/9

18. Finance and Payments.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Hiley, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as listed and tabled be approved. Members noted that should any urgent payments be required during the August recess, the Clerk would do so under delegated powers and approval be sought retrospectively at the next meeting.

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19. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 3rd and 10th July 2013, having been circulated, be received and noted.

20. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesdays, 26th June and 10th July 2013, having been circulated, be received and noted.

21. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Mrs. Haywood reported that on Monday 24th June ???, she had attended a Full Governors Assembly at Castle Bromwich Junior School when a large number of children

had been given certificates.

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that on 2nd July 2013 the Youth Council had discussed the DVD project and agreed to invite Park Hall students to attend the meeting in September to give an update. It was hoped that two DVD's would be available for November. On 16th July the Youth Council had held a working party meeting to discuss the wording and information plan for the notice board at the Village Green. A grant had been received from the Dame Mary Bridgeman Trust for £150 for new plants for the sensory peace garden but as she had difficulty in finding suitable 'blue' plants this may be deferred to the following spring. Members had also discussed a visit to the Mayor's Parlour and a council meeting at Solihull MBC and a visit to Birmingham Airport.

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that on Tuesday 9th July, through the Dame Mary Bridgeman Trust, she and Cllr Mrs Haywood had attended a performance of Macbeth at St. Mary & St. Margaret School. Also on Thursday 11th July they had watched a production of Matilda at Castle Bromwich Junior School. Both performances had been most enjoyable and she requested that letters of thanks be sent.

On Thursday 11th July, Cllr Mrs. Allen had attended a meeting of Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Trust where staff matters were discussed. Although the Trust was in need of more volunteers, it was pleasing to note that the car boot sale was very well attended and it raised about £1000. On Saturday 17th August a 1960's event was being held, working with Castle Bromwich U3A.

Cllr Whelan reported that on Thursday, 11th July he had attended a meeting of the Solihull Area Committee of WALC at Meriden Sports Pavilion. Also present were Councillor Knibb and the Clerk. Officers were elected for the coming year and Cllr Brian Brown from Cheswick Green Parish Council took over as Chairman. A vote of thanks was given to the retiring Chair, Cllr Rosie Weaver from Meriden Parish Council. The main speaker was Sarah Barnes, the Solihull Partnerships Project Manager from SMBC. She spoke of the various initiatives with which she was involved, most of which were concerned with helping families in difficulties. She handed out a sheet detailing the various referral routes for customers in financial difficulty. Richard Lloyd from Balsall Common Parish Council was not present so there was no HS2 update but Gill Lewis from Hampton PC gave a brief overview of developments at Birmingham Airport. There was a general discussion on the environmental impacts of both projects, tempered only by the acknowledgement that economic benefits must also be taken into account. The meeting also secured representatives to attend the County Committee. Feedback was given on the meeting with SMBC to discuss the Charter for Better Working Between SMBC and Parish and Town Councils. It would appear that there was some resistance from SMBC members present to engagement with Parish and Town Councils but overall the meeting believed the Charter to be a very good piece of work and the contributors, including our Clerk, are to be congratulated on their efforts. Hopefully within Castle Bromwich, we the Parish Council will be able to work closely with our Borough colleagues. Finally, Cllr Whelan commented on the marvelous facilities at Meriden - their modern pavilion and sports fields, tennis courts and playground were excellent. They funded the facilities by selling land and forming a Sports Association which has secured charitable status and which has two Parish Councillors on the Board

22. Report of the Officer of the Council.

The Clerk reported that Solihull MBC had confirmed the next Stakeholder Workshop for the Hurst Lane Place Project would be held on Tuesday 3rd September at the same venue, with limited places available. The latest resident's concerns had been tabled for the month

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of July and the latest Bar Stock reports were available for councillors to scrutinize and would be officially reported at the September Leisure Services Committee. In accordance with procedures, members noted that £75,000 had been withdrawn from the investment account to enable payments to be processed. The Hall Manager had finalized the refurbishment programme for the Windsor Room which would be commencing on 14th August. Finally, the Clerk said she had sent personal congratulations to the Cricket and Sports Club for their forthcoming 60th Anniversary Festival celebrations. As a gesture of goodwill, the park would remain open until 9.30 pm for the current week as a temporary measure, with the proviso that Wardens had discretion if they felt it necessary to close at the normal time of 8 pm.

23. Report of the Chairman.

The chairman reported there was only one engagement in July when on Monday, 22nd July he attended an evening organised by Castle Bromwich and District Lions Club. The event was to present some silver and gold Young Leaders in service awards to three young people from Castle Bromwich Youth Centre. Two had completed 50 hours of voluntary service and one had done 100 hours. One of two mainstream initiatives run by the Lions, the involvement of young people in community activities was to be applauded. One of the projects to benefit from these awards was the clearance work undertaken in the Parish Church graveyard. The event was held at Castle Bromwich Youth Centre and the present manager, Rob Wyatt, gave the invited guests a tour of the facilities. Although small by comparison with others in the Borough the Centre had some good facilities and a thriving group of young members. Unfortunately due to budget cuts the Manager was being forced to look elsewhere for employment despite his wishes to stay on and continue his excellent work at the Centre. The Chairman wished him well for the future.