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large parish and town councils held their investment funds with HSBC, Royal Bank of Scotland or the Coventry Building Society. The Clerk reported that on-line/internet restrictions for councils would continue as new legislation had been delayed and was still not listed for parliamentary consideration. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, subject to **AMENDMENT BY** Cllr Knibb that the interest rate should be higher than existing, with 7 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the contingency and earmarked reserves (estimated by the Clerk as being £68,000) be invested in Royal Bank of Scotland to get higher interest.

Clerk  
Aug.09

### **9. Training.**

The Clerk had circulated the training papers on Visionary Leadership to existing Chairman and Vice-Chairmen. Cllr Knibb questioned the budgetary allocation as insufficient but was reminded that it had been more than sufficient until last year. Cllr Riordan questioned the tabled printout and after scrutiny of previous printouts, the Clerk confirmed that the WALC subscription had been miscoded and the balance was not currently overspent. Following the whole council induction training paid to Bill Robinson, Cllr Hayes said sufficient funds should be retained for new councillor training. Members considered the request for training from the Clerk and **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, with 7 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that approval be given for her to attend the national SLCC conference in the autumn.

Admin.  
Asst.  
Re-code  
asap

### **10. Capital Projects.**

After consideration, members deferred the quotations for computer replacements to the autumn budget planning. The Clerk would check the memory needed for the new financial software and subject to capacity on the existing server, the matter would be referred back to this committee.

Clerk  
Sept.09

### **11. Communications.**

As requested by a member of the public, members considered at length whether to record council meetings and how to improve communications. The following points were made during discussion: indisputable records; legal restrictions of recordings; recordings already made by parliament and all councils; treatment of confidential discussions; cost of equipment and recordings; security of recordings; manner of recording; openness of existing system; importance of wording to avoid being misconstrued; scale of proceedings between a parish council meeting and the Houses of Parliament; standing orders; proceedings for members of the public being recorded; inhibiting of discussions; sale of meeting recordings; concerns of 'big brother'; meetings already open for public attendance; humour at meetings; members remaining focused. Following an offer by Cllr Harris, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, with 4 votes in favour, 3 against and no abstentions, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that Cllr Harris research the technicalities, cost and practicalities involved in recording council meetings. Following a question by Cllr Terry, members agreed that the legalities, security, protection of abuse and preserving the interests of the public be considered at a later stage when Finance and General Purposes Committee had reviewed information from Cllr Harris. The Clerk had researched options to mailshot residents but Solihull MBC had confirmed that 'Your Solihull' publication could not be utilized, although distributor details had been forwarded.

### **12. Flag Flying.**

Following consideration of advice, comparison of dates and discussion of views, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Terry, subject to an

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**AMENDMENT BY** Cllr Knibb that the resolution should not apply on 23<sup>rd</sup> April for St. George's Day and days when the Parish Council Flag should fly, with 6 votes initially in favour, none against and no abstentions, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Union Flag should fly every day. Cllr Harris asked to withdraw his vote and there were no objections to this – voting therefore amended to 5 votes in favor, none against and 1 abstention. Cllr Knibb asked that Cllr Rashid be given the opportunity to object if he wished and the Chairman asked the topic be included on the full council agenda for all members to consider this change.

Clerk  
16/7

### **13. Payments.**

Following scrutiny by members and correction of the supplier for vouchers 313-316, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris, with 6 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments, as listed, be approved, subject to the further advice and investigation of the bookkeeper for the next Committee meeting regarding the meetings dates being recorded on printouts instead of invoice dates. Members also received a current budget printout.

Admin  
Asst.  
asap

Book-  
keeper  
9/9

### **14. Clerk's Report.**

A letter had been received from the external auditor seeking clarification on some issues and a copy of the draft reply was tabled. Castle Bromwich Youth and Community Centre had replied to the notification of the parish councillor representative stating there was no longer a management committee as it was directly managed by the borough council. The Clerk had requested permission to return old planning applications to the borough council to make storage space for other archives. Following the question of Cllr Hayes, the bookkeeper had been undertaking further analysis of receipts and payments in recent years to track trends and this would be circulated to all members shortly. The Clerk had been covering staff absences and would continue to be affected by these until November, although she hoped to have one week 'time in lieu' in July. Following attendance of the LCAS annual seminar, the Clerk had spent time reviewing risk assessments and introducing new practice to improve the council's duty of care to non-employees. Two volunteers had commenced their placements and lengthy inductions had made clear the instructions, guidance and practices. A new contact form had been devised and views invited from members. Three new young people had been co-opted at the last Youth Parish Council meeting and Cllr Hayes stressed the importance of supporting their good ideas and making progress with their plans to ensure the youth councillors were valued. A site meeting had been suggested by Alison Lush to make progress on the Village Green sensory project. Cllr Hiley and Cllr Mrs. Allen had attended the Remembrance Parade planning meeting when it had been agreed to return to the route used in 2007 and parade around the village green rather than utilizing Chestnut Drive. The Clerk would instigate the necessary risk assessments, changes to parade orders, apply for road closures and plan the details of the event. Under confidential terms, the Clerk reported a staff matter.