

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 9TH JUNE 2010
AT 19.30 HRS**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr M Hayes
Councillors: Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr J Horne-MacDonald Cllr A Terry
 Cllr Mrs. A Haywood Cllr J Riordan Cllr J Whelan

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

Public: None.

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr Mrs. J Smith were noted. Cllr E Knibb was absent.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared.

3. Election of the Vice-Chairman.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Cllr Terry be elected as Vice Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the Civic Year 2010-11.

4. Review of Terms of Reference.

Following consideration and in line with agreed procedures, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Horne-MacDonald, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to retain the existing terms of reference and delegated powers, which would be recommended to the Council.

5. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesdays, 28th April and 12th May, 2010, having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the meetings.

6. Planning Applications.

The Planning Applications received since the last meeting were considered by the Committee and the recommendations thereon are set out in the appendix. Members viewed the missed planning information for Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Trust.

7. Licensing Applications.

After consideration of known facts, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that strong objections be made to this application as the Parish Council was aware of existing problems of anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol consumption on the neighbouring Village Green.

8. Residents' Concerns.

Members noted the circulated information.

9. Traffic Restriction – Clifton Road.

Following consideration, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the proposal be supported due to the longstanding problems experienced by residents in this area with inconsiderate parking. The Clerk would also highlight the support of the Parish Council to the "Walking Bus" each day from Arden Hall which may additionally help reduce parking congestion near to the Castle Bromwich Junior School.

ACTION

Council
30/6

Clerk
10/6

Clerk
9/6

Clerk
11/6

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

10. Professional Advice.

Under confidential terms, members noted the professional advice received and the level of the fee, which was later approved. The matter would be referred to full council.

11. Dog Matters.

The Clerk tabled several documents, which had been provided to the Leisure Services Committee, for discussion at their July meeting. The matter was duly noted and the Clerk undertook to prepare an information leaflet which could invite views of dog owners and open space users on any potential changes.

12. Council Procedures.

Following discussion, members noted their satisfaction with existing procedures but thought the Standing Orders Working Party may have some valuable suggestions when consideration had been given to the new NALC Model.

13. Pension Information Topics.

Members noted the updated information available in the latest bulletin.

14. Solihull MBC – Draft Countryside Strategy

Members noted the consultation and complexity of the strategy. This was deferred to allow time to read the document.

15. Trainings.

In line with the training policy, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by the Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that two places be booked on 17th July for Cllr J Horne-MacDonald and Cllr J Whelan, at a total cost of £70. The Clerk tabled copies of planning guidance for the 2 recent members.

16. Payments.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as circulated be approved. Members noted that the safe log sheets were available for scrutiny and new budget printouts were available to view, although report formats were still being refined by the Clerk/Bookkeeper before being circulated.

17. Clerk’s Report.

Members noted the report, including the anticipated software training in May being cancelled. Some changes had been completed on the Council website, with new photographs of some members appearing for the first time. Unfortunately, there had still been no progress with the Planning Portal initiative and the new laptop and data projector provided by Solihull MBC over a year ago remained unused. The council insurance policy has been taken out with Zurich Insurers at a substantial saving on the previous costs and the Clerk commended the bookkeeper for his diligence and persistence on this matter. Some members were asked to liaise on dates for future meetings.

ACTION

Council
30/6

LSC
7/7

Standing
Orders
WP
Date tba

FGP
14/7

Clerk to
confirm