
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2007
AT 19.30 HRS**

Those present:

Vice-Chairman: Cllr D Kettle

Councillors:

Cllr A Buckley
Cllr J Dutton
Cllr E Knibb
Cllr S Ward
Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins

Also: Cllr Mrs J Smith

Guest Speaker: Mr. Lawrence Osborne, Area Planning Officer, Solihull MBC
(Items 1-4 only)

Officers: Mrs. C Tibbles **Public:** 2 members of the public.

1.

Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr P Scriven and Cllr J Riordan were accepted for the reasons given. Apologies from Cllr J Gibbins were noted but no reason had been submitted. Apologies had also been received from Cllr Mrs A Haywood and Cllr M Hughes (all members invited from the Leisure Services Committee).

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

None declared.

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

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Dutton, **SECONDED** by Cllr Buckley, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesdays 20th December, 2006 and 10th January, 2007 be signed as a true and correct record.

4. **Guest Speaker: Lawrence Osborne, Area Planning Officer, Solihull MBC.**

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Mr. Osborne to the meeting and members listened with great interest as he talked about planning policy and procedures in operation by the Borough Council. A helpful document was distributed, with a copy of their Enforcement Policy, which explained the Unitary Development Plan, Planning Policy Statements, proposal for a government bill to stop back garden development, wishes for high quality design, Local Development Framework, regeneration on the doorstep of Castle Bromwich, regulations for conservation areas and listed buildings, case studies and phone masts. A most valuable discussion followed, with many questions being raised by members, including height of mobile masts in relation to permission being required, success rate of decisions/appeals, safety of mast emissions, mast sharing, cost of satellites, automatic right of phone and utility companies to use verges, enforcement, boundary disputes, outcome of investigations, Planning Contravention Notices, Stop Notices, Section 215 notices for untidy land, court

protection for witnesses, planning information on Borough Council website, inadequate timescale given to parish councils to respond to applications, consequence of granting permission that causes parking problems by business deliveries and need for police to respond or for council to consider parking restrictions for solution (need for evidence), speed of planning decisions, possible de-regulation for smaller works (extensions), validity of local knowledge expressed by parish councillors, need for officers to abide by legislation when making decisions and having a legal basis to decline an application, cost to Borough Council if appeals by applicants were successful, right for anyone to apply for planning permission even if not owner of site in question. Mr. Lawrence was sincerely thanked for his valuable visit.

5. 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.

6. Licence Applications.

The Licence Application for variation to the Premises Licence for the Bradford Arms was duly noted but members objected strongly to the proposed change of name to "Toby Carvery".

7. Resident's Concerns.

Noted with interest. The response from Caroline Spelman, MP, to the question raised by Mr. Jefferies was also noted and **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** that the problems of anti-social behaviour in Castle Bromwich was in similar proportions to other areas, sadly being noted as a national problem.

8. Communications.

Routine communications received since last meeting: Gloucester City Council Market's Leaflet / Castle Bromwich Gazette / leaflet on Flooring Company specialist services / WALC White Paper Briefing – Tuesday, 20/2/07 at 7 p.m., Warwick / DDA Legal Briefing Update (NALC) / Solihull Times / BT Phone book advertising options / Opportunities Bulletins / Veterans World / Shaw's council publications / DEFRA consultation: The Commons Act 2006, Protection of Common Land in England (response deadline 26/3/07) / NS Business Forum Bulletin February 07 / Post Office Network Consultation DTI / WALC newsletter / Solihull Times / DIS Extra bulletins / National Savings Interest Rates / Sport in the Community – Strategy for Solihull Consultation (deadline 9th February) / Sage Payroll Solutions Newsletter / Castle Bromwich Junior School 'Walking Bus Proposals' for using Arden Hall car park (agreed in principal) / Cleaning Services A Kleen / Safer Food Better Business training opportunity / Promoting Business Continuity / Clerks & Councils Direct / ACAS Newsletter / The Clerk Journal / enquiry from Mr. Rashid about becoming a Parish Councillor / Solihull Care Trust Board Agenda / Inaugural Conference for Practitioners (Clerks – Stoke-on-Trent) / Good Hope Hospital Merger consultation document / quote to install fluorescent lighting in Spencer Lounge / confirmation from NS&I of transfer of £25,000 from reserves to the general fund / parish boundary maps from Solihull MBC / WM Pension technical brief and Year End arrangements / Waste Transfer Note / Standing for Election NALC briefing / PRS Music Certificate / LCAS bulletin admin changes / Staff information on Good Hope merger / sales flyer for N E Cox Building Services / BMG Research into Satisfaction with Advice and Guidance from the Standards Board. Also received: Reach Out drug support team; Enjoy England brochure to celebrate St. George's Day; LSP Forum Meeting on 19th March; BYV Adventure Camps; Seminar of promotion of business continuity; review of Quality Council scheme; revised model Code of Conduct; SMBC Standards Committee report; plan by Audit Commission to extend appointment of external auditor.

A letter was tabled from a resident seeking assistance with parking nuisance and

obstructions. The Vice-Chairman read a response that had been received from the family of the late Cllr Mrs. Pauline Gray giving their support for an annual memorial award, details to be arranged in conjunction with Castle Bromwich Junior School.

9. Website.

Members were encouraged to review the material on the draft website prior to a public launch and the Clerk recorded her gratitude to Cllr Riordan who had written the majority of the text and design. **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to accept the advice from WALC regarding public questions at council meetings.

10. Lottery Funding Application – Arden Hall and Community Regeneration.

Members were informed that Cllr Mrs. Haywood was assessing the current information and draft application and that Cllr Mrs. Smith and Cllr Pearce would join the Buildings Working Party to help formulate the lottery application. There were no additional volunteers from this Committee.

11. Accounts.

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

12. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk was pleased to table a reply from the family of the late Cllr Mrs. Pauline Gray who gave their full support to the council's suggestion of an annual award to a pupil of Castle Bromwich Junior School, which Cllr Gibbins had kindly offered to discuss with the Headteacher. The Clerk reported that it had been confirmed by WALC that the definition of a corporate body was another way of saying the whole council as a legally constituted body has a responsibility. The responsibility was not down to an individual member. An update had been received from Natalie Goulding about the Homework Club partly funded by the Parish Council at Castle Bromwich library. Advice had been received on the suggestion to move committee meetings to the York Room and the Council had a responsibility under DDA 2005 to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people which 1st floor meetings would not support. The Clerk requested that delegated powers to committees be considered at the next full council meeting, together with the topic of public questions at meetings (advice already circulated) and members may find it helpful to read the relevant sections. The Castle Bromwich Junior School Park and Stride scheme was being developed and it was likely to be a morning only arrangement. The Clerk again requested assistance with the wording of the outside publicity board and had prepared another draft which she hoped incorporated some of the Marketing groups ideas.

Under confidential terms, members were informed about two staff matters which were duly noted.