

**MINUTES OF THE 115TH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
OF THE PARISH OF CASTLE BROMWICH  
HELD ON TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2009 IN ARDEN HALL,  
CASTLE BROMWICH COMMENCING AT 8.00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Electors of the Parish

CB04 1363	Cllr J Riordan	CB01 699	Youth Cllr A Knibb	CB04 862	Mrs M Turner
CB04	Mrs M Riordan	CB01 700	Cllr E Knibb	CB04 861	Mr A Turner
CB04 1314	Cllr Mrs J Smith	CB02 59	Cllr I Hiley	CB03 38	Mr E F Woodhouse
CB04 1572	Cllr A Rashid		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	E Beebee	CB05 1228	N Beeby	CB02 1854	Mr J S Ward
CB05 344	Cllr M Hayes	CB05 7	Vicki Amos	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 Kimmell
CB05 68	Mrs A S Aucott	CB01 1089	Mr J Gibbins	CB05 662	Mr N Walker
CB05 1283	Mrs A Hands				

31 Electors

Members of the Public

Cllr Mrs P Allen	Mr I Backhouse	Mrs V A Davidson
Miss S Olton	Cllr A Terry	Mrs S Brain

6 public

Officers:

C. D Tibbles, Clerk to the Council. 1 Officer

Total Attendance 38 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.**

Sgt O Reilly, Insp Reischmiller, (West Midlands Police), Caroline Spelman MP, Ward Cllr Richards, Cllr Mrs B Wilkins, Cllr N Harris, Cllr Mrs T Knibb

**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 Rashid, IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the 114th Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008, 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	42	43	98%
Cllr Amos	25	32	78%
Cllr Nigel Harris (Co-opted 17/12/08)	10	13	77%
Cllr M Hayes (Co-opted 28/01/09)	10	10	100%
Cllr Mrs. Sue Baker (Co-opted 17/12/08 resigned 29/4/09)	6	8	75%
Cllr I Hiley (Co-opted 25/3/09)	3	3	100%

	Actual Meeting	Possible Meetings	
Cllr Mrs Haywood	43	45	96%
Cllr E Knibb	34	40	85%
Cllr Mrs. T. Knibb	11	24	46%
Cllr Rashid	15	22	68%
Cllr Riordan	44	47	94%
Cllr Mrs Smith	11	31	35%
Cllr A Terry	31	43	72%
Cllr Miss Ward	14	22	64%
Cllr Mrs Wilkins	32	37	86%

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Average - whole Council

78%
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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 were currently 3 vacancies declared and 1 vacancy to be declared.

**5a Report of the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee  
Councillor J Riordan**

The Chairman, Cllr Riordan, reported that the Parish Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee had considered 61 planning applications during the year, including one application for siting of a mobile phone mast which the Committee objected to and which was refused planning permission by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. The Committee had also considered and objected to a licensing application. Cllr Riordan advised that the Borough Council no longer issued hard copies of planning applications and these were now only available online. He referred to the problems this presented to the Committee with viewing plans, but advised that the Parish Council had been successful in its application to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council to take part in the pilot scheme for planning e-consultation whereby the Borough Council would provide the Parish Council with a laptop and data projector to display plans at meetings.

Cllr Riordan referred to the grants awarded by the Parish Council to voluntary organisations and community groups, which the Parish Council considered would benefit the residents of Castle Bromwich. He stated that applications for grants are considered by the Parish Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee and this year the Committee had donated £1038 to 6 eligible organizations.

Cllr Riordan thanked the Vice Chairman and all Committee Members for their contributions to the working of the Committee during the past year and called upon the Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer to present the financial report for 2008/09.

The Clerk read the report, which had been available before the meeting, and which is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

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

Cllr Mrs. Haywood, Chairman of the Leisure Services Committee spoke about the work of the Committee which looked after Arden Hall, its Parks and Open Spaces. She felt this was the most interesting part of being on the Parish Council and since becoming a member of this Committee, realized how much there was to learn about the work of the Parish Council.

Cllr Mrs. Haywood reported that Arden Hall, Castle Bromwich's Village Hall, was very much open for business with the appointment of the Hall Manager, Mrs. Tina Kite, the new members of staff and Park Wardens.

Cllr Mrs. Haywood referred to recent building works undertaken to Arden Hall, and the new frontage and additional office space. The Booking Office had been moved to the Ground Floor making it easier and more accessible for residents to make a booking. Other refurbishment works were planned and taking place.

Work had been undertaken to the War Memorial on the Village Green which had also included work to the circular paving in the centre. This had been undertaken prior to the Remembrance Service and Parade in November. She was pleased to see a big improvement following the makeover to the Village Green and further work to the flower beds was planned.

Cllr Mrs. Haywood reported that residents had expressed concern at the theft of benches from the Village Green and after consultation and much consideration the Council planned to replace and re-instate the benches. It was felt that it was particularly important to replace the

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bench in memory of Robin Draycott who had served for many years on the Parish Council and the other benches which had been stolen. Although the new benches would not be in the same place as the ones removed, the Parish Council hoped that many residents would be able to continue to enjoy relaxing on the benches and watching the world go by.

She stated that the Parish Council would be keeping a close watch on the Village Green and hoped that going forward everyone would respect the Green and keep it as a pleasant area to be enjoyed by all.

Cllr Mrs. Haywood advised that the Memorial Garden at the rear of Arden Hall was now also being replanted and if any residents felt they would like to remember someone by giving a plant or shrub for planting in the Memorial Garden, to let the Parish Council know. She invited members of the public interested in donating a shrub to visit the Garden, which was opened on a daily basis by the Park Warden. She advised that it was unfortunate that the garden had to be locked on occasions, but this was to ensure that it would not be spoilt for those who wished to enjoy the quiet atmosphere.

She advised that the Parish Council's Leisure Services Committee also looked after trees on the Parish Council's land. New saplings had been planted to replace those trees that had died and needed to be felled. A number of the saplings had not survived, either through being broken or vandalized or dying. All trees were inspected on a regular basis to check for disease and to make sure they were safe.

Cllr Mrs. Haywood referred to the new joint Liaison Group between Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club and the Parish Council, which had been established to discuss and try and resolve issues which had arisen and to achieve a better working relationship. She stated that if anyone wished information about the Cricket and Sports Club or any of the other sports activities to contact the Clerk to the Council who would let people know who to get in touch with.

Cllr Mrs. Haywood concluded by saying that it had been an interesting year and if anyone was interested and wished any further details on the work of the Parish Council, to come to one of the parish council meetings or to contact a member or the Clerk. She thanked the Clerk for her help, support and valuable knowledge and thanked the Chairman, Cllr Riordan, for his advice and assistance, especially when she was in the 'chair'.

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 115th Annual meeting of the parish of Castle Bromwich, thanking residents for finding time to attend this important meeting in the parish council's year which demonstrated their interest in the work undertaken by the Parish Council on behalf of residents of Castle Bromwich. He advised that the Chairman normally begins his year of office in May, but he had taken on the role in July following the resignation from the Chair of Cllr Mrs. Barbara Wilkins due to work and other commitments. He thanked Cllr Mrs. Wilkins on behalf of the Council for her tremendous work and dedication during her time as Chairman over the past two years.

The Chairman advised that he had attended two civic events, the Civic Service at Saint Mary and Saint Margaret's Church in June as Vice Chairman and the Remembrance Service at the Village Green in November as Chairman. Both events had been expertly organized and involved a lot of hard work. He thanked all those involved in making these events, which had been well attended, a success.

As Chairman he had represented the Council at several functions and he expressed thanks for all the kind invitations he had received during the year. He also expressed his thanks to the Council's Vice Chairman, Cllr Mrs. Pauline Allen for her help and support during the year and for attending functions he had been unable to attend.

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Last July guest speakers from Castle Bromwich Neighbourhood Police Team and Officers from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council namely the Public Protection Manager, Community Safety Manager and the Neighbourhood Manager attended the Parish Council Meeting, when concerns had been raised by members of the public regarding anti social behaviour which had occurred on or around the Village Green. They had requested the area be designated an Alcohol Restricted Zone and asked for the reinstatement of the Dispersal Order. These requests were endorsed by the Parish Council and it had made a formal submission to the Safer Community Strategic Board which had been referred to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Unfortunately, the requests had been turned down and the Chairman advised that the Parish Council proposed to monitor the situation.

The Chairman stated the Parish Council strongly supported the need for anti social behaviour in Castle Bromwich to be properly and firmly addressed.

Prior to the Annual Parish Meeting, donations had been presented from the Chairman's Charity Fund to various local organizations and the Chairman thanked all those who had worked hard putting on fund raising events to generate cash for this Charity Fund from which 17 worthy causes have benefitted this year.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Mrs. Alison Haywood as Chairman of the Leisure Services Committee and all fellow Councillors for their contributions to the working of the Council during the past year and to 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.

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

Mr.Woodhouse raised issues regarding the Parish Council's finances and reserves. He thanked the Parish Council for keeping within its precept and not carrying high reserves. He wished that more parishioners would take an active interest and attend parish council meetings, in order that they could think about what they wanted the Parish Council to do.

The Chairman advised that the precept was set by full council and it was important for residents to express views to enable the Council to take these into consideration when setting the precept.

The Chairman concluded by expressing thanks to everyone for attending the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 8.23 pm.