

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2008
AT 19.30 HRS**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr J Riordan

Councillors: Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr Mrs. A Haywood Cllr A Terry
 Cllr R Amos Cllr Mrs. J Smith Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins

Officers: Mrs. C Tibbles **Public:** None.

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr E Knibb were accepted for the reason given.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

All Councillors declared an interest in the first application under consideration in Item 5, as the application was from the Parish Council and no comments would be submitted.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Amos, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesdays, 29 October, and 12th November, 2008 having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Guest Speaker: Andy Byron, Solihull MBC Planning.

Apologies were recorded from the guest speaker as due to communication delays, arrangements had not been confirmed. The Clerk would invite Mr. Byron to the next scheduled meeting on 14th January, 2009.

5. Planning Applications.

The Planning Applications/Decision Notices received since the last Meeting were considered by the Committee, the recommendations thereon are set out in the appendix. Members were informed that a Borough Council planning sub-committee would be meeting on 15th December to consider Birmingham International Airport runway extension proposals. Members of the public wishing to speak at the meeting are asked to register their interest by noon on 11th December. The Clerk informed members that no plans had been received for consideration at the Plans meeting on 17th December at 7.15 pm and that meeting would therefore be cancelled.

6. Residents' Concerns.

Members noted with interest the circulated information, particularly noting those relevant to this Committee.

7. Communications.

Routine communications as listed on the agenda were noted, with a query regarding SORP and Freedom of Information briefly discussed.

8. Budget Planning 2009/10.

After amendments made following the previous meeting, **IT WAS RESOLVED** the updated budget plan as previously circulated be duly accepted. Members noted there were no revisions made to salary forecasts.

ACTION

Clerk
15/12

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

9. Payments.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Amos, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as set out in the enclosure, be approved.

ACTION

10. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk reported that VAT advice had been received on 28th November, although the requested software advice had not yet been received so no changes had been implemented on bookings/bar stock control. Due to the negligible change to tennis rates and the forthcoming winter period, the Clerk did not propose to re-price these to reflect the 8p difference. The first insurance claim had been settled for the Pavilion break-in leaving the council to fund the £379.96 difference. The Co-operative Bank had supplied information regarding safety of investment opportunities and members felt it advisable to discuss this matter further in January. A publicity mailshot for forthcoming news was tabled for members views before distribution to the press. The forthcoming tender for work to improve Arden Hall's frontage had been advertised and documents distributed. With the lack of a management team, the Clerk would need to handle all aspects of enquiries and 5 appointments already allocated for builders for site meetings. A planning deferment had been requested by the Highway Engineers due to the disabled parking places and the Clerk was advised to call a site meeting, requesting the attendance of Borough Councillors as they knew the location well. An instruction to submit a building control application had been actioned by her, with accompanying fee but building regulations and structural specifications were an additional requirement which the Clerk would instruct a specialist to prepare, subject to 2 comparative quotes by Friday, to avoid serious delays with the project. At the request of the Clerk, members confirmed they had no objection to her delegated powers being used to resolve these problems, in consultation with Building Working Party members who had assisted at previous stages.

Clerk
7/01Clerk
12/12

Members noted the toy bank was now in place, shortage of staff meant that skeleton opening hours would operate with the Council Office and Arden Hall over Christmas and the New Year period with complete closures on 24th—28th December and 1st, 3rd and 4th January. Also daytime closures on 31st December although evening functions were taking place. With careful consideration for customers needing to book funerals, there would be limited booking office opening on the morning of 29th/30th December and evening of 30th December with normal hours returning on Monday 5th January. Following attendance of their celebration of achievements evening, the Clerk hoped that discussions with Park Hall School would improve relationships in specific areas – youth council membership, sports initiatives, Parish Council award for service to the community and citizenship within the curriculum (in partnership with the Borough Councillors). Cllr Mrs. Haywood had informed the Clerk that due to the timing of meetings she would be reluctantly unable to attend the Children's Centre Partnership Advisory Group and **IT WAS RESOLVED** to seek a new representative at the next Council meeting.

Clerk
Notice on
display
asapClerk
11/12

11. Village Green Access Request.

Under confidential terms, the Clerk tabled a letter received from the Chartered Surveyor for consideration and **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that further clarification be sought for Council before a decision could be made.