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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH  
ON WEDNESDAY 11TH APRIL 2007  
AT 19.30 HRS**

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**Those present:**

**Chairman:** Cllr P Scriven

**Councillors:**

Cllr A Buckley  
Cllr J Gibbins  
Cllr D Kettle  
Cllr E Knibb  
Cllr J Riordan  
Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins

**Officers:** Mrs. C Tibbles

**Public:** No members of the public.

1.

**Apologies.**

The apologies from Cllr J Dutton were accepted for the reason given. Cllr S Ward was absent.

**2. Declarations of Personal or other interests.**

None declared at this stage.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Ward, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesdays 31<sup>st</sup> January and 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 be signed as a true and correct record.

**4. Planning Applications.**

Planning Applications and any Decision Notices received since the last Meeting were considered by the Committee, and the recommendations thereon are set out overleaf. Cllr Mrs. Wilkins declared a personal interest in application Castle Bromwich/2007/579 because the applicant, Mr. Cranston, was a relative of a neighbour and consequently took no part in the recommendation made.

**5. Resident's Concerns.**

Noted with interest, including the two letters regarding the precept increase. Members briefly discussed comparisons with other charges by neighbouring parish and town councils. Cllr Gibbins referred to the parking problems raised by Mrs. Snape and asked if action had been taken by the Clerk but she replied that it still remained outstanding.

**6. Communications.**

Routine communications received since last meeting were noted as follows: Solihull Times / Castle Bromwich Gazette / DIS Bulletin / Solihull Tree Wardens Information / Letter from Bor. Cllr Ted Richards on behalf of some residents adjoining the Playing Fields regarding flooding of their gardens requesting consideration / ACAS Newsletter / North Solihull Voluntary and Community Alliance request for community information / Change in charges

for Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure checks / Confirmation of renewal of Data Protection Registration / Edge Design software information / no price increase for Green Garden Sacks for 07/08 / Local business information – care homes, activity centre / Work Experience request / Lyons Inquiry into Local Government / Core Strategy for Birmingham / North Solihull Business Forum newsletter / LSP Forum workshop results / NALC Financial Update. Also received: police newsletter / notification of withdrawal of Spitfire licence extension application / Solihull Area Committee minutes.

#### **7. Computer Virus Protection.**

Following a question by Cllr Gibbins on the 3 missing pages from the quotation, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to defer any decision until the next meeting when the information had been obtained by the Clerk and could be re-considered.

#### **8. Lottery Funding Application – Arden Hall and Community Regeneration.**

Members discussed the tabled information but concerns were raised about the cost difference between refurbishment plans and amount of grant funding being applied for; the opportunity to apply for a Public Works Loan; the need to plan what could be afforded at Arden Hall and the serious dilapidation of the wooden frontage requiring priority attention. If the toilet refurbishments (part of costs columns 1 and 3) and Lounge (costs column 2) were removed the figures could be reduced to within the level of funding applied for but **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Clerk request figures for the extension and replacement of the frontage (column 4) and that they be reduced to within £250,000. Members considered changing the focus of the application and **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** to hold a special meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> April to make a final decision and submit the application.

#### **9. Multi-Agency Policy on Ball Games.**

**IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the draft policy document be noted.

#### **10. Report of the Appeals Committee.**

Under confidential terms and on behalf of the Committee, Cllr Kettle reported that a meeting had been held in the York Room. The Committee generally accepted that the final written warning should stand.

#### **11. Accounts.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Kettle, **SECONDED** by Cllr Buckley, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the accounts, as circulated, should be approved.

#### **12. Clerk's Report.**

The Clerk reported an initial approach received that day to enquire about the possibility of showcasing manufacturers' play equipment in Castle Bromwich which she had requested be put in writing for the Parish Council to consider. She had made a start on the audit preparation and the Annual Return just received from Clement Keys, which she would endeavour to complete in due course. Again, as expected, the Parish Council had been selected as one of the 5% sample councils for greater scrutiny. She had sent apologies to several recent meetings, due to being unable to leave Arden Hall and reported further staff shortages that were being managed. A phone call from Solihull MBC Elections Office had requested clarification of how many councillors were required for each ward so that they could check if there would be a contested election. No further information had been received. Cllr Knibb said that an election would be held for the Bradford ward due to the number of candidates and he had printed information on nominations from Solihull MBC website. Under confidential terms members were also informed of a staff matters.

