

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
 CASTLE BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL
 HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
 ON WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2009
 AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr J Riordan

Councillors:	Cllr Mrs. P Allen	Cllr M Hayes	Cllr Mrs. T Knibb
	Cllr Mrs. A Haywood	Cllr I Hiley	Cllr M Rashid
		Cllr E Knibb	Cllr Mrs. B. Wilkins

Guest Speaker: Mrs. G Magee, Community Safety Manager, SMBC [Items 1-6 only]

Officer: Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council and RFO

Public: 5 members of the public [not attending for all of the meeting], including Cllr Bill Lowe, Chairman of WALC, who would be attending the January meeting as guest speaker.

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr R Amos, Cllr Mrs. J Smith, Cllr A Terry and Cllr Miss J Ward were noted for the reasons given. The Clerk reported the resignation received from Cllr N Harris.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

Cllr Hiley declared a prejudicial interest in item 18, the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee when a quotation submitted by his company had been considered in his absence.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, with 9 votes in favour, none against and 0 abstentions, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 28th October, 2009 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Guest Speaker – Mrs. G Magee, Community Safety Manager, Solihull MBC

Mrs. Magee explained the purpose of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership by outlining the 5 statutory bodies that worked in partnership and how they engaged with the community. Priorities for the partnership were assessed by looking at community issues which currently were anti-social behavior/criminal damage/ arson/substance issues and alcohol related crime. Perceptions and fear of crime by communities were considered and new issues for the partnership explained, with literature available showing the re-branded Safer Solihull name. Members asked Mrs. Magee about graffiti on the Parkfield estate, representatives for Castle Bromwich on the Partnership, how to input views, improvement to the West Midlands Police helpline, how to protect society and young people from the problems of drugs. Mrs. Magee responded on these topics and invited views via Alison Lush, the Neighbourhood Manager, Sgt O'Reilly or emailing herself directly. She welcomed suggestions on smarter working for the Partnership and explained the review to improve trust and confidence in the police by the new Chief Constable.

5. Questions from Councillors.

None submitted.

6. Questions from the Public.

Following an explanation of procedures by the Chairman, members of the public were

ACTION

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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. The meeting was temporarily suspended so that members of the public could ask questions.

Mr. Gibbins, Kingsleigh Drive referred to the previously reported confirmation from the council's insurers that compensation would be available should the council need to cancel a hirer's event and asked how far down the process an amendment was? The Chairman undertook to check. Mr. Gibbins asked how the cap of £250 was arrived at and also about what action had been taken about the staff member who had written the hire guide. The Chairman stated that if related to a member of staff he would not be able to comment specifically at this time.

Mr. Siviter, Blandford Avenue asked about the fences belonging to residents in his road that had been kicked down and hoped Mrs. Knibb's group would be given the support to carry out the clean-up, with residents being made aware of it, although he worried there were no suitable lampposts for camera surveillance. Mrs. Magee replied that the Project Leader would work closely on this and would visit householders to seek their support, although it may not be possible to replace items in disrepair.

Mr. Siviter referred to the length of time that he had been coming to council meetings and wished to formally record his thanks on behalf of the parish community to Cllr Mrs. Allen and Cllr Mrs. Haywood for working tirelessly at the Village Green and the church.

Mr. Woodhouse, Blandford Avenue asked if 24 hour license applications by newsagents exacerbated the alcohol problems and if professionals would discourage approval of them? Mrs. Magee replied that drink was an issue but the Care Trust worked on the bigger problem of adults who were unable to drink in moderation, which gave the wrong messages to young people by their example.

Mr. Gibbins referred again to his question and asked if it was a staffing matter would it be referred to the Staffing Panel as the allegation should be substantiated or withdrawn. The Chairman said he would not comment further until he knew more.

Mr. Holland, The Green, hoped the ASB problems at the Village Green were over now the nights were cold, dark and wet. He was pleased to report the Coach and Horses had moved one advertising post to the Bradford Road and asked if there was further news on the use of the Birmingham tip by Castle Bromwich residents. Cllr Hayes replied he had used the tip without being asked for proof of his address. The Chairman said the matter was still being pursued by Bor. Cllr Robinson. Mr. Holland recorded his thanks to the Council and the Clerk for the work done on the Remembrance Service at the Green. The Clerk gave feedback from a previous meeting and reported that the information was available to everyone about the power of the council to discharge functions and delegated powers.

7. Communications.

Members noted the information listed.

8. Clarification of Standing Order 30b.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Knibb, he asked members consider revoking Standing Order 30b. In accordance with standing order 80, this would be adjourned for one month and considered at the December meeting.

9. Style and format of Parish Council Minutes and

12. Recording of Council Meetings.

Following a request, council agreed to combine agenda items 9 and 12. The Chairman invited discussion of the style and format of the minutes following a previous request by a

JR
tba

Clerk
15/12

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member for inclusion of verbatim comments from a speech. After consideration of a compromise, members were reminded that although the council as a public body had a right to record meetings, individuals also had rights that needed to be considered. The rights of individuals to object to their photographs being taken had been respected by the Council and the council should be mindful of its legal position under the Human Rights Act if other individuals objected to their voices being recorded. Cllr Mrs. Knibb had requested reasonable adjustments on medical grounds on the advice of her doctor. The Clerk reported issues that other councils had considered with recording of meetings. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Mrs. Knibb, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hayes, members agreed to consider having resolutions only in the minutes but with audio recordings, subject to further legal advice. In accordance with standing order 80, this would be adjourned for one month and considered at the December meeting.

Clerk
15/12

10. Park Hall Academy Annual Award – community service.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that a letter be given to the recipient of the award, in addition to the plaque of recognition, inviting them to express their preference for a £20 voucher from WH Smith, HMV, Boots, or itunes and to attend the January council meeting to be presented with it. Funding of this would be the responsibility of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Clerk
7/12 and
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20/1
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**11. Report on Financial Investigation and
15. Community Consultation.**

Cllr Hayes read his report on the financial operation of Arden Hall, including bar operations, which was tabled and members discussed his suggestion for longer term strategic planning. Following a request, council agreed to combine agenda items 11 and 15. Members were reminded of the structural survey, which confirmed the existing building was sound and worth maintaining. Cllr Hayes **PROPOSED** the council review the decision to build a new Arden Hall. Cllr Mrs. Knibb **PROPOSED** members consider how to assess the consultation replies that had been returned (approximately 600). Following a question, Cllr Hayes and Cllr Mrs. Allen volunteered to look at the replies before the next meeting. The Chairman thanked them for offering to do this and a decision was deferred to the next meeting. Members were asked by Cllr Hayes if he had fulfilled his undertaking to investigate the financing of Arden Hall and this was confirmed. He was thanked, on their behalf, by the Chairman for his time.

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Clerk 15/12

13. Proposed Motion by Cllr Hayes to amend membership of Leisure Services and Finance and General Purposes Committees.

Members considered the motion, adjourned from the last meeting by Cllr Hayes. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the maximum number be removed from Standing Order 43, thus allowing any councillor willing to volunteer to serve on both committees to do so. The membership of both committees could comprise of 1 less than full council. Any councillors who wanted to serve on both committees understood that the committee they volunteered to serve on was in addition to the one they were already appointed to and would give written confirmation of their understanding and acceptance of this. This would be put into immediate effect and reviewed in May 2010 when the committee appointments were set for 2010/2011. Cllr Knibb asked to be added to the Leisure Services Committee. Cllr Mrs. Knibb asked to be added to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The Clerk was asked to contact absent members to afford them the same opportunity.

Clerk
May 2010

EK/TK asap

Clerk
26/11

14. Collection Service for Open Spaces litter/dog faeces.

Members considered the tabled report and **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that a contract be awarded to Sita, subject to the views of the Hall Manager and best solution to remaining queries by the Clerk, which would afford an estimated annual saving of £1454.

Clerk
26/11

16. Members' Allowances.

After consideration of the current maximum recommended allowance of £1153 for each councillor and £2306 for the Chairman that could be claimed by elected members, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to make no change to the existing allowances, which were £103 per councillor and £1288 for the Chairman. Eligible members were asked to complete their claim forms by 9th December.

Members
9/12

17. Working Parties.

Cllr Mrs. Allen expressed thanks for the help given to the Events working party by Mr. Siviter who had delivered flyers for the table top sales and also community consultation questionnaires to parishioners.

Cllr Hayes reported the Standing Orders working party had met on 18th November but it was agreed to await the new NALC model standing orders which were due to be issued within the next month.

18. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, with 6 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 2 abstentions, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 4th November 2009, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

19. Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, with 8 votes in favour, no votes against and 1 abstention, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesday 28th October and 11th November 2009, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

20. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Mrs. Wilkins reported that on Saturday 14th November she had attended a meeting of the Dame Mary Bridgman Charity Trust as a trustee on behalf of the Parish Council. The income for the year was discussed and the donations to the various organisations and individuals in Castle Bromwich were decided. It was also agreed for the doles under the Richard Knight Charity to be paid for Christmas.

Cllr Mrs. Pauline Allen reported that on Thursday 29th October she had visited Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens as a trustee for the Parish Council; on Saturday 31st October she had been accompanied by George in planting 24 polyanthus plants at the front of Arden Hall, on Sunday 1st November a table top sale was held at Arden Hall taking £353.85; on Tuesday 3rd November she attended the Youth Parish Council meeting as a visitor; on Saturday 7th November the food for the Remembrance Service buffet was prepared and thanks were expressed to Cllr Mrs. Haywood and Mrs. Margaret Riordan for their help; on Sunday 8th November she had attended the Solihull Remembrance Service to represent Castle Bromwich Parish Council; on Thursday 12th November she had attended a historic talk by Jerry Dutton celebrating 50 years of Castle Bromwich Library; on Tuesday, 24th November she had attended the Tree Lighting and Carol Concert which the Chairman

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would be reporting on. She thanked the Clerk for donating 3 raffle prizes for this event.

The Chairman reported that on October 29th, he had attended the AGM of WALC at the Shire Hall in Warwick. The guest speaker was Councillor Hazel Williams, Vice-Chairman of NALC and she spoke on the future of local councils. Members could get a copy of her presentation from the Clerk on request. The annual report and the accounts for 2008/09 were adopted and officers elected.

21. Report of the Officer of the Council.

Members noted that the closure of the audit had been advertised. There had been no adverse comments yet on the revised layouts to the budget planning sheets, as suggested by the book-keeper so she would start preparations for 2010/11.

22. Report of the Chairman

The Chairman reported that on 5th November he had been pleased to draw a raffle organised by a local hairdresser. The raffle was in aid of a breast cancer charity and the money had been collected from staff, customers and local shops.

On Sunday 8th November, he and other councillors attended the annual Remembrance Service at the War Memorial. It had been an honour to take the salute from the services marching at the Parade. He expressed his thanks to all involved in this well organised event.

On November 12th, he and other councillors were invited to Castle Bromwich Library to celebrate 50 years of service to the community. We were treated to an interesting talk on the history of Castle Bromwich given by Jerry Dutton, a past Chairman of this Council. He thanked the library staff for the invitation.

On the previous evening he had attended the annual Carol Concert held here at Arden Hall organised by this Council and Age Concern. Everyone was treated to a delightful evening. The proceeds from the ticket sales totalled £234 and would be passed to Age Concern. A raffle was held for the Chairman's Charity Fund and raised £114. He thanked everyone who helped put this event on and all who took part.

Finally, he wished to record the Council's appreciation for Councillor Harris's contribution to the working of this Council.

23. Sale of former entrances to Hob Farm and other Land Matters.

Cllr Mrs. Knibb raised a point of order prior to consideration of information under confidential terms. Members considered the professional advice received and after discussion, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the three former entrances to Hob Farm were of no use to the council and that they should be sold with the money received being held as earmarked reserves for an open spaces capital project. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the advice of the chartered surveyor be considered under confidential terms. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hayes, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the valuations suggested be accepted and the solicitor instructed to proceed with contracts.

Clerk
Asap

Clerk
26/11

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Cllr Mrs. A Haywood Cllr I Hiley [except part Item 10]
Cllr E Knibb Amended 23/12/09
Cllr M Rashid
Cllr Mrs. B. Wilkins

Guest Speaker: Mrs. G Magee, Community Safety Manager, SMBC [Items 1-6 only]

Officer: Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council and RFO

Public: 5 members of the public [not attending for all of the meeting], including Cllr Bill Lowe, Chairman of WALC, who would be attending the January meeting as guest speaker.

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Clerk
15/12

23/12/09 Request for amendment: Cllr Mrs. Knibb asked that her request for recording of meetings on medical grounds be included. Cllr Mrs. Knibb asked that the Chairman's objection to his voice being recorded was also noted in the minutes. Cllr Mrs. Knibb had no suggested wording but wanted the omission included and also asked that the Clerk's reference to the Freedom of Information Act also be noted.

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23/12/09 Request for amendment: Cllr Mrs. Knibb said she had asked that it be established what proportion of response had come from Park Hall School.

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