
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
YOUTH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON TUESDAY 8th January 2008
AT 17.00 HRS**

Those present:

Vice-Chairman: Cllr Miss G Healy

Councillors

Cllr T Clayton

Cllr Miss R Jennings

Cllr Miss E Vincent

Officers: Mrs C Tibbles

Guests: Cllr Mrs T Knibb, Cllr E Knibb

1.

Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr A Knibb, Cllr Miss R McDonald, Cllr Miss C Moylan and Cllr Miss S Ross were accepted for the reasons given.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Cllr Clayton, **SECONDED** by Cllr Miss Jennings, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 6th November, 2007 having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

3. Questions from Councillors.

The Clerk read the following written question submitted by Cllr A Knibb: "I have the following propositions for this Council to consider and discuss among members. This Council is aware of a new Parish Council committee formed to progress the regeneration of Castle Bromwich. This regeneration project is designed to engage the youth and their parents in active participation in achieving its aims and to get all generations using our parish facilities. It would seem logical that our Youth Council take a prominent and leading role in directing and organising the regeneration plan as it is ultimately aimed at our benefit, both now and in the future. I therefore propose that this youth council gives serious consideration to increasing our number of meetings to parity with the full Parish Council i.e. monthly except for August. This will enable the youth council to actively participate and help inform the new committee of the direction that the youth and their parents would want the regeneration project to take. These proposals were:

1. This youth council should meet eleven times per year on a monthly basis except for August as per the full Council.
2. Those members of this council who wish to volunteer their services to the various working parties being formed by the new committee, forward their details and areas of interests and expertise to the chairman of that committee, indicating their willingness to help.
3. That this council generate their own ideas for fund raising and things we'd like to see happening in Arden Hall and the community and forward those ideas to the committee Chairman either directly or through the Link Councillor.
4. That this council actively promote this new project and its activities to our friends, to our parents and families and in the clubs that we attend and feed back any ideas that we receive from them to the committee Chairman or the Link Councillor.

The Vice-Chairman recalled the Working Parties established by the Youth Council in the past

and the problems with getting enough attendance. Expanding the membership was discussed and **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Cllr Miss Vincent, **SECONDED** by Cllr Clayton, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs. Knibb take a supply of co-option forms to a meeting arranged at Park Hall School and seek their assistance in encouraging pupils to become members. **IT WAS RESOLVED** to defer a decision until after the next item had expanded on the plans.

5. Guest Speaker: Cllr Mrs. Terrie Knibb.

At the invitation of the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mrs. Knibb explained that the Parish Council was looking at the use of Arden Hall by the community. Visitors were predominantly over 50 and it was hoped to change what was on offer to get a younger input and improve the future survival of the Hall. Suggestions of events with appeal to young people were National Games Console Championship, Young Musician of the Year, Internet station, recording studio, fundraising events with a fun basis. Things needed to change and plans made to offer what was required. The Parish Council needed to know what people really wanted and Cllr Knibb said that people were not using the Hall enough. Cllr Clayton had taken part in the annual pantomime, which attracted young participants and audiences. Cllr Miss Healy said that when she went out it was usually to places outside Castle Bromwich because her friends from school lived in other parts of the city. Her interests were mainly sporting, particularly tennis. The Clerk reminded members of the ideas discussed at the March meeting after visiting local schools. Cllr Clayton suggested badminton, trampoline and Tai Kwon Do. Cllr Miss Jennings knew of a local band, as yet unnamed. Cllr Miss Vincent suggested regular youth sports events each month/week with different activities on a rotating basis. It was acknowledged that neighbouring facilities that were successful might not support or visit Arden Hall or Castle Bromwich as a venue. Cllr Mrs. Knibb suggested fundraising by bag packing at Morrisons or an It's A Knockout competition but stressed that practical help would be needed.

After hearing Cllr Clayton's results of the questionnaire, further suggestions were made by members as follows: to concentrate on outdoor facilities and activities in the park, to hold a community Fun Day event – inviting police, fire service, bouncy castles etc. If the police were able to support the community then the park opening hours could be extended into the evening. The successful Building Blocks project in Handsworth, which several members had practical knowledge of through their schools, could be beneficial to Castle Bromwich if a scheme could be started and there was enthusiasm for an activity day like “Class in the Park” and a visiting playbus. The Youth Council **WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** in its support for this regeneration project but knew their practical help (and their parents) would be limited due to present commitments and school exams. **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** to consider Cllr A Knibb's proposals at the next meeting as an agenda item.

6. Questionnaire.

Cllr Clayton explained the results of the questionnaires and copies were tabled for members – average age of respondents was 22, although this was distorted by some replies by grandparents on behalf of young people. One of the most popular suggestions had been a swimming pool, although members agreed with Cllr Miss Vincent that traveling to existing nearby facilities was not a hardship for most people. The expense and investment could be better spent on sports facilities, either indoor/outdoor Astroturf or multi-surface games areas. Trampolines were particularly discussed.

7. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk tabled a document from the Solihull Partnership “An Equal Chance” which members were invited to read before the next meeting. The Vice-Chairman asked if a reply had been received from Travel West Midlands and the Clerk confirmed that nothing further had been received.

