

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2009
AT 19.30 HRS**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr M Hayes

Councillors: Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr J Riordan Cllr A Terry
Cllr Mrs. A Haywood h

Officers: Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council

Public: None.

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr Mrs. J Smith and Cllr N Harris were accepted for the reason given. The apologies from Cllr E Knibb were noted.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Terry, with 5 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 29th July and with 4 votes in favour, none against and 1 abstention, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th September 2009 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 by the Committee and the recommendations thereon are set out in the appendix.

5. Residents' Concerns.

Members noted the circulated information.

6. Working Party Reports.

No reports given.

7. Software for Financial Accounting.

Members noted the information tabled and after due consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, with 5 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that options 1,2,3 and 5 (networked) of the software quotation be accepted at a cost of £1787. **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the training be split into 2 days initially, if discounted to £713 and travelling costs to be borne from the existing travel budget. The additional day's training recommended should be met from increased training budget in the following financial year. The installation should be done at a mutually convenient time and operational for April 2010.

8. Training.

No requests had been received. Members reviewed the budget and noted there was still sufficient funding to train a new member if co-option was confirmed by the Borough Council as appropriate. Members agreed that training was essential to the understanding of the functions of a parish council and in many employment situations was compulsory.

ACTION

Clerk
14/10

Clerk
25/10

FGP
Dec.09

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

9. Business Lease Proposal (Arden Hall).

After further consideration, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to support the request in principal and a range of issues were identified for clarification. It was hoped that a provisional meeting could be held in mid-November to share ideas between the applicant and the Clerk, accompanied by a member if anyone wished to volunteer. Legal advice would be sought when committee recommendations were ratified.

Clerk
13/11
Asst. Clerk
5/11

10. West Midlands Pension Fund.

Member noted the statement from the pension providers. Concerns were expressed about the likely increases to employer's contributions and this would be closely monitored after the actuarial valuation was completed in 2010. The Clerk clarified how many staff were currently members of the scheme and the varying contribution rates.

11. Payments.

Following questions by members which were clarified, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, with 5 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments, as tabled, be approved.

12. Clerk's Report.

The clerk reported that the application forms to open an investment banking accounts had been requested but not received. Staff endeavoured to supply information for investigations and a file was handed to the Chairman in preparation for his investigation. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for the information requested and confirmed he would hold an initial meeting with the book-keeper in due course. Members noted that arrangements for events were progressing and on schedule for Remembrance Sunday and Carol Concert. Borough Councillor Robinson had spoken to Birmingham City Council about residents' use of the nearby tip and would continue to follow the matter up.