

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2011
AT 19.30 HRS**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr A Terry

Councillors: Cllr M Hayes Cllr Mrs. A Haywood Cllr Mrs. L Smith
[except Item 4] Cllr J Riordan Cllr J Whelan

Officers: Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council/RFO

Public: None.

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr Mrs. P Allen and Cllr J Horne-MacDonald were noted for the reasons given.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

Cllr Hayes declared a personal interest in Item 4 as an approach had been made for help with consideration of the application. He withdrew from all discussions on this matter.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Whelan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesdays, 27th July and 14th September 2011, 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 Cllr Hayes took no part in the discussion or recommendation.

Application

No	Applicant	Location	Type
Recommendation to the Borough Council			
2011/1071	Mr Paul Stear	67 Green Lane	Minor Full Application

Should be REFUSED due to sufficient retail outlets in parish, insufficient parking for customers, residential status should be maintained, would create a traffic hazard and increase congestion when Green Lane is a recognised accident blackspot with existing traffic calming measures

An invitation had been received to attend a round table discussion under the Solihull Local Development Framework on Affordable Housing Policy and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document on either Tuesday 1st November or Friday 4th November which would be emailed to all members. A guidance document from CPRE/NALC on How to Respond to Planning Applications had been received and the Clerk was asked to order additional copies. An online training session may also be available which was deferred to December.

Clerk
Asap

Clerk
Asap

FGP
Dec.

5. Working Parties and Steering Groups.

No meetings had been held.

6. Residents' Concerns.

Members noted the circulated information. The Clerk reported fresh concerns from a resident who had previously raised concerns with Solihull MBC Planning Department regarding building works taking place at 28 Woodford Avenue, which were discussed briefly. Further advice had been given suggesting they contact the local MP.

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

7. Chester Road Safety Issues.

Members discussed with great interest the problems experienced personally in this busy location and **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Bor Cllr Richards (Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Transport and Highways) and Mr. Lechmere (Places Directorate) be invited to the Parish Council meeting on 21st December as guest speakers to talk about solutions for this location. **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** that they be asked to bring copies of the consultation results of the Chester Road Smart Study for Safer routes. The Clerk would endeavour to undertake additional research prior to their visit.

8. Data Protection.

Members felt it had been useful to consider this matter by discussing procedures, practices and existing policies, noting that further improvements should be possible when a new computer network was installed. Members noted the availability of Solihull MBC to undertake health checks and service level agreements, which would not currently be requested.

9. Training.

No requests received.

10. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk confirmed that the new hourly rate of pay for the national minimum wage had required a 15p increase for Bar Staff and Cleaners, with notification to all staff that there was still no progress with national pay negotiations, with the last pay award being 1st April 2008. It was suggested the Staff Panel look at this subject at their next meeting. Advice had been received from WALC that the threshold for closed tenders at Castle Bromwich was low and it was suggested that this be raised from £20,000 to £50,000. Having a higher threshold could encourage more quotations for jobs as it was a simpler process for companies to follow. Members asked this be an agenda item at the December council meeting, as there was no date yet agreed for the Standing Orders Working Party. A temporary machine had been loaned to the Parish Council due to a printer failure and the Clerk was grateful to Midshire Business Systems for this helpful support. The Youth Council Chairman would be wearing the new Junior Chain of Office from Solihull MBC on Remembrance Sunday and a new Resource Pack for young people had been created for schools and other groups. Arrangements were progressing at this very busy time but dealing with queries off-site for Remembrance Parade and other matters meant the office sometimes had to be closed. She had been interested to see the Spitfire documentary broadcast on 22nd September, following assistance with local information to producers earlier in the year. A full budget review had been undertaken and a Budget Working Party was agreed for 2 pm on Wednesday 16th November for any members available to attend. A new enquiry had been received from a resident possibly interested in purchasing a small piece of access land from the parish council.

ACTION

Asst Clerk
Asap

Clerk
Nov.11

Staff
Panel mtg
16/11

Council
21/12

Members
16/11