

<p><b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLE BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH ON WEDNESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 7.30 PM</b></p>
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**Those present:**

**Chairman:** Cllr M Hayes

<b>Councillors:</b>	Cllr Mrs. P Allen	Cllr E Hicks	Cllr M Rashid
	Cllr R Amos	Cllr I Hiley	[Items 3-end only]
	Cllr Mrs. A Haywood	Cllr J Horne-MacDonald	Cllr J Riordan
		Cllr E Knibb	Cllr Mrs. L Smith
			Cllr J Whelan

**Guest Speakers** Clare Mullin, Parliamentary Outreach [Items 1- 5 only]

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

**Public:** 2 members of the public, [Items 1-16].

Prior to the meeting, the Chairman was delighted to announce that Castle Bromwich Parish Council's Garden of Rest had just been awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Community Involvement category of the Solihull In Bloom competition. On behalf of the council, he thanked the members involved for their hard work, who were applauded and congratulated by everyone present.

**1. Apologies.**

The apologies from Cllr A Terry, Cllr Miss J Ward and Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins were noted for the reasons given.

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

None.

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

**ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Amos, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

**4. Guest Speaker: Clare Mullin, Parliamentary Outreach.**

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Mullin to the meeting and invited her to start her presentation. Ms. Mullin explained that in addition to the information that had been tabled, her presentation would be available by email after the meeting. Her organisation operated independently from parliament and was politically neutral. She explained the three different parts to parliament, the difference between legislation and policy and, as members would already know, the duties that could be mandatory or discretionary. There were ways to engage with parliament and she hoped that members would feel able to consider making approaches. Councillors asked questions on whether parliamentary functions would move out of London in line with localism ideals and what car owners could do to legally challenge the ever increasing cost of fuel. Ms. Mullins suggested contacting their own MP, contacting MP's on the all party Parliamentary Group or those MP's who had spoken on the topic. E-petitions could place public pressure and local councils could combine with other local voices on known topics. The Chairman thanked Ms. Mullin for her presentation which members had found interesting and thought provoking.

**5. Questions from Councillors.**

None submitted.

**ACTION**

## 6. Questions from the Public.

In accordance with Standing Orders, the meeting was temporarily suspended so that members of the public could ask questions. A resident from the Park Hall ward commented that parking was still taking place on grass verges outside Park Hall Academy and was disappointed that action was not being taken successfully to prevent this; that the government was discussing 20 mph signs in side roads but in his ward there were still serious problems with speeding cars. He also commended the beautiful work done on St. Clements church garden and had been saddened when plants had been stolen. A resident from the Bradford ward agreed that the damage to verges by parked cars was a growing nuisance that needed addressing by the Borough Council and police. He asked for the parish council to urge the Borough Council to improve the state of the old Birmingham Road and alleyways from the Green to Bradford Road that were all badly overgrown and not properly lit. He knew that in neighbouring areas the Community Payback volunteers were doing this type of work and felt that this would be a cost effective way of improving the parish. The Chairman undertook to pass on these requests to the relevant authorities.

A resident from the Park Hall ward asked why the police were not advertising the meetings being held at Arden Hall. Members knew of the "Cuppa with a Copper" scheme and agreed that Arden Hall would be an ideal venue for this.

Clerk  
3/10

## 7. Communications.

Members noted the information listed. Cllr Whelan referred to the letter from Caroline Spelman, MP and following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Mrs. Allen should pass on the suggestions to Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens.

PA asap

## 8. Notice of Conclusion of Audit of Accounts.

Members noted the satisfactory conclusion of the audit by Clement Keys of the parish council accounts for 2011/12 that had been circulated. Members also noted the appointment by the Audit commission of Grant Thornton UK LLP as the new auditor from 2012/13 for five years.

## 9. War Memorial Safety Work.

The Clerk confirmed that a site meeting with a SMBC Officer had confirmed that the parish council would be responsible for replacing the broken slabs and that permission was not required for bollards to be installed to prevent parking at this location. At the request of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, following careful consideration by members, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the quotation from Heartlands Gardens for £1190 for slabs and £360 for bollards be duly accepted to complete the Diamond Jubilee refurbishment of the shrine area. Members accepted the recommendation of the Clerk that 5 wooden bollards be installed in preference to the 3 concrete ones quoted for, which would be subject to a price variation. The project would be funded from earmarked reserves. Members also noted with concern the extremely hazardous driving at this site and would urge the Borough Council to consider safety improvements.

Clerk  
asapAsst Clerk  
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## 10. Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club.

Members considered the letter submitted by the Club Chairman at the July meeting and the questions that he had also posed in person. A separate meeting had taken place in July that had clarified some of the matters. Members agreed the following responses:

- a) *Why had the Club not been allowed access to the dressing rooms until 1.30 pm for the cricket match on 21<sup>st</sup> July?* The Club had always booked it from 1.30 pm as requested time.

Clerk  
6/10

- b) *Would the Council work with him to educate and nurture young people through sport?* Yes.
- c) *Would the Council support the Project Footprint scheme devised by the Club?* The scheme had been postponed by the Club but the council asked that it be given advance notice prior to any future re-launch.
- d) *Would the Council provide a free-of-charge indoor room in the event of bad weather for the fitness group operating for 20 members in the park?* No because this would be unfair on other hirers who pay to hire rooms for fitness activities.
- e) *Would the Council consider the effect on the Club's bar revenue by not allowing drinking outside?* The Council had never sanctioned drinking outside its buildings. It did not have authority to change the Alcohol Restriction Zone imposed by the police and Solihull MBC in 2002 and this was therefore outside the jurisdiction of the parish council.
- f) *Would the suspension of their new bookings be lifted?* This had been done when the arrears had been paid by the Club.
- g) *Would the Council re-examine the membership list as it had not been correctly submitted previously?* This was done at the special July meeting.
- h) *Why was the council not consistent in charging children to play cricket in the park, asking for it to be free of charge to continue the Clubs excellent work?* Free usage would be unfair on other hirers who pay to hire facilities for tennis and soccer. The charges were in line with the council's policy.
- i) *Would there be a new licence agreement put in place to help the club access funding?* A meeting was being arranged for councillors who were actively pursuing this matter since the Club had made their written submissions at the end of July. The Club were aware that the Working Party would put recommendations to the Council, prior to going to the Council's Solicitor and then to the Club.

Members agreed with the Chairman that remaining matters be considered under confidential terms and should be deferred to the end of the meeting.

#### 11. Finance and Payments.

The Clerk notified members of an additional invoice of £777.19 net for electricity that had previously been queried with the supplier by the Bookkeeper but was now resolved and required payment. After resolution of queries to the Clerk, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Amos, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments as listed and discussed be approved.

Admin  
Asst  
27/9

#### 12. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012, having been circulated, be received and noted.

#### 13. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012, having been circulated, be received and noted.

#### 14. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September the Youth Council had met and

would be agreeing dates to push forward with the next planting at the Village Green and the next funded project "How To Set Up A Youth Council".

Cllr Whelan reported that on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September he had attended the Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee meeting. During the second quarter passenger numbers were down in April and May but improved strongly in June. Actuals were: 702,346,791,078 and 913,758. Much of the activity remained in low cost and charter business with long haul remaining disappointing. Qatar Airways had announced their intent to operate a Birmingham to Doha route using their new Boeing 787 aircraft. No date has yet been set for commencement of this service. With the demise of BMI baby, both Flybe and KLM had increased capacity to Amsterdam. Monarch had begun a daily service to Nice and a four times a week route to Barcelona and Aer Lingus had begun a daily service to Knock. SAS would start flying to Stockholm in October and Ryanair had announced four new routes for this winter to Barcelona, Krakow, Milan and Palma De Mallorca. Monarch would begin a three flights a week service to Gibraltar in March next year. The Airport had launched a campaign to target customers from East Midlands Airport who would be badly hit by the demise of BMI baby. In essence East Midlands was a freight airport with poor passenger facilities when compared with Birmingham. It was expected that this campaign and another targeted in the South East would ensure additional customers for Birmingham Airport. The Airport continued to work with a number of airlines to boost passenger traffic, in addition a Travel Trade team had been established to provide specialist advice to travel bookers and corporate partners. Commercial income from the shops, bars and restaurants had increased strongly. A new Lounge would open in October targeting business travellers and a new 1950's themed American bar had been opened in the main Departures Lounge. There had been a major disruption to the baggage system in May caused by a chronic failure to the 11,000 volt cable supply to the Airport. Although this was outside the Airport's control, goodwill payments had been made to passengers who missed flights. The Airport continued to work closely with the UK Border Force to ensure improved queue management and immigration processing. The major problem arose when Emirates, PIA and charter flights all arrived within 75 minutes of each other carrying some 3,000 passengers. The new Air Traffic Control Tower was on target to become operational in April 2013. The new radar replacement was nearing completion with testing to follow. Finally the runway extension project had seen main works commencing on the A45 following SMBC discharging the relevant planning requirements.

Cllr Mrs. Haywood reported that on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September she had attended her first meeting as Governor of Castle Bromwich Junior School, which was held in their newly refurbished Staff Room. Mr. Backhouse welcomed the new Governors and those returning saying that school had started in a very positive way and that it was good to get back after the holiday. He said that there had been several resignations last year and that he was looking forward to having a full complement of Governors for this year. Rob Moon was elected as Chair with Ted Richards as Vice Chair for the coming year. The main purpose for this meeting was to allocate Governors to the 2 Committees i.e. Finance/Premises and Curriculum. She had been appointed to the Finance and Premises Committee. Everyone was then treated to a tour of the school, which was well received as they all had an opportunity to see what work had been done since the fire and what was hopefully planned for the future, bearing in mind the financial restraints. Refreshments were then provided back at the staffroom.

On Monday 24 September, Cllr Mrs. Haywood attended her first Finance and Premises

meeting which was basically a “getting to understand” the finances of the school, with Mr. Backhouse taking us through their Financial Statement. On Wednesday morning, 26<sup>th</sup> September, she had joined a year 6 class as they watched Loudmouth Productions. Jack collected her from the Staffroom (he was a School Cllr) and escorted her to where his class were. Loudmouth Productions was set up in 1994 and worked to ensure a future where all children and young people were healthy, happy and safe and able to reach their full potential. The children learnt about relationships and how they and their bodies changed from 10 – 13 years. She thoroughly enjoyed her morning and had been most impressed with the children and with how Loudmouth approached a very difficult subject. The next Governors meeting would be on Monday 8 October.

ACTION

**15. Report of the Officer of the Council.**

The Clerk reported that the park had to be closed for a short period due to flooding of the entrances after heavy rain. Solihull MBC were yet to supply the financial information about road and parking maintenance/improvements that had been anticipated for this meeting. Invitations had been issued to all groups and attendees for the forthcoming Remembrance Parade and appeals for safety marshals sent out. Councillors were asked to note the reply deadlines tabled for this event and the Carol Concert. A Nalc report had been tabled from their Chief Executive and the WALC Annual Report was available, with details of their AGM on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November. Members of the Pavilion and Licence WP were asked to remain briefly after the meeting. A member of staff had been commended by the Clerk for continuing to work on 16<sup>th</sup> September under unacceptable conditions. A sewage problem in the Pavilion was still being investigated.

**16. Report of the Chairman.**

The Chairman reported that he had not attended any events on behalf of the council since the last meeting and that he would be pleased to accept invitations to community events.

**17. Parish Council Footloose Project.**

Under confidential terms, members considered the information circulated on the Project. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hicks, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Council fully endorse and accept the Project plans. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Amos, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that progress of the project be delegated to the Leisure Services Committee. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Cllr Amos and the Clerk be delegated authority to sign and complete the required paperwork.

RA/Clerk  
12/10

**10. Castle Bromwich Cricket & Sports Club (continued).**

Under confidential terms, members were appalled by an incident in the Pavilion during a hire period which consequently the Clerk had actioned in the absence of the Hall Manager. The Park Warden had been thanked and commended for continuing to work on 16<sup>th</sup> September and endeavouring to clean facilities for the next hirer. Members asked for the Club to give their response before the Leisure Services Committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Members discussed their concern at the volume of recent enquiries submitted to the Council and endorsed the suggestion that the Chairman, Cllr Riordan, Cllr Mrs. Allen and Cllr Terry support some of the Clerk’s responses sent in future to this hirer. Following careful consideration, the request of the Club Chairman to have outside doors left unlocked under his personal supervision was **PROPOSED** by the Chairman, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Horne-MacDonald but was defeated. Any remaining issues

Clerk  
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would be decided by the Leisure Services Committee.

DRAFT