
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL,
CASTLE BROMWICH ON
WEDNESDAY, 2ND MAY 2007
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

Chairman Cllr J Riordan

Councillors

Cllr J Dutton
Cllr Mrs. A Haywood
Cllr M Hughes
Cllr D Kettle
Cllr C Pearce
Cllr Mrs. J Smith
Cllr Miss J Ward
Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins

Officers: Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council
Public: 1 member of the public [Item 4 onwards]

1. Apologies.

None received.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Kettle, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Smith, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4th April 2007, having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Manager's Report.

Members considered the report written by Mr. Witten in the absence of other Managers. After discussion and consideration, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve the following matters: support in principal for a formal written record when dealing with hirers who breached the regulations and that the new Working Party compare the example researched by Cllr Mrs. Smith which required named stewards and showed clearly the penalties faced; recommendation that information sheet be given on arrival of hirer at their function, copy being signed and retained by the Manager; that a basic tool kit be obtained to replace what had gone missing; that 3 quotations be urgently sought for a replacement cooler for the Windsor cellar and **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Kettle, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk be delegated authority to take a decision in consultation with the Chairman of the Council and each Committee, which could be retrospectively submitted for ratification. Cllr Pearce asked when the work would take place and it was agreed to be done after 16th May. Quotations for a replacement floor buffer should also be sought by Mr. Witten. The letter regarding corkage was considered and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that there was time for Miss Ratcliffe to find a supplier on her return and if not successful be re-considered. The

hirer complaint and information from Mr. Witten was discussed and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that an apology should be made for the kitchens not being as expected, reassurance that the Duty Manager was now making inspections, clarification that the boiler was not broken and had therefore not required repair and that a reduction was not appropriate. A request should be made that any future problem should be reported at the time of hire to the Duty Manager and thanks expressed for letting the Committee know of their concerns. The Clerk told members that a resignation had been received from a member of the cleaning staff, which she would respond to shortly and **IT WAS RESOLVED** to consider appointing a cleaner for 6 hours per week on a fixed term contract for 6 months requiring a flexible approach to availability for shifts. The last request from Mr. Witten was to provide virus protection for his computer as he feared the risk to the operation of Arden Hall if it became infected again. Cllr Riordan distributed the quotation previously deferred by the Finance and General Purposes Committee which was now complete and **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Kettle **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the recommendation of the PC Doctor should be accepted and the Clerk authorized on this occasion to use her credit card to order over the internet the network licence for virus protection as quickly as possible.

5. Bar Stock Report.

Under confidential terms, members noted the bar trading analysis and information supplied and were pleased with the work of the stock auditor, which had been witnessed by the Chairman.

6. Residents' Concerns.

Noted by members.

7. Communications.

Routine communications received since last meeting were noted as follows: LCAS Bulletin / Request from Bosworth Primary School for support of Family Learning Projects / Castle Bromwich Gazette / Solihull MBC proposed Dog Control Orders / Advertising rates for White Wedding Pages / DIS Bulletin / Solihull information on new Code of Conduct / Ashbourne Senior Living Brochure / request from Solihull MBC to further investigate Playing Fields regarding flooding of resident's gardens – possible excavation / ACAS Newsletter / It's Our Space CABE publication / SLCC newsletter / Forestlife Free journal / Penzers Rate reduction update / Graffiti removal solutions / Solihull College training / Solihull MBC Regeneration of Kingshurst and Babbs Mill / Business Link / Speaking Out WM Regional Assembly / Solihull in Bloom Match Funding Scheme / War Memorials in England and Wales / Statutory Instrument No 1159 on Revised Model Code of Conduct. Also received: letter regarding wine supply for function / LGE subscription details / Clerks & Councils Direct journal / invitation to Chairman to attend Scouts AGM on 17th May / Future is Ours – quality of life strategy for older people 2006-2013 / NALC briefing on Revised Code of Conduct / VAT and petrol element within allowances 07/08 / Children's Centre meeting dates / Solihull MBC Granting of licence application by Londis / WALC training opportunities / SCVS newsletter / Planning document for implementation of Smokefree Legislation / Local Council Review journal / BBC Flog It show on 13th May / Heartbeat NHS newsletter / NALC Local Council Awards 2007 closing dates / DIS Extra bulletin / acknowledgement of Lottery Application form / NSBF opportunity to promote your business.

8. Report of Working Parties.

Cllr Riordan reported that the Marketing Working Party had just discussed the provisional plans for a quiz night on Friday 15th June; the promotion of Arden Hall as a separate entity; the production of an Arden Hall newsletter to review past events and advertise forthcoming attractions/groups; to have a regular monthly Arden Hall editorial in Gazette,

with photographs of activities, and to consider the Echo and/or Colebridge News to get a wider reader base. Cllr Gibbins, as a member of the public, said that Chris Beebee's recent tribute band event was badly attended by councillors. Additional lengthy discussions took place under confidential terms.

9. Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club.

Members discussed the correspondence received from Paul Messenger and Graham Cook and the following decisions **WERE RESOLVED**: the keyholding problem was noted and the Wardens would again undertake weekend locking duties; the request for a purpose built scoreboard was supported in principal but the Club were to be made aware of the limited lifespan of the garage and any structural changes to any scoreboard would be at their own risk and expense; the tennis proposals were approved and congratulations expressed on the success of the tennis section and their publicity encouraged. Cllr Dutton referred to an enquiry received by the North Arden Local History Society from a member of the Cricket Club regarding the origins of the playing field and he would be informing them that the Parish Council began negotiations in 1937 before obtaining a compulsory purchase order in 1954 to buy the land.

10. Accounts.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Dutton, **SECONDED** by Cllr Kettle, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the accounts as set out in the enclosure be approved.

11. Clerk's Report/Open Spaces Report.

The electrical inspection had been postponed again for the pavilion and eventually commenced on 30th April with the report awaited. This has been difficult to arrange, partly due to the illness of the electrician but was a conditional requirement for the renewal of our insurance. An interesting catalogue had been received showing a new range of playground equipment and written confirmation of a possible partnership agreement was awaited, supported in principal by the Youth Council at their most recent meeting. According to the police, an incident had occurred in the car park on Sunday but no details had been forthcoming or notified to staff. In confidence, a problem was reported at Hob Farm and appropriate action instructed to the Clerk. Hob Farm concerns continued to be reported by residents and were recorded by the Council Office.

The Clerk said that Cllr Gibbins had earlier requested that a second Warden be put on duty at the end of the day to avoid staff facing conflict alone when dealing with locking up problems and abuse by youths. Two incidents had been reported already this week and passed to the police. Cllr Mrs. Haywood informed members she had experienced horrendous anti-social behaviour problems whilst in the pavilion on Monday evening with her Brownies and Cllr Mrs. Smith, as a parent of a Brownie, also expressed her worries about safety in the playing fields. Cllr Mrs. Haywood had been unable to contact the police and the Park Warden had also been most distressed when youths were on the roof. Cllr Kettle suggesting re-applying the anti-climb paint to the eaves of the building. Cllr Gibbins, as a member of the public, stated the park should be closed at 6 p.m if the police failed to attend and the press informed of the reasons behind such closures. Cllr Mrs. Smith thought the Parish Council could write to Ch. Supt Scobbie to make him aware of the problems and the Chairman suggested that the situation be monitored until the next meeting. Cllr Gibbins warned that one Warden would not continue in his job but Cllr Hughes said that Wardens were also likely to object to returning to work at the end of the day or turning out on their days off for just one hour. Cllr Mrs Smith objected to closing the park early

at this stage and felt the police should be given the opportunity to catch the culprits and issue deterrents. Cllr Pearce thought the police had a duty to ensure that 7 year old girls were not terrorised in Castle Bromwich. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk raise the problems with the police and request support for Park Wardens and attendance on the 14th May (next Brownie meeting), with the precaution of closing the park if the police were not able to attend. The Clerk also reported a problem with fly tipping in the park which Wardens were endeavouring to remove. Two evening football matches have been held due to cup fixtures at the end of the season but one caused a delay for the warden when the team accepted the closing time of the park and the need to play for a shorter period but the referee adamantly insisted on playing the full match time. Consequently, members of the public refused to leave the park whilst the match was in progress and a difficult situation developed. Preliminary concerns were raised about quality of pitch marking which had already been discussed with the contractor, future work being monitored. A resident had complained this week about overhanging branches at Bradford Gardens but a site visit would be necessary to gather more information. Members were asked if they knew who the responsible authority was for the hedgerow adjacent to the fence. Cllr Gibbins said that the deeds would show that information. However, the Clerk had looked at the deeds but was still unsure if it was the Parish Council's responsibility. Cllr Gibbins repeated that the information would be in the deeds and the Chairman kindly offered to look at the information with the Clerk. Members were informed that the Clerk and her Assistant continued to cover shifts as Duty Managers in the continuing absence of Hall staff. Mr. Witten had expressed concern about shortage of change for bars but no action was recommended at this stage. Training information was tabled and copies of the recently reprinted Parish Councillors' Guide were distributed to members. The election papers for the forthcoming election in the Bradford ward had mistakenly referred to West Yorkshire instead of Solihull MBC.