
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLE
BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL 2007
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr Mrs. B. Wilkins

Councillors:

Cllr A Buckley
Cllr J Dutton
Cllr J Gibbins
Cllr M Hughes
Cllr D Kettle
Cllr E Knibb
Cllr J Riordan
Cllr P Scriven
Cllr Mrs. J Smith
Cllr Miss J Ward

Officer: Mrs C Tibbles

Public: 3 members of the public (Items 1-14 only)

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr Mrs. A Haywood and Cllr C Pearce were accepted for the reasons given. Cllr S Ward was absent.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary or other interests.

There were no interests declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Buckley, **SECONDED** by Cllr Kettle, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 28th March, 2007 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Questions from Councillors.

There were no questions.

5. Questions from the Public.

Standing Orders were suspended for a maximum period of 15 minutes 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 prior to asking their question. A summary of this discussion is supplied to members.

6. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Smith, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 4th April 2007, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

7. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Scriven, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 28th March, Wednesday 11th March and extra meeting on Wednesday, 18th March 2007, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

8. Report of Working Parties.

There were no reports.

9. To form new Staff Committee and Hire Regulations Working Party.

Cllr Gibbins felt there was no evidence of consultation on the forming of a new Staff Committee and he had 12 points to raise on the information circulated. As it would change the structure of the Council, he recommended following good practice and discussing it at Committees. Cllr Buckley thought it unusual to form a new committee at this stage and wondered if it could be deferred until after the election. Cllr Riordan said the Committee was needed to deal with a specific problem but Cllr Gibbins replied this had previously been resolved, following a proposition from Cllr Scriven and seconded by Cllr Mrs. Haywood that decisions should be made by the whole Council. Cllr Gibbins had not previously seen a committee of 3 requiring a quorum of 3 and felt there was no rush to proceed. Cllr Riordan replied that legal advice had recommended a committee of 3 councillors be established, that committees had been informed of this and that there was indeed a time implication. The Chairman felt it advisable to continue the discussion under confidential terms under Item 15. However, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Gibbins, **SECONDED** by Cllr Kettle, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the consideration of forming a Staff Committee be referred to both Standing Committees for consultation, discussion and amendment of terms of reference where required, in line with normal practice. Cllr Riordan asked for his vote against this resolution to be recorded.

Cllr Gibbins referred to the Leisure Services Committee suggestion that the new Hire Regulations Working Party be formed. He felt that 5 members with a quorum of 3, plus co-option of Mr. and Mrs. Beebee would be advisable and thought it should work with the Marketing Working Party in a slightly wider capacity, examining ways to encourage hirers rather than discourage them. After discussion, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Hire Regulations Working Party should be the Marketing Working Party (Cllr Gibbins, Cllr Riordan, Cllr Mrs. Smith, Cllr Mrs. Haywood and Mr. Watts, Hall Manager) joined by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, Cllr Hughes, Mr. & Mrs. Beebee, Chris Beebee and an invitation extended to Bor Cllr Robinson as a co-opted member. The first meeting would take place on Wednesday 9th May (apologies from Cllr Hughes) in the Windsor Room at 7.30 p.m. As this was after the election and before any members had signed the legally required declarations of acceptance of office, it could be advisable to hold it as a meeting of 'Friends of Arden Hall'. Cllr Gibbins asked that newly elected councillors be invited to attend if they wished and this suggestion was welcomed.

10. Representative Appointments.

Following previous consideration, members discussed the appointment of a representative for the Chelmsley Citizens Advice Bureau. Cllr Kettle was cautious of anyone joining as a Trustee but Cllr Scriven said there had been a precedent because he served as a Parish Council representative as a Trustee member of Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Trust, which had required his registration as a Director in London. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to defer this item to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

11. Signage in Castle Bromwich to Arden Hall.

Cllr Scriven felt the proposed location of the signs did not meet the need of visitors to Castle Bromwich. Detailed research had been done by Cllr Gibbins and forwarded to the Borough Council and after discussion, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Gibbins, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to reject the proposals on the grounds of inadequate site locations. Members felt if the Parish Council were expected to contribute financially there should be greater co-operation on the location originally requested.

12. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Kettle reported that on Tuesday, 17th April he had attended a meeting of WALC at Warwick Town Council offices. The income and expenditure sheet was presented, with an excess of income over expenditure of £13,321. This added to the balance at the end of 2005/06 would mean WALC started 2007/08 with a balance of £60,000. As staff were employed by Warwickshire Rural Community Council there had to be a complaints procedure in place, this was presented and accepted. The County Secretary's job profile and salary structure was discussed and an agreement reached, this would

be forwarded to WRCC. A report was presented by Cllr Gale of a meeting he had attended about environmental issues, which he found very interesting, he provided a list of persons responsible for various issues ranging from reducing greenhouse gas emissions, to the removal of abandoned cars within the Warwickshire area. The Chairman reported on the NALC council meeting he had attended. The importance of training by the county training partnership was highlighted. The NALC training officer had emigrated and her post had to be filled. Unitary Authorities were outlined and in some areas as many as 150 district councils would disappear. Quality Parish Status would be reviewed when the new statutory law covering strong and prosperous communities was in place. There had been a suggestion that non-elected experts should sit on councils, also that the ward councillors should chair the Parish Council meetings. Strong lobbying by NALC ensured that the proposals were dropped. There were to be no new burdens placed on local councils, only voluntary extra duties. Two members were appointed to attend a standard board roadshow on 14th June, they would then report back at the next meeting. As this was his last meeting, he thanked the Committee for having him and wished them all the best for the future. The next meeting would be on Thursday, 5th July 2007.

Cllr Dutton reported that, on behalf of the Chairman, he had attended the celebrations to mark the 75th Birthday/Anniversary of the 1st Castle Bromwich Scouts (237th Birmingham) at the headquarters in Brownsover Close on Saturday 21st April. It was a very well attended event – about 120 persons – made up of past and present members and helpers, including one of the original scouts from the early days as well as representatives from the County/District organisation. A photographic display was given by Paul Brettell, the present leader, of events showing the progress over the years from 1932 that brought back many pleasant memories for members of the audience. Also included were their plans for the future. In addition to the display, there were numerous photographs, charts and other information adorning the walls. This was a local organisation fully deserving of this Council's support. The evening concluded with a buffet reception leaving the attendees free to talk amongst themselves and renew past acquaintances.

13. Report of the Officer of the Council.

The Clerk reported that four candidates would be contesting an election in the Bradford Ward but the unsuccessful candidate could be co-opted to the Parish Council at the AGM on 16th May and forms were ready to issue. An enquiry had also been received from a former candidate who wished to be co-opted on 16th May, in addition to Cllr Hughes. Six members and two new councillors had been confirmed as elected unopposed. This would make a total of 14 councillors in theory, with only one vacancy remaining to be filled, and biographical details of new members were tabled. As yet, there were no volunteers for Chairman of the Parish Council and advice was tabled on the legal position if the situation was unchanged by 16th May. Advice had been received that declarations of acceptance of office may need to be delayed until after the AGM due to the new Code of Conduct.

The Clerk was pleased to confirm that the correction of the overpayment made earlier in the year had been fully reimbursed and completely reconciled. Year end checks were also resolving some earlier concerns with three banking errors being rectified. The Clerk confirmed that the Lottery Application form had been hand delivered that day by Cllr Riordan and herself. Cllr Gibbins had notified her of the start of the Fusion Project in the Playing Fields and their request for storage of goal posts had been passed to the Park Warden. Staff absence was still proving to be a problem and she commended the remaining staff for their helpful attitude and the additional work they were undertaking, in particular Mr. Adrian Witten.

14. Report of the Chairman.

The Chairman reported that on Easter Saturday she had attended Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens with the Mayor and Mayoress of Solihull for their annual Easter event. Together they had judged the children's Easter bonnet parade and with much difficulty managed to decide on the three best entries, it was obvious that a great deal of time, effort and hard work had gone into the making of the hats. All children taking part then helped themselves to chocolates. The event was very well attended, the weather was beautiful (for a change) and she sat on the lawn and watched the Jockey Men Morris Dancers who performed very energetically in the heat, followed by much needed tea and cake. A very successful event.

The Chairman then expressed her thanks to retiring members of the Council for whom this would

be the last meeting. She said they would be missed and their work over the years had been most valuable and hoped they would still be able to come to Arden Hall for events and meetings.

15. Staffing Matters.

Under confidential terms, members considered measures to solve a staff communication problem but no action was resolved. Another staff matter was raised and the Clerk delegated full authority to seek professional advice and act accordingly.