

**MINUTES OF THE 116TH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
OF THE PARISH OF CASTLE BROMWICH  
HELD ON TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010 IN ARDEN HALL,  
CASTLE BROMWICH COMMENCING AT 8.00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Electors of the Parish

CB04	1363	Cllr J Riordan		Cllr Horne-MacDonald	CB04	862	Mrs M Turner	
CB05	1283	Mrs A Hands			CB04	861	Mr A Turner	
CB04	1374	Mrs M Riordan	CB01	1393	Cllr J Whelan	CB05	1503	Mrs J Floyd
CB04	1314	Cllr Mrs J Smith	CB02	59	Cllr I Hiley	CB02	926	Mr D Bache
CB01	171	Cllr Mrs B Wilkins	CB05	334	Cllr Mrs A Haywood	CB03	336	Mr M J Pursall
CB01	1883	Mr J E Holland	CB05	5	Cllr R Amos	CB02	1412	Mrs S Webb
CB05	1227	Mrs E Beeby	CB04	1314	Mrs Janet Smith	CB02	1854	Mr J S Ward
CB05	344	Cllr M Hayes	CB02	61	M/s M Slyfield	CB01	1885	J Walden
CB05	343	Mrs J C Hayes	CB04	933	A Smith	CB03	503	Mrs J Payne
CB05	661	Mrs B Walker	CB04	1542	Mr J G Dutton	CB01	1736	C Kinnell
CB05	68	Mrs A S Aucott	CB02	1535	Mrs A Baker	CB05	662	Mr N Walker
<u>Members of the Public</u>			CB02	1536	Mr M Baker			<b>33 Electors</b>

Mr B Kavanagh  
Cllr Mrs P Allen  
Mrs Sue Brain  
Mrs B Franklin  
Meghan Franklin

Mr D Kettle  
Leanne Knight  
M/s Kerri McLachlan  
Mr R Jackson  
Lynette Reeve

Sgt D Hewitt  
Mr E O Howard  
Mr P White  
Hayley Knight

**14 Public**

Officers:

Mrs C. D Tibbles, Clerk to the Council.  
Mrs D Weir. Assistant Clerk

**2 Officers**

**Total Attendance: 49 people**

The Chairman, Cllr John Riordan, welcomed everyone who had remained for the annual parish meeting and thanked them sincerely for attending. He had been pleased to present the Chairman's Charity Fund donations before the meeting commenced.

**1. The Notice to convene the meeting.**

The Clerk read the notice to convene the meeting, copies having been circulated and published on notice boards.

**2. Apologies for Absence.**

Ward Cllr Richards, Cllr E Knibb, Cllr Mrs J Smith, Reverend G Douglas, Cllr M Rashid

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

The minutes of last year's meeting had been made available prior to the meeting and were taken as read. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes and seconded by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the 115th Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009, having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**4. Report of attendance.**

	Actual Meeting	Possible Meetings	
Cllr Mrs Allen	46	46	100%
Cllr Amos	20	27	74%
Cllr Nigel Harris (Resigned 12/11/09)	8	17	47%
Cllr M Hayes	43	45	96%
Cllr J Horne-MacDonald (Co-opted 27/01/10)	6	11	55%
Cllr I Hiley	22	24	92%
Cllr Mrs Haywood	41	50	82%
Cllr E Knibb	30	40	75%

	Actual Meeting	Possible Meetings	
Cllr Mrs. T. Knibb (Resigned 16/4/10)	13	33	39%
Cllr Rashid	13	24	54%
Cllr Riordan	45	50	90%
Cllr Mrs Smith	13	35	37%
Cllr A Terry	34	39	87%
Cllr Miss Ward	14	24	58%
Cllr Mrs Wilkins	19	24	79%
Cllr J Whelan (Co-opted 28/4/10)	1	1	100%
Average - whole Council			73%

Many councillors continued to serve on numerous Working Parties/Committees that were not reflected in these figures above, which related to full Council and 2 Standing Committees. There was currently 1 vacancy to be declared.

**5a Report of the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee  
Councillor M Hayes**

Cllr Hayes reported on the work undertaken by the Finance & General Purposes Committee during the past year. The Committee considered planning applications and last year had considered an application for the erection of a telecommunications pole on Bradford Road. This had been strongly objected to by the Finance & General Purposes Committee and he was pleased to report that the application had been turned down by the Borough Council's Planning Committee.

Finance – The Parish Council had set the precept at £219,288 which represented an increase for 2010/2011 of 2%. The Council's Finance Committee had met to discuss it's budgets for the forthcoming year and had increased the number of cost centres in order that the Council could more effectively monitor spending for the individual sites. In making these decisions and changes, he thanked all councillors who sat on the Finance & General Purposes Committee, in particular to those members who brought in-depth knowledge and experience. The Clerk read her report, which had been available before the meeting, and which was attached as an appendix to these minutes.

**5b Report of the Chairman of Leisure Services Committee  
Councillor Mrs. Haywood**

Cllr Mrs. Haywood said what an interesting and very diverse year it had been. From planting and generally clearing and tidying the war memorial ready for the Remembrance Service last November to the mass of spring bulbs which were planted and looked glorious in the spring sunshine. Ongoing work was taking place on the Green, in which the Youth Council were very involved and was now well on the way with the new bench in place. She hoped that those people that lived around this area would enjoy the benefits of this work and with their help the Council could keep The Green somewhere to be proud of.

The Garden of Memory at the rear of Arden Hall has lost its forbidding look with the large conifers removed and a raised bed now in place. The replanting started last year and again bulbs were planted, with several other shrubs and work would continue during this year so that people could be able to sit and enjoy a small oasis in this busy place. She invited everyone to please take a look – certain that they would be pleasantly surprised.

Since the Parish Council decided to invest in a full and complete structural survey of Arden Hall which gave us the knowledge that the building was “good” for another 40 years work had continued to upgrade and refurbish the building. The work on the Spencer Lounge had been completed, new windows with integral blinds, painting, new carpets and furniture which reflected the hard and dedicated work done by the Parish Council and its commitment to Arden Hall. This dark and dingy area was now light and inviting for all to enjoy.

Bookings for Arden Hall continued to increase, with more groups using and enjoying the venue. The extension to the ground floor booking office had proved a success and the general appearance of the frontage had made a huge difference. A planning application to have two disabled parking spaces was approved last year and in the near future we hoped to be able to start work.

New play equipment in the Park for children of all ages had been agreed and I understand that companies were now being asked to quote. It is hoped that this equipment would be in place for this summer, which after the long hard winter, she was sure will be hot and sunny.

The Joint Liaison Group involving the Cricket and Sports Club with members of the Parish Council has resulted in both sides having a better understanding of all the issues involved. There was still work to be done, but talking does bring the best rewards and ways forward,

sometimes not always agreeing, but agreeing to keep talking and progress was being made towards the end goal "Agreement and Understanding".

There was success when travellers decided they would like to take up residence in Bradford Gardens. Again by working together, the Parish Council with the police/residents meant they didn't stay long and so we avoided what could have been a difficult situation.

For her to say thank you seemed the easy part, but she did sincerely mean to everyone thank you for your support and help over the last 12 months. Being in the Chair was not always the easy seat to occupy and sometimes however hard you try - as they say "you cannot please all of the people all of the time, but at least we can please some of the people some of the time"..... and that is worth shouting about.

Thanks were given to Tina Kite, the Hall Manager, and her team for all their hard work and the continued commitment for the future of Arden Hall - we were now starting to see the real results of everyone's endeavours. To Cathy Tibbles for all her excellent advice and knowledge she had given and for the support that was always there and to her team who have also supported Cllr Mrs. Haywood when needed. To the Parish Council and Councillors for always being available to help in whatever way from fund raising for the Chairman's Charity to "getting their hands" dirty - thank you. And to those of the community who come to our meetings and keep her on the right track - keep coming, keep supporting the Parish Council with your interest. It is appreciated by us all, and just maybe she would get it right - she could only hope.

Thank you

## **6. The Chairman's Address - Councillor J Riordan**

Cllr Riordan thanked everyone for attending the 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting. He referred to the reports from the chairmen of the Parish Council's two standing committees and the valuable work they did for the benefit of Castle Bromwich residents and on everyone's behalf, he thanked the Chairmen and the committees for what they had accomplished in the past year. On a personal note he wished to say that this year as Chairman of Castle Bromwich Parish council had been interesting, enjoyable and at times challenging. He had represented the Council at many events. In June he attended two Civic Services, our own at St Mary & St Margaret's Church and the other at Solihull Parish Church. In July, he and other councillors visited Park Hall Academy for a Summer garden party and a tour of the new school. August brought a sad occasion when he represented the Council at the funeral of Rifleman Joseph Murphy killed on active service in Afghanistan. In September we held a Macmillan coffee morning here at Arden Hall with £664 being raised for that charity. In October and March he had hosted Quiz Nights in aid of the Chairman's Charity Fund.

The annual Remembrance Service was held in November. It was an honour to take the salute from the services marching at the Parade. Also in November was the annual Carol Concert held here at Arden Hall. December being the festive season he attended two Christmas parties organised by Age Concern and the Friday Club. He had also attended a Celebration evening at Park Hall Academy to celebrate their student's achievements.

February saw another sad occasion when he and other councillors attended the funeral of Mr. Woodhouse who had regularly attended Council meetings as a member of the public. Also in February he and the Vice Chairman went to the Castle Bromwich District Guide Association Centenary Thinking Day Service at St.Clement's Church. Last month he had attended the Easter Event at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens when, with he and his wife assisted the Mayor & Mayoress of Solihull in judging the Easter Hat Parade. A difficult task as the standard was so high.

He then expressed his warm thanks for all the kind invitations received during the year and also thanked the Vice Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Pauline Allen, for her help and support during the year and for attending functions which he had been unable to attend.

Prior to this meeting Cllr Riordan had presented donations from the Chairman's Charity Fund to various local organisations. He thanked all those who have worked hard putting on events to generate cash for this Charity Fund. 23 worthy causes have benefited this year.

## ***The Civil Parish of Castle Bromwich***

*DRAFT MINUTES UNTIL FORMALLY ADOPTED IN MAY 2011*

Finally he thanked all his fellow Councillors for their contributions to the working of this Council during the past year, and the Clerk, Hall Manager and all Parish Council Staff and Friends of Arden Hall for all their hard work over the last 12 months.

The Chairman invited questions from members of the public present and introduced Sgt David Hewitt, West Midlands Police, advising that he was also available to answer any questions from members of the public.

### **7. Questions from Parishioners**

Mrs Eva Beeby, Friends in Retirement, referred to the recent refurbishment work undertaken in the Lounge and queried when the Parish Council proposed to undertake work to the kitchen. She also queried when work would be undertaken to the Spencer Hall as Friends in Retirement played bowls and it was often very dark as the blinds could not be opened. The chairman advised that the Parish Council were considering priorities for the coming year and it was likely that refurbishment would be on the agenda very shortly.

The Chairman concluded by expressing thanks to everyone for attending the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.