
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL,
CASTLE BROMWICH ON
WEDNESDAY, 5TH MARCH 2008
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

Chairman Cllr J Riordan

Councillors

Cllr Mrs. P Allen
Cllr E Knibb
Cllr Mrs. T Knibb
Cllr Mrs. A Haywood

Cllr M Rashid
Cllr Miss J Ward
Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins

Officers: Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council

Guest Speaker: Ian Clarkson, Fusion Project [Item 4 only]

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr Mrs. J Smith 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 Mrs. Wilkins, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6th February, 2008, having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Guest Speaker: Ian Clarkson, Fusion Project

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Clarkson to the meeting and invited him to outline the project. Mr. Clarkson explained that Fusion was basically an opportunity to give free sport access to young people in North Solihull aged from 10-19 as an alternative to wandering the streets. Activities were scheduled for approximately 30 hours each week and additional holiday schemes for Easter, summer and October. The project had started in September 2006 and he had been involved since November 2006. Each week up to 200 youngsters were involved and funding had been obtained from Sport England, Solihull MBC and the Regeneration Partnership so that charges to youngsters were usually avoided. He thanked the Parish Council sincerely for their support in grant aid and in providing the Playing Fields free of charge and was grateful to Waterloo Housing who paid for coaches and equipment for the holiday schemes in Castle Bromwich. In September a new scheme for providing 'sports coaches' was being set up via New Deal. A portable pitch had recently been bought, including floodlights, so that it could be set up in places where young people were, with initial plans to use it by the doctors at Bosworth Wood. A successful Thursday night scheme had been running at Park Hall school since July. Questions were invited and Cllr Mrs. Haywood asked when Hob Farm would be used as a venue for soccer coaching again? Mr. Clarkson replied that the Monday scheme had been very successful but it depended on funding and the closing times set by the Parish Council. The Chairman suggested that Fusion apply to two local charities for grants to help schemes in Castle Bromwich – the Richard Knight Trust and Dame Mary Bridgman Trust. Mr. Clarkson added that a successful basketball scheme had been done at Lanchester School during school time, although this timing was unusual. He knew lots of companies existed in North Solihull and hoped businesses could help support the scheme. Cllr Mrs. Knibb offered to help deliver leaflets door-to-door for him and the idea of the Youth Council pursuing an astro-turf pitch was raised. Mr. Clarkson offered to advise the Youth Council further on this matter if required. A survey questionnaire was also being conducted and a new soccer coaching pilot scheme started on 12th March at the Castle Bromwich Youth Centre between 6-8 pm for 10 weeks. He explained that coaches cost £600 for 2 hours week, for 2 coaches for a 10 week scheme and said if there were more volunteers then even more could be achieved. Cllr Mrs. Allen asked if schemes were operating at the Grace Academy and he confirmed there were dance and boxing schemes. A project working with homeless people at Morris House had been done but on reflection it was better to avoid transport problems by holding things in local venues within walking distance of participants. In summary, the Chairman concluded that the Parish Council

5. Manager's Report and Arden Hall issues.

Members considered the final report written by Mr. Witten, prior to the part-time return of the Hall Manager, and noted the contents. Cllr Mrs. Knibb referred to the problems with staining on the Spencer floor and offered to try a specialist craft ink remover she had, which was accepted. Members discussed the bookings requested by Gavin Prime and more detailed proposals of a new Theatre School at Arden Hall on Wednesday evenings were tabled for consideration. Members were reminded this had developed following the closure of Phoenix Players and the desire of the Parish Council to have more young people using Arden Hall to enable grant funding (especially from Arts providers) to improve facilities. After discussion, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that cautious support in principal be given to this project with conditional agreements being drafted by the Clerk and signed by both parties for a trial basis of 6 months, reviewed after 3 months. Hire regulations must be adhered to, children kept under tight control, the Spencer Hall, kitchen, foyer and dressing room to be used and on other occasions the Windsor and/or York Room and/or Pavilion offered subject to availability. Hirers paying the full rate would retain priority use of the Spencer Suite. The Parish Council would need to be provided with a copy of Starz public liability, to agree the wording of the banner publicizing the new Theatre School and to have a firm commitment to put on a show with ticket sale/bar income proceeds going to the Parish Council. Cllr Rashid suggested the banner highlight the support of Arden Hall. Members were aware of the hidden costs of the project (e.g. heating, lighting, duty manager costs) and would need assurance that the income from paid ballroom dancing lessons was to be invested in the costs of running the school. A commitment by Starz to continue using the Hall after the trial period was over would be requested by the Parish Council. Members also noted the outstanding works requiring attention and the cancellation refund was agreed. The Chairman, on behalf of the Leisure Services Committee, expressed his thanks to Mr. Witten for the work he had done whilst at Arden Hall and wished him well for the future.

6. Bar Stock Reports.

Under confidential terms, members noted the stock reports and bar trading analysis.

7. Residents' Concerns.

Members noted the circulated information.

8. Communications.

Routine communications as listed on agenda were noted and the following additions: NALC Remit of Legal Advisory Service / NALC LTN1 Councils' Powers to Discharge Their Functions / Payroll Year End procedures / Information Commissioners Office Data Protection training / Advice Note Freedom of Information.

9. Landscaping – Development of the Village Green.

Ad.Asst
14/3

Clerk
6/3

Cllr Mrs. Knibb updated members on the original sponsorship aims for this project and confirmed that Sita would consider an application as this was a separate site and a separate project to the Cricket Club's scheme. An application to the British Airport Authority could also be made by August for the September allocations. Advice needed to be sought from a landscape contractor (Neil Adkins, grounds maintenance contractor was able to recommend one) and she believed grants should be available to cover the costs. Two or three design quotes should then be sought. Members agreed this was a large project for this important area and could be something the Parish Council would be proud of developing into a 'Remembrance' focal point, possibly linking in to the war memorial. **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** the Working Party be clarified as comprising Cllr Terry, Cllr Mrs. Allen, Cllr Miss Ward, Cllr Mrs. Wilkins and Cllr Mrs. Knibb and to investigate a design brief with a landscape architect so that 3 quotes could be obtained to enable fund applications to be made.

Date
TBA

Cllr Mrs. Allen referred to the signwriter details she had passed on but Cllr Mrs. Knibb had not made contact yet.

10. Provision of Snacks/Catering outlets trading on Parish Council land.

Members had not yet undertaken any research but realised many issues would need to be considered (health & safety, food standards, hygiene, litter, pest control, risk assessment). **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the proprietor to ask for his detailed views on the above topics so that the Parish Council could evaluate his proposals more fully, together with his suggested weekly payment to the Parish Council.

Clerk
12/3

11. Boiler Room – Arden Hall.

Members noted the inspection certificates that had been issued by the maintenance contractor, following recommendations from the insurers.

12. Payments.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as set out in the enclosure, be approved.

13. Clerk's Report/Open Spaces Report.

Members noted the illness of a patron the previous week, who had sadly died later in hospital and commended staff for their sensitive handling of the matter. Several messages for the Clerk were outstanding, including responding to the tree surgeon, dealing with 3 reports of youth nuisance that day at Village Green seeking police assistance, hirer proposals for partnership working to establish theatre school (as tabled); update on the pavilion clubroom work which was progressing, pavilion sewage pump problem, electrical problems, CCTV disruption (the Clerk to pursue quotations), several meetings and support continued for member of staff, walking bus plans for Castle Bromwich Junior School were progressing (planning to meet on the grass area outside the Windsor Room, first aid training for the Assistant Manager, voluntary workers continued to excavate the playing field ditch and clear the overgrown shrub; updates required from members on outstanding action points from previous meetings, crockery still awaiting disposal, contact to be made with artist regarding display of work, the website was in need of further updating. Cllr Mrs. Knibb had spoken to the webmaster but felt unable to take on this responsibility and due to the minimal charges applied she felt it best to remain with current procedures. The PAT testing and stage lighting assessments were in hand and waiting for dates from contractors. The showers had been put out of order until repairs assessed and residents asking for information on Village Green lighting, which the Clerk would pass to Solihull MBC for action.

Clerk
12/3

