

6. Questions from Councillors.

None submitted.

7. Questions from the Public.

In accordance with Standing Orders, the meeting was temporarily adjourned so that members of the public could ask questions. The chairman thanked members of the public for their attendance and following an indication that the main topic of interest was the Boundary Commission proposals, questions on other topics were invited first. Bor. Cllr Richards referred to a previous meeting when a concern had been expressed about parking obstructions outside Park Hall Academy. He reported that a site meeting would be taking place on 3rd November with a Highways Officer when two alternative solutions would be considered – installation of bollards or ‘keep clear’ zig zags which were enforceable outside schools. The Chairman thanked the Borough Councillor for this feedback.

8. Boundary Changes.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that to comply with Standing Orders, the meeting be temporarily adjourned so that members of the public could ask questions. [Clerk’s Note: As instructed at the last meeting, views had been sought from parishioners, Solihull MBC, the Borough Councillors, the MP, and the Solihull Area Committee of town and parish councils.] A press release had raised parishioner’s awareness of the Boundary Commission proposals and any written public submissions that had been copied to the parish council had been available for members to view prior to the meeting. At the invitation of the Chairman, views were invited. Bor. Cllr Richards stated this was a serious proposal by the Boundary Commission and if people objected to the idea of moving Castle Bromwich into the Erdington constituency and bringing Coleshill North, Coleshill South, Water Orton and Shard End into the Meriden constituency, taking out Knowle then it was no good just saying it wasn’t liked. He thought there were 4 parameters that should be commented upon, including the size, shape and geographical layout of the constituencies. The Boundary Commission had ignored the borough council boundaries and not followed their remit to have regard to local ties. Castle Bromwich had been part of Solihull MBC since the 1974 boundary review and prior to that it had been part of Meriden Rural District Council. He felt that sufficient weight had not been given to these facts and added that the natural boundaries of the M6 and the B4114 had also not been considered. He believed that historical ties were important too as Castle Bromwich shared two churches and shops with the Shard End ward. The Borough Councillors felt that a sensible response would be to form a counter proposal. Having due regard to the knock on effect for North Warwickshire, the counter proposal would be to retain Castle Bromwich (9271 electorate) in the new Meriden constituency and return Coleshill North, Coleshill South and Water Orton (8194 electorate) to the North Warwickshire constituency. A resident from the Bradford ward was concerned that if Castle Bromwich was subsumed into the Erdington constituency then it may follow later as part of Birmingham too. A representative said that Castle Bromwich Ladies Club strongly objected to the movement from Meriden RDC and supported the views of Bor. Cllr Richards. A resident from the Timberley ward asked what the Parish Council ideas would be as a body that represented residents, as she agreed with Bor. Cllr Richards and would be taking action to encourage submission of views. The Chairman replied that the Parish Council had registered to speak at a forthcoming Boundary Commission hearing and would put the views that the community of Castle Bromwich expressed. He asked for

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confirmation of what those views were and everyone present indicated they were opposed to the new constituency proposed by the Boundary Commission. A spokesperson for the 60 Ladies Club members and 100 Friends in Retirement members said everyone was opposed to the proposals and were worried what may follow afterwards. A resident asked how you could be in one constituency without paying your council tax to them but it was confirmed that this was possible. A resident asked if the changes would affect the educational needs of their son but the Chairman confirmed the proposals were for MP constituency boundaries and not other areas. A resident from the Park Hall ward asked if the Parish Council could obtain publicity for the proposals to let more parishioners know. Bor. Cllr Richards congratulated the Parish Council on the publicity they had achieved in the Castle Bromwich Gazette, Castle Bromwich Echo and Birmingham Mail. He had personally faced some criticism for his article but had also organised 5000 leaflets and hoped that everyone could be told about the proposals. He urged individual letters should be sent to the Boundary Commission. A resident asked if guidance could be given from the Parish Council as some parishioners needed help in explaining the reasons for their objections and that internet submissions were not possible for everyone. A representative from the Ladies Club said that sample letters were being supplied to their members. A local historian confirmed that the parish of Castle Bromwich had never been part of the city of Birmingham, adding that Shard End was part of Castle Bromwich until 1947 and that Hodge Hill and Bucklands End was part of the parish until 1931. Cllr Knibb supported the views of Bor Cllr Richards and Cllr Whelan asked for the numbers given earlier to be repeated. The Chairman suggested the Parish Council worked with the Borough Councillors to support their counter proposals. Cllr Knibb suggested the Parish Council include the salient points in a letter giving guidance to parishioners who wished to respond to the Boundary Commission by the deadline of 5th December. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF the Chairman, SECONDED** by Cllr Amos, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Parish Council support the counter proposal of the Borough Councillors to retain Castle Bromwich (9271 electorate) in the new Meriden constituency and return Coleshill North, Coleshill South and Water Orton (8194 electorate) to the North Warwickshire constituency. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Knibb, SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** that all members of the parish be encouraged to write on a personal level to the Boundary Commission in support of the counter proposals, with the Parish Council publicising the salient points to assist. The Clerk confirmed this should be available on paper in addition to via email. **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** that Cllr Whelan be delegated to speak at the Boundary Commission hearing on 3rd November and put forward the views of the parish council and parishioners.

9. Communications.

Members noted the information listed. The Chairman and Cllr Knibb, endorsed by other members, congratulated everyone who helped to raise £687.57 for Macmillan at the excellent coffee morning.

10. Appointment of Representatives.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Cllr Knibb be appointed as representative to the Solihull Area Committee in place of Cllr Hayes who was standing down due to work commitments. Cllr Amos and Cllr Mrs. Wilkins expressed an interest in becoming governors at Castle Bromwich Junior School, should confirmation be received that vacancies were available.

Clerk
Asap

JTW
3/11

Asst Clerk
asap

Clerk
asap

11. Nomination of Representatives for the Parish Council.

Following careful consideration, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the offers to attend by the following volunteers should be accepted: a) SAC workshop on Saturday 5th November in Meriden be attended by Cllr Knibb and the Clerk; b) that interest be expressed in the planned formation of the HS2 Consultative Committee and meetings be attended by any available councillor (Clerk to invite absent members to attend if available or work commitments allowed); c. i) that written questions be asked for and delegated to Finance and General Purposes Committee to respond on Affordable Housing Policy; c. ii) that the Core Strategy Meeting (possibly on 22nd November) be attended by Cllr Whelan.

ACTION
 EK/Clerk
 5/11
 Clerk -
 JHM/AT
 Clerk
 2/11
 JTW
 22/11

12. Play area – Safety Surfacing Quotes.

Following consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Miss Ward, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the repairs be undertaken to the fixings and safety surfacing of the space net climbing frame only and that the cheapest quotation from BJ Play be accepted at a cost of £4,470.00 + VAT. This was in excess of the budget allocation of £3486 and the balance would be funded by general reserves. Members noted the difficulty in obtaining quotations from contractors and asked who Solihull MBC used. The Clerk said there had been difficulty in the past obtaining such information but was hopeful that assistance would be forthcoming in future.

Clerk
 4/11

13. Payments.

Following clarification of a query by Cllr Riordan, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments and retrospective salary costs be approved. Members noted the latest budget printouts.

Admin Asst
 27/10

14. Conclusion of Audit of Accounts 2010/2011

Members noted that the external auditor had certified the accounts stating that on the basis of their review, in their opinion the information in the annual return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the public notices be displayed on the closure of audit procedures.

Clerk
 27/10

15. Report of the Staff Panel.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Staff Panel held on Wednesday, 10th August be duly received and noted.

16. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Allen, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 5th October 2011, having been circulated, be duly received and noted.

17. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesdays, 28th September and 12th October 2011, having been circulated, be duly received and noted.

18. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Riordan reported that on 13th October he had attended a meeting of the WALC Solihull Area Committee at Cheswick Green Village Hall. The major part of the

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ACTION

meeting comprised a Safeguarding Awareness training course given by Paula Brown, Corporate Safeguarding Manager SMBC. The aims of the course were to develop awareness of, and the ability to act on, concerns about the safety and welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults within the context of local and national safeguarding procedures. A copy of the training pack could be obtained from the Clerk. The meeting concluded with various reports from Committee representatives and the next meeting would be on 12th January 2012 at Meriden.

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that on Sunday 23rd October she had helped with the bulb planting in the sensory garden on the Village Green with the Youth Council.

Cllr Knibb reported that on 6th October he had attended the WALC County Committee Meeting at Leamington Spa. Nominations had been made and officers appointed. Discussions took place on the financial benefits should WALC/WRCC merge. Finances were reviewed and subscription rates for 2012-13 and consideration given to paying a subscription to the new Local Associations Information Services which should prove helpful to smaller parishes. A whole host of other reports and the cabinet white paper on Open Public Services were considered and responses formulated, which he could elaborate further after the meeting. The next meeting after the AGM would be on 16th January 2012 again at Leamington.

19. Report of the Officer of the Council.

Members were reminded of the importance of reviewing their Register of Interest forms which were held by the Borough Council. New ones had been provided for completion and advice could be sought from the Monitoring Officer at SMBC if required.

Members
Asap

20. Report of the Chairman.

The Chairman reported that since the last meeting he had not attended any official functions in his role as Chair. However, he took the opportunity to thank the Clerk and councillors for their help in lightening his workload in the last month following a family bereavement.

21. Hirer Complaint and Issues.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Knibb, **SECONDED** by Cllr Amos, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, it was advisable in the public interest, as if members of the public were present during the consideration of such business, there would be disclosure to them of information under paras 1 and 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act, that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw. Following careful and full consideration, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk be instructed to write two further letters asking for a response to the council's previous letters sent in August. **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the one letter received should be referred to the next Leisure Services Committee for a response.

Clerk
Asap

LSC
2/11