
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL,
CASTLE BROMWICH ON
WEDNESDAY, 9TH JULY 2008
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

Chairman Cllr Mrs. A Haywood

Councillors

Cllr Mrs. P Allen
Cllr J Riordan
Cllr A Terry
Cllr Miss J Ward
Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins

Officers: Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr Mrs. T Knibb and Cllr M Rashid were accepted for the reasons given. Cllr E Knibb was representing the Parish Council at a WALC meeting elsewhere.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4th June, 2008, having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Manager's Report and Arden Hall issues.

Members noted the limited report available, the outstanding matters and the repairs undertaken/pending. The Clerk updated members on partial completion of long awaited lighting repairs, new immersion heater, flood repairs to Spencer floor, alarm upgrade quotation sent to the police, Q build usage suggestions/staff construction training and electrical tests. Staff rotas were being planned weekly and vacancy would be advertised for 2 cleaners (Gazette/website). Members set a date to undertake the annual inspection (all members) on 23rd July at 6.30 p.m. and building maintenance matters were deferred until the inspection when priority issues could be delegated to the Clerk for action required. The proposal for Theatre Workshop usage by Castle Bromwich Theatre Group was deferred until the inspection. The Clerk reminded members that a volunteer was still required to co-ordinate the Friends of Arden Hall voluntary scheme. Following the Civic Reception in June, members **RESOLVED** to accept the request of Lakeland Catering to be the recommended caterer for hirers, in return for commission payments to the Parish Council.

5. Bar Stock Reports.

Under confidential terms, members noted the stock report prepared by Ms. Ratcliffe and detailed in the confidential appendix for members only.

6. Residents' Concerns.

All
Members
23/7

Clerk
30/7

Clerk
15/7

Asst Mgr.
25/7

Members noted the circulated information. The letter from Mrs. Draycott was clearly noted and when the insurers had assessed the situation members would consider what steps needed to be taken next. Support for residents suffering from ASB was again discussed at length although some requests by residents were outside the powers of the Parish Council and had already been passed to the police and Borough Council. Under confidential terms, members **RESOLVED** that investigations be continued into cost of additional security and professional advice sought on boundary/licence issues.

PC
Sept.08

Asst Clerk
Aug 08

7. Communications.

Routine communications and bulletins were noted and suppliers info / Environment Agency - River Tame Flood Risk Management Strategy / Ramblers' Association Walks Programme July-December 2008 / West Midlands LGA – Speaking out / Birmingham East & North NHS Primary Care Trust advertising stakeholder event Wednesday 23rd July 2008 at Bordesley Green Allotments / West Midlands LGA Training – leaflets advertising training courses / Unpaid Work questionnaire.

8. Future Plans for Leisure Services Committee.

After consideration, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that priorities should be consultation on the future of Arden Hall (via Gazette, press, libraries, hirers, notice boards, supported by councillors and staff); replacement of wooden frontage of Arden Hall (plans to be discussed by Buildings Working Party and preparations pursued); Bar and Stock control issues; how to address 'Antisocial Behaviour in Castle Bromwich' for residents and staff; Summer 2009 – consideration of Village Fete (plans to be discussed by Events Working Party).

A E H /
Clerk
ASAP

9. Pavilion Hire.

Following discussion by members, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the request by the Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club for increased discount in return for regular monthly hire payments could not be approved. The Club already benefited from the B rate 50% discount and a further 10% would also not be manageable due to having to accommodate frequent changes/additions to the Club block bookings. In June the Club had undertaken to complete all refurbishment work by 6th July and members, whilst appreciative of the valuable work undertaken, were mindful of some of the complaints from other hirers and the health & safety risks that had occurred. Members considered the written complaint of 28th June and supported Cllr Amos who found the letter personally offensive. **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Club be reminded that the terms of their lease were quite clear, that the Parish Council operated the park and the pavilion as a public facility and were duty bound to maximise income from all facilities to help with the costs of providing services for residents in the parish and the wider community. Members of the Committee supported the view that it was not feasible to have a private building in a public park and as previously considered, there was no desire from the Leisure Services Committee to consider selling the pavilion building to Castle Bromwich Cricket & Sports Club. Members recorded their full respect for the patience and diligence of Graham Cook and Paul Messenger and had recorded their thanks previously to the Development Committee for the work undertaken.

Clerk/RA
18/7

Members also considered the letter sent to parents of Bromford Lions Youth teams and found nothing untoward had been written. The Club had been approached by Bromford Lions in March about football and had advised them to approach the Parish Council, which Bromford Lions promptly did and on 1st April approval in principal was given to reach an agreement. The Club gave written support to the Lions request for football pitches in April but in May, the Council was surprised to be informed by the Club of their decision to form an alternative affiliation with Castle Bromwich United youth team. The Parish Council operated a waiting list prior to allocating pitches annually on a seasonal basis, according to interest expressed and was most pleased this year, to support youth football in the park by providing youth and junior pitches.

10. Sports Hire.

Following discussion by members, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to approve in principal the request of Bromford Lions to hold a charity event in Arden Hall (at no charge) on Saturday 6th September, to launch their new season and raise money for a local charity. The Clerk would pursue further details and liaise with the Club on specific details and requirements. Members noted that Castle Bromwich United were advertising (via their website) their 2nd pitch at Arden Hall and the Clerk was instructed to request this be corrected. Also, as charges were made to children for soccer coaching in the playing fields, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that a weekly payment was required, in line with other schemes in the playing fields that charged participants.

Clerk/
RA/TK
TBA

Clerk
25/7

11. Village Green access request.

Under confidential terms and following discussion by members, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that prompt legal advice be requested for the next Council meeting as members were mindful of their responsibility to act on behalf of residents and protect both their interests and that of the Parish Council in future years. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Standing Order 1(a) be suspended for 15 minutes to allow business to be concluded.

12. Hall Hirer.

Under confidential terms and following discussion by members, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that a new draft agreement be completed with more detailed information to aid clarity for both parties.

13. Payments.

Following resolution of queries from Cllr Terry and Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as set out in the enclosure, be approved.

14. Clerk's Report/Open Spaces Report.

Members noted the work undertaken by locksmiths, the Local Council Advisory Service H&S seminar attended by the Clerk and risk assessment update; quotation of £800 for steel green tube trip rail around flower bed (by Bradford Road) at the Village Green (although the Youth Parish Council might investigate bench provision as an alternative).

15. Staff Matters.

Following discussion under confidential terms, members noted information from the Clerk and endorsed appropriate measures being considered. Details in the confidential appendix for members only.