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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JUNE 2009 AT 19.30 HRS

Those present:

Chairman:

Cllr M Hayes

Councillors: Cllr Mrs. P Allen

Cllr J Riordan Cllr A Terry

ACTION

Cllr Mrs. A Haywood [Items 4-end]

Officers: Mrs. C Tibbles **Public:** 1 member of the public

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr E Knibb, Cllr N Harris and Cllr Mrs. J Smith were accepted for the reason given.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman invited nominations. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, with 4 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Cllr Terry be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for the Civic Year.

4. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, with 5 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesdays, 29th April and 13th May 2009 having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

5. 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.

6. Residents' Concerns.

Members noted the circulated information and it was felt that residents should be encouraged to report events directly to the police themselves, as without this evidence being logged by the police there would continue to be difficulty in resolving anti-social behaviour and crime in the community. Cllr Mrs. Haywood recalled the reluctance expressed by residents to herself and the Clerk when encouraging this action after the annual parish meeting last month. The Clerk was asked to contact the security firm for a report on any incidents when closing Hob Farm and also to contact a resident questioning benches being installed at the Village Green.

7. Working Party Reports.

There had been no recent meetings.

8. Surveyors Report on Buildings.

Members were reminded that the Leisure Services Committee wished to hold the Annual Inspection on Wednesday 17th June at 6 pm to particularly inspect the points highlighted in the report and to agree a way forward to decide the future. The Chairman stressed the importance of all members attending this meeting.

9. Investment Banking.

Members heard that research continued on suitable accounts but the Nationwide could only presently offer 0.01% interest rate so she would speak to other Clerks.

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10. Training.

ACTION

The Clerk reported no new requests for training had been received. As the training papers from the Visionary Leadership event attended on 21st February by Cllr Knibb and Cllr Mrs. Knibb were still outstanding, the Chairman offered to pursue this matter. The Clerk informed members she was attending a free Planning Portal training event on 16th June at Birmingham Council House and that there were still vacancies. She hoped that this would help her with understanding the new pilot scheme for councils to view planning application using new technology.

11. Grant Aid.

The Chairman reminded members of the need to declare any interests. The revised NALC Legal Topic Note on Section 137 expenditure had been distributed to members. After careful consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, with 5 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfied the requirements of that section, the Council approved expenditure in the sum of £250 in respect of the application from Solihull Community Furniture to help maintain their furniture van or a replacement vehicle and support volunteering costs to enable the shop to open longer hours. The Clerk would request a poster to help publicise the work of the shop within Arden Hall and the pavilion.

12. Payments.

Following scrutiny by members, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, with 5 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments, as listed, be approved. Members also received a current budget printout.

13. Clerk's Report.

Following completion of the audit after the last meeting, work had continued on the year end accounts. Preparations were well in hand for the external auditor although a request had been made by Cllr Harris for information about questioning the auditor, which the Clerk had posted to him. In response to a separate matter, the bookkeeper had confirmed that accruals year on year were not necessary for parish councils provided bills were proportionate for a whole year, contrary to commercial enterprises who did need to record this information in year end accounts. Cllr Mrs. Haywood had offered to help monitor the council website and alert the Clerk when updates were needed. Park Hall school had telephoned her to say that there were no new co-option forms for the Youth Council and membership remained very low. The police had supplied new information leaflets which members were urged to take and the new Joint Suggestion Box was in place at Arden Hall (by front desk) with slips for people to use. A change to membership was under consideration for Costco to a commission basis. The Parish Council had been independently certified as acceptable for student work placements. Fusion had confirmed the summer scheme proposals and in response to a direct request from the Clerk, had agreed to name the Parish Council as a partner in these activities due to the support given. Under confidential terms, members were updated on a land matter that would be considered further by the Council. The Clerk declared that a gift had been received from one hirer before she went on holiday but a further gift had been declined. Following her report, members discussed the low membership of the Youth Council and as the Finance and General Purposes Committee was responsible for the Youth Council, the Chairman offered to attend the next meeting to explore future options.

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Clerk