

7. Residents' Concerns.

Members noted details of recent concerns raised by residents.

8. Request for Grant Aid.

Members considered the application and the minor amendment to the amount requested. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the that Castle Bromwich Library be awarded a grant of £190 for the Arabella Storyteller workshops, on the proviso that any publicity poster should acknowledge the continued support from the parish council. Members were pleased to have the opportunity to reach young children and parents in the parish.

Asst.
Clerk
26/10

9. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk reported that there was an increasing workload currently, as expected with the civic events being organised. Clarification had been received from Solihull MBC on the Localism Act changes to the tax base, which would ultimately affect the precept calculations but not for April 2013. Solihull MBC were continuing with the current system but changes were possible in April 2014. An appeal was being made to the Environment Champions for local people to be a visible presence on Halloween to prevent distress to residents and a meeting for volunteers would be held by Solihull MBC on 22nd October. Authorisation had been granted for the Army Cadets to again march in Castle Bromwich at the Parade and the Clerk hoped new residents at The Green could have the service personally explained to them by members.

PA
Asap

An interesting invitation to attend a seminar for customers of Unity Bank had been accepted and the Clerk, accompanied by Cllr Mrs. Allen, learnt and explored issues with other customers. The satisfaction rate of customers was extremely high and it was hoped that once the system was fully operational that it would be time-saving for staff and an improvement on the current outdated technology. At the request of members, the Clerk would endeavour to have budget and statutory items only on the November Committee agendas. It may be prudent to hold a budget working party on Wednesday 21st November which all members were invited to attend. Cllr Mrs. Allen asked the Clerk to submit her travel expenses as she readily provided transport to members for all events that she attended and had never claimed for it.

Members
21/11

Clerk
Nov 12

10. Training.

The Clerk requested provisional consideration of her attending 2 training modules promoted by WALC, which would cost £90 if it went ahead. She was also interested in attending the SLCC Practitioners Conference in February and would contribute to the event if necessary.

- a) Members discussed the Code of Conduct training that had been presented by Solihull MBC and attended by several members. The importance of this training would be impressed on other members who were advised to attend when future dates were agreed.
- b) The new Code of Conduct would require changes for prompt implementation and the council would need to quickly decide how and when dispensations would be applied for, who would be responsible for granting them, and what process would need to be followed and if an appeal panel was required. It was suggested that standing orders include a requirement for members to declare conflict of interests (personal interests), in the same way as pecuniary interests would be required. As a result of the wording of the legislation, it would also be necessary for a blanket dispensation to be given to all members who lived in the parish to enable them to take part in setting the precept/budget and to review members' allowances. Individual dispensations would need to be considered on a case by case basis, with advice being sought from the Monitoring Officer when necessary.
- c) Unfortunately, due to internet maintenance, the final item had to be deferred.