

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2012
AT 19.30 HRS**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr A Terry

Councillors: Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr E Hicks Cllr Mrs. L Smith
Cllr M Hayes Cllr J Horne-MacDonald Cllr J Whelan
Cllr Mrs. A Haywood Cllr J Riordan Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins

Officers: Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council/RFO

Also Present: Cllr R Amos, member of Grants Working Party

Public: None.

1. Apologies.

None received.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hayes, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesdays, 30th November, 14th and 21st December, 2011, having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4. Planning Applications.

The Planning Applications received since the last meeting were considered and the following recommendation made to the Borough Council:-

Application No	Applicant	Location	Type
Recommendation to the Borough Council			
2011/2048	Mr Trevor Davise	5 Bentley Road	MINOR FULL APPLN
Could be approved subject to any neighbour's comments.			
2012/42	Mr Nayeem Ahmed	231 Chester Road	MINOR FULL APPLN
Could be approved subject to any neighbour's comments.			
2012/72	Mr & Mrs Hussain	22 Marlborough Road	MINOR FULL APPLN
Could be approved subject to any neighbour's comments and subject to Building Regulations due to size of extension.			

ACTION

Admin
Asst.
09/02

5. Flags.

Members considered the information circulated and after discussion, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hayes, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the quotation from J W Plant be accepted as offering the combination of best quality for the price quoted. The Council would require a 6' by 4' union flag sewn in woven polyester with rope and toggle, a 6' by 4' parish council flag with the crest appliquéd and shown centrally on both sides with rope and toggle, at a cost of £147.10 plus the cost of artwork, carriage and VAT being clarified.

Asst Clerk
15/2/11

6. Planning Portal & National Planning Policy Framework.

Members noted the information available and booklets from CPRE were taken to read and circulate accordingly.

N.B. All Minutes are deemed as draft until formally approved and signed.

7. Grant Aid.

Members considered the applications received and **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that in accordance with Section 145 of the Local Government Act, 1972, it should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and would benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure, Castle Bromwich Library be awarded a grant of £180 for the Arabella Storyteller workshops, with a further application being welcomed in the spring for this enterprising and valuable opportunity to reach young children and parents in the parish. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hayes, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that that in accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, it should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and would benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure, Miss Munro be awarded a grant of £150 towards the cost of an expedition for her Queens Guide Award, with the welcome opportunity for local groups to hear later of her service to guiding and inspirational work with young people.

8. HS2 Community Forum.

Members considered the information received and **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Cllr Terry and Cllr Mrs. Wilkins be appointed to represent the parish council and its parishioners on the new HS2 Community Forum. The first meeting would provisionally take place at Arden Hall on either 2nd or 4th April, at 6.30 pm.

9. Working Parties and Steering Group.

Cllr Amos updated members on results of the Grant Working Party, tabling draft information from Alan Crawford and a summary of the quotes prepared for the initial submission which were duly discussed. He thanked Cllr Riordan and Cllr Hiley for providing valuable assistance and hoped the funding application for £65000 to refurbish the Windsor Room would be successful, with the council contributing £13000 towards the work. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Horne-MacDonald, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the report be endorsed and the application be processed by the Clerk, supported by Cllr Amos and Mr. Crawford on or soon after 21st February, with minor amendment to the wording to show 'heating and ventilation' as part of the refurbishment needs. Members discussed further the colour scheme for redecorating the Spencer Hall and **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS RESOLVED** by 5 votes in favour, 4 against and 1 abstention that the walls be painted in Pumice Grey and the woodwork and stage front Sierra. Cllr Mrs. Allen reported on activities of the Open Spaces working party. After discussion, Cllr Hayes agreed to co-ordinate the responses of the Standing Orders working party from July 2010. He would also ask for the NALC Model Standing Orders that had been loaned to the working party to be returned promptly to the Clerk so that amendments could be sent in draft to members for consideration at the March council meeting.

10. Residents Concerns.

Members noted details of recent concerns raised by residents, including licensing issues, and discussed the broken wall at the Coach & Horses public house. The Clerk was asked to contact the landlord, copied to the brewery, to urge a date for repairs be scheduled and Cllr Hayes undertook to confirm details by email.

ACTION

Clerk
AsapRA/Clerk
21/2Hall Mgr
AsapMH &
Standing
Orders WP
URGENTClerk
21/3MH/Clerk
Asap

11. Training.

Following consideration of the 3 requests received, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hayes, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that all applications be approved at a cost of approximately £172 being funded by the Councillor Training budget.

Asst Clerk
Asap**12. Clerk's Report.**

Members noted that the Council had received legal advice on how the Clerk should deal with requests to confirm identities of other persons, which should only be undertaken in an individual capacity, although it was acceptable to add her job title as a professional person. The advice was the same for certifying a copy of an original document which could also be done in an individual capacity. The Council did not have a specific power to levy a fee for this service but in the past the Clerk had asked for a donation to the Chairman's Charity Fund. Requests were received less frequently over recent years and care was always taken before agreeing to any request. The planned opening of an account specifically for investment of reserves had not met the council's preferred criteria and would be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting to be discussed, although progress was now being made with the new bank account. The disposal of old confidential papers had been efficiently collected, with further records now being sorted for disposal. Preparations were well underway for changes to office equipment, access to equipment and internal audit dates confirmed. Information had been submitted to update the War Memorial website but not yet appeared on display.

DRAFT