

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
 CASTLE BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL  
 HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH  
 ON WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE 2009  
 AT 7.30 PM**

**Those present:**

**Chairman:** Cllr J Riordan

<b>Councillors:</b>	Cllr Mrs. P Allen	Cllr I Hiley	Cllr Miss J Ward
	Cllr Mrs. A Haywood	Cllr E Knibb	Cllr Mrs. B. Wilkins
	Cllr M Hayes		

**Officer:** Mrs. C Tibbles

**Public:** 6 members of the public [Items 1-15 only]

**1. Apologies.**

The apologies from Cllr N Harris, Cllr M Rashid, Cllr Mrs. J Smith, Cllr A Terry and Cllr Mrs. T Knibb were noted for the reasons given. Cllr R Amos was absent.

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

None declared.

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

**ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, with 7 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

**4. Questions from Councillors.**

Cllr Hayes requested members consider this matter later in the meeting, in conjunction with Item 8. There were no objections to this request.

**5. Questions from the Public.**

Standing Orders were suspended so that members of the public could ask questions. Following an explanation of procedures by the Chairman, members of the public were invited to state their name and address and to clearly say if they objected to their identity appearing in the minutes, prior to asking their question.

Mr. Woodhouse, Blandford Avenue, asked if the results of the surveyors report would be divulged? The Chairman replied that this would be part of the discussion during Item 8, which members of the public would be welcome to observe. Mr. Woodhouse commended use of microphones at meetings and asked if the council would consider recording meetings to assist the Clerk and avoid future ambivalence? The Chairman referred this suggestion to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Ms. Sarah Newman introduced herself to members as the new licensee of the Spitfire Public House and the Chairman, on behalf of members, thanked her for coming to this meeting. Mr. Siviter, Blandford Avenue, asked how public were made aware of meetings and police meetings and suggested the Solihull News be asked to print a small article before meetings took place, to help the Parish Council tell the wider community and encourage more public attendance. He had attended the recent PACT meeting, also attended by several parish councillors. Cllr Miss Ward offered, as an employee of the Mail group of newspapers, to pass on the suggestions for better publicity. The Chairman also asked the Finance and General Purposes Committee to discuss communications at the next meeting. Cllr Hiley knew of the email newsletter by Sgt. O'Reilly but Mr. Woodhouse

**ACTION**

FGP Agenda  
8/7/09

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8/7/09

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thought this was based on the thirty residents attending the very first police meeting. Cllr Miss Ward offered to deliver information to residents in her ward. Mr Young, Faircroft Road, referred to the £2,635 raised by the Chairman's Charity Fund and allotted to 17 local organisations and asked why money was given to Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens when they charged an admission fee to local residents. The Chairman asked Cllr Mrs. Allen, who was a Trustee at the Gardens, if the organization was a registered charity and this was confirmed. Mr. Young asked again why this group, who charged admission although it was manned by volunteers, was given a gift. He estimated that the other 16 community groups would have been £9.32 each better off if money had not been given to Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens. The Chairman appreciated Mr. Young's view but replied the entrance fee was not likely to cover the costs of running the Gardens. Mr. Young felt they should not have asked for or accepted the money. The Chairman said the donations were not asked or applied for, and although he respected Mr. Young's view he did not personally agree with it, he asked Cllr Mrs. Allen to pass on the views expressed to Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Trust.

## 6. Communications.

Members noted the information listed.

## 7. Working Parties.

The Chairman invited views from members. Cllr Hiley served on the Marketing and Promotions working party and was disappointed this had not met since being reviewed in March but as the 3 other members were absent this evening, it would be difficult to plan a meeting date. Cllr Hayes suggested reducing the number of working parties by placing responsibilities back to Committees. Cllr Mrs. Haywood commended the success of the Buildings Working Party in researching and recommending the new Arden Hall frontage. Cllr Mrs. Haywood suggested re-combining the Events WP with the Marketing and Promotions WP. Members did not resolve any changes to membership or structure. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, with 8 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Clerk devise a draft calendar for meetings on the third Wednesday of available months, possibly combining 2 on the same evening if membership allowed. Mr. Gibbins, member of the public, commented that the Hall Manager should join the Marketing group and offered his own assistance if outside help was invited.

Clerk  
July 09

## 8. Future of Arden Hall.

The Chairman read the resolution made by members in October 2008 on the future of Arden Hall and reminded members of the further resolution in November to review that decision in the new civic year. Cllr Hayes realized this was a big decision taken before he was co-opted and Cllr Mrs. Wilkins explained the decision had been made when members had no information. The latest surveyor's report had now stated the lifespan of the various buildings. Cllr Hayes referred to income and expenditure for Arden Hall and the deficit last year. He asked if income had fallen because the building was no longer fit for the purpose or if it was an unusual year? Or was the lower income due to lack of public need? The Chairman felt it was a higher deficit because it included £26,000 investment in the new frontage. Cllr Mrs. Haywood reminded members of the exceptional issues over the past 12-18 months when the Hall had remained open under severe difficulties, which were hopefully now solved with new staff, especially the Hall Manager who was showing early benefit to the Council. The building improvements that had been started should also encourage new hirers and she felt the Council was well on the way to moving forward.

Asst. Clerk.  
8/5/09

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The Chairman sought and gained approval from members for input from the public. Members of the public offered their views on the historic aspects of Arden Hall and suggested the council should: reconnect with residents; continue to meet the needs in the future as it had done so well in the past; suggested ways to promote the hall via existing visitors; pleased that views were welcomed and respected from the public; improve cleaning standards; tidy notice boards and give more publicity (whilst being mindful of the litter caused by unwanted handbills); make a direct decision in the absence of a clear public mandate as their elected representatives; put on functions for local people.

The Chairman summarized that the existing decision was that in 10 years time a new Arden Hall should be provided but that the surveyors report concluded Arden Hall had a future lifespan of 40 years, with proper maintenance. Cllr Mrs. Wilkins said if there was insufficient income the precept would need increasing to maintain the Hall and reminded members of the poor public response to the consultation and the lack of public response to the previous resolution. Cllr Hayes felt Arden Hall's future needed careful consideration and compared it to whether you should put a new strap on a watch that didn't keep good time if people didn't want to know what the time was. He felt that parishioners should have a say in what should be provided, especially if they were to be responsible for paying for it through their precept. Cllr Knibb reminded members of the importance of timing of decisions. The Chairman said that a review of the decision had been agreed and a new, more detailed, survey undertaken as a result. Cllr Mrs. Wilkins said that communities socialized differently now and that young people were different. After consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, with 8 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that during the next 4 months the Council should canvass public opinion again to establish what the community wanted and in the absence of a clear view, then the Parish Council should decide on the future of Arden Hall. One member of the public left the meeting during this item.

#### 9. Future Guest Speakers.

**ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, with 8 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that invitations be extended again to Centro/National Express West Midlands and Autism West Midlands and that the Clerk also invite the Chairman of Warwickshire Association of Local Councils, speakers on changes to waste and recycling in Solihull MBC; Crime and Reduction Partnership; using the Planning Portal for on-line applications and considerations; ASB support for owner-occupiers and possibly Claribel (transport).

Asst. Clerk  
Prepare dates  
and invites

#### 10. Community Partnerships.

Cllr Mrs. Haywood had been most pleased to receive the impressive invitations to the Park Hall School Garden Party, which unfortunately she would not be able to attend. Following consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hayes, with 8 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 0 abstentions, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that a meeting be arranged at Park Hall School for Cllr Rashid, Cllr Hayes and the Clerk to discuss working in partnership by supporting the Youth Parish Council and greater recognition by the council of the annual community award for a Park Hall student. Due to time constraints, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hayes, with 8 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 0 abstentions, **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** that permission be delegated to the Clerk to conclude the award arrangements prior to the annual prizegiving. Members

Clerk  
Asap

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considered the invitation to the Youth Council to join the Castle Bromwich Youth and Community Partnership. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the invitation be accepted and the Clerk undertook to pass this to members at the next meeting.

Clerk  
7/7/09

#### **11. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, with 7 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 0 abstentions, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

#### **12. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, with 7 votes in favour, no votes against and 1 abstention, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

#### **13. Representatives to Outside Bodies.**

The Chairman reminded members this agenda item was for reports on activities undertaken by members who were appointed to represent the Parish Council in the wider community. No reports were given.

#### **14. Report of the Officer of the Council.**

Members noted that the Clerk had tabled the NALC briefing on Local Authority Investments, a Solihull Shopmobility publicity flyer, and an invitation to Park Hall School's Garden party on 9<sup>th</sup> July. She informed members of a dead tree at Bradford Gardens that the surgeon had advised needed felling and a 5 day notice was being arranged to the Borough Council as a matter of urgency.

#### **15. Report of the Chairman**

The Chairman reported that he had thoroughly enjoyed the Civic Service held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June and the reception that followed at Arden Hall. He expressed his thanks to all who contributed to making the evening such a success.

#### **16. Land Matters.**

Under confidential terms, members considered the professional advice received and **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, with 8 votes in favour, no votes against and no abstentions, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that until further reassurances were received the Council felt unable to progress further.

Clerk  
25/6/09