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

Those present:

Vice-Chairman: Cllr A Bull

Councillors:

Cllr D Feasey

Cllr E Knibb

Cllr J Riordan

[Except Item 10]

Cllr A Terry

Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins

Officers: Mrs. C Tibbles

Public: None

1.

Apologies.

Accepted from Cllr J Gibbins, Cllr D Franklin, Cllr S Ward.

2. Declarations of Personal or other interests.

Cllr Riordan declared a prejudicial interest in Item 10 as a volunteer at the CAB and a member of the Trust and intended to withdraw. Cllr Knibb expressed a possible interest in Item 10 as a representative but as he had not yet attended any meetings of the CAB in the name of the Parish Council it was felt this interest was not yet prejudicial.

3. Minutes of the Meetings held 26th September and 10th October.

Cllr Mrs. Wilkins **PROPOSED** these Minutes be signed as a true and accurate record. **SECONDED** Cllr Feasey, **RESOLVED** and signed. Cllr Bull and Cllr Knibb abstained from voting on minutes for 26th September and Cllr Riordan abstained from voting on minutes for 10th October due to absence.

4. Planning Applications.

Planning Applications/Decision Notices received since last Meeting were considered. See Appendix.

5. Resident's Concerns.

Noted with interest. Valid concern expressed about difficulty of public hearing discussions at Parish Council meetings. **RESOLVED** to retain new trial layout, bring public chairs closer and for members and public to both stand up and speak up. Chairman and public to indicate to speakers when unable to hear.

6. Communications.

Routine communications received since last meeting were noted. Recent press articles on the Cricket & Sports Club proposals and the Remembrance Parade were available. The WALC Model Protocol for member-employee relations was tabled.

7. Budget Preparation 2008/09.

The Budget Working Party would meet on Saturday, 24th November and Cllr Bull tendered his apologies. Cllr Knibb suggested that Cllr Riordan chair this meeting. Clerk requested consideration be given to replacement of some IT equipment and updated software on the network available to each machine. She also hoped to retain the level of contingency budget.

8. NALC Advice on Public Participation during meetings.

The Vice-Chairman **PROPOSED** this be considered by the Standing Orders Working Party. **RESOLVED.**

9. Payments.

Cllr Riordan **PROPOSED** that the payments be approved. **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED.** Latest budget printout available for members.

10. Grant Aid.

Discussed, considered and award agreed under Section 142 (2A) of the LGA Act 1972. Cllr Feasey **PROPOSED**, Cllr Knibb **SECONDED**, that an award of £300 be made. **RESOLVED.** Outreach work within Arden Hall discussed briefly.

11. Solihull MBC – Licensing Act 2003 – Revised Statement of Licensing Policy.

Noted with interest.

12. BT Proposal – Communication System Improvements.

Discussed, considered and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk investigate further with a BT site survey being undertaken. Other providers to be explored, possibly Blue Square. The BT proposal for IT Maintenance was discussed and dismissed. Cllr Mrs. Wilkins **PROPOSED**, Cllr Feasey **SECONDED**, the alternative quote of £150 per quarter from PC Doctor (Nick Bache) be accepted to reduce the risk of system failure and instigate preventative maintenance measures for the network. **RESOLVED.**

13. Clerk's Report.

Outstanding action points: no further skills received from members as requested; no suggestions for press release on residents' concerns; induction replies from new members still required so that a date could be arranged. An update was tabled for members from the Chairman who had taken responsibility for Christmas Tree Lighting event; feedback/suggestions tabled on Remembrance Parade; NALC information on revised pay scales following national acceptance of the 2.475% (variable) pay award was tabled. The Clerk could now calculate the new rates for immediate implementation and the arrears due from 1st April being to be paid the following week/month according to contracts. The Clerk was questioned about speed of bar service at a recent event; the booking for the wrestling which the new hire regulations no longer listed as being for; suggestion that the police attend the wrestling as a safeguard.

14. Staffing Matters.

Under confidential terms the Clerk raised a staff matter, which was satisfactorily concluded. Members were notified of a recent staff absence.

Members thanked Cllr Bull for chairing the meeting and concluding business promptly.

Clerk and
A.Witten
26/11

JR
24/11

W.Party
21/11

ACTION

Clerk
28/11

Clerk
23/11

Clerk
Dec.

Clerk
Dec.

Clerk
19/11
&
26/11

Clerk
Dec.

ACTION