

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH  
ON WEDNESDAY 11TH APRIL 2012  
AT 19.30 HRS**

**Those present:**

- Chairman:** Cllr A Terry
- Councillors:** Cllr Mrs. P Allen                      Cllr E Hicks                      Cllr J Whelan  
                          Cllr M Hayes                      Cllr J Horne-MacDonald      Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins  
                          Cllr Mrs. A Haywood      Cllr J Riordan
- Officers:** Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council/RFO
- Public:** None.

**1. Apologies.**

Cllr Mrs. L Smith was absent. [Clerk’s Note: Apologies were submitted but not received before the meeting.]

**ACTION**

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

None declared.

**3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesdays, 29<sup>th</sup> February and 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2012, having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**4. Planning Applications.**

The Planning Applications received since the last meeting were considered and the following recommendations made to the Borough Council:-

Admin  
Asst.  
13/03

**Application**

No	Applicant	Location	Type
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**Recommendation to the Borough Council**

2012/209	Mrs Louise Adcock	279 Chester Road, Castle Bromwich	
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Could be approved subject to any neighbour's comments and with the conditions to prevent parking and noise nuisance to be retained.

**5. ICT Support Services.**

Members considered the level of support needed, noting the quality of service already received prior and during the installation work. Members noted that Cllr Riordan would accompany the Clerk to a meeting with Solutions for IT and **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the matter be delegated to the Clerk to conclude the matter within the budget available, according to the prioritizing the needs of the services for staff.

Clerk/JR  
Apr. 12

**6. Additional Fundraising.**

Members considered the additional services for customers, many suggested by staff, to raise funds for charity. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Whelan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that a leaflet could be given to customers asking if they wanted children’s party music via an ipod docking system for a £10 donation for Macmillan, tennis balls from unclaimed lost property be ‘sold’ for a donation for Macmillan, that business advertisements could be displayed on noticeboards for a donation to the Chairman’s Charity Fund, that banners left behind after parties could be ‘sold’ for a donation to the Chairman’s Charity Fund. The Clerk would arrange a receipting system and agree procedures with staff prior to the new initiatives being introduced.

Clerk/staff  
May 12

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

**7. Traffic Restrictions – Solihull MBC.**

ACTION

Members noted the proposed changes to parking restrictions at Chester Road service road, fronting No. 349 to the Chester Arms, and the work to redefine the pavement areas, although the Chairman was unsure if this would solve the problems. Members discussed the temporary closure of Auckland Drive and Windward Way between 10<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April for installation of table top junctions and the additional notification of an extension to the restrictions on Water Orton Road near to the junction of Blackthorn Road.

**8. Working Parties and Steering Group.**

Cllr Whelan reported on the valuable Neighbourhood Planning Seminar he had attended on 26<sup>th</sup> March, which had given him valuable information to relay to the Parish Plan Steering Group. Members endorsed his belief that the Parish Plan was the most appropriate route to follow to produce actions and objectives which the Parish Council would endeavour to encourage partner bodies to achieve.

JTW +  
Steering  
Group

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported on the very productive Youth Council working party held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April to plan the details of Picnic in the Park event on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Bunting was made and judges suggested for the fancy dress competition and enquiries invited for face painting, ladies morris dancers and wood turners. Some letters were still awaiting delivery to neighbours of the playing fields.

The Macmillan coffee morning would be on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> September between 10 am until 1 pm. Cllr Mrs. Allen appealed for raffle prizes or donated cakes.

Members  
June 12

Cllr Mrs. Allen and Cllr Mrs. Haywood reported they had met that day to seek advice from Carl Ferris from Halls Garden Supplies about the raised bed in the Garden of Rest. It was hoped to enter the garden in Solihull in Bloom competition in July and designs had been drafted. They requested the £250 previously approved by the Council that had been unspent due to delays in removing the hedging be released to purchase bedding plants. Members noted the advice from the Clerk that all unspent balances from the previous year that were not earmarked had become part of general reserves. Members **AGREED** that a budget would be identified for the plants and the Clerk could apply for match funding from Solihull MBC as in previous years. Cllr Mrs. Haywood said a further working party would be held on Sunday afternoon to discuss proposals, with a supplier for bedding plants being investigated. It was also reported that blue tits were nesting in the bird boxes in the park and that the new saplings were now in leaf.

Open  
Spaces  
WP 15/4

Cllr Riordan reported that he and Cllr Amos had met with Alan Crawford to discuss the rejection of the Windsor Room grant funding application. This was being amended to seek compliance and Cllr Amos was hoping to obtain new quotations for building refurbishment.

Grant WP  
asap

**9. Residents Concerns.**

Members noted details of recent concerns raised by residents.

**10. Training.**

Members noted there were no new applications for training. The Clerk reported that she had attended a valuable employment law seminar in Derby, at no cost, with the main topic of potential interest being social networking and the relevant implications. A draft policy had been received and would be valuable when it could be considered.

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**11. Clerk's Report.**

Members noted that a new and lengthy consultation document had been received from HS2 which would be circulated between members for reading prior to consideration at the May meeting. The Clerk reported that the employers contribution rate to the pension scheme would be adjusted from 15.7% to 13.8% but with a lump sum payment of £1,100 being payable in addition. In the previous year this had been incorporated within the % rate. The Clerk had been consulted by the Information Commissioner's Office for her view on revisions to guidance on Section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act. She had responded and highlighted the different issues that faced parish and town councils, including smaller parishes, that would have fewer resources than larger authorities.

**ACTION**

All  
Members  
9/5

DRAFT