

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
 CASTLE BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL
 HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
 ON WEDNESDAY 27TH JANUARY 2010
 AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

- Chairman:** Cllr J Riordan [except Item 9]
- Councillors:** Cllr R Amos Cllr I Hiley Cllr Mrs. T Knibb
 Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr J Horne-MacDonald [Items 1-8 only]
 Cllr M Hayes [Items 5-end] Cllr M Rashid
 Cllr Mrs. A Haywood Cllr E Knibb [except Item 12] Cllr A Terry
- Officer:** Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council and RFO
- Guest Speaker:** Cllr W Lowe, Chairman of WALC [Items 1-11 only]
- Public:** 8 members of the public [mainly for Items 1-11 only].

1. Apologies.

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

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

Cllr Mrs. T Knibb declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 12 (Correspondence) and a personal interest in Items 13-15 (Style and format of minutes; recording of meetings; mediation of local issues). Cllr E Knibb declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 12 (Correspondence) and a personal interest in Items 13-15 (Style and format of minutes; recording of meetings; mediation of local issues). Cllr Riordan declared a personal interest in Item 9 as he was the subject of the motion by Cllr Amos. Cllr Hayes declared a personal interest in Item 5 as the candidate for co-option was previously known to him.

3. Presentation of Award for Service to the Community – Jonathan Adams, Park Hall Academy.

Members listened with great interest as Jonathan Adams told of his community work. He had worked with architects to help design the new school, helped the school arrange the successful Garden and Christmas Parties with invitations, greeting visitors and picking strawberries, worked with the school council on travel plans, given presentations to governors and helped to interview staff, including the current Principal. Since his work experience placement at Heartlands Hospital the previous year, Jonathan had become a voluntary helper every Sunday afternoon which he greatly enjoyed. Cllr Riordan was delighted, on behalf of the Council, to present Jonathan with his award and a gift voucher.

4. Guest Speaker – Cllr Bill Lowe, Chairman of Warwickshire Association of Local Councils

Cllr Lowe was in his second year as Chairman of the Association and felt the parish and town councils looked after the interests of local people, as in Castle Bromwich. He believed that people were the main stay of democracy, not the authorities. The people elected the councillors and the councillors elected their Chairman to lead the Council. The position of Chairman was a non-political position. He explained his previous involvement in local government and the many services provided by WALC, which he was not here to

ACTION

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sell but to explain what was on offer. He regularly met with other professionals (locally, regionally and nationally) and endeavoured to highlight the needs of rural parishes. WALC employed Alison Hodge who strived to guide councils and clerks in helping their communities. One example was supporting a North Warwickshire community organise a consultation on proposed open-cast mining. The Association met periodically and Cllr Riordan represented Castle Bromwich at these meetings. Cllr Lowe endorsed the role of youth councils as they were the parish councils of the future. He reminded members that Castle Bromwich Parish Council was part of a bigger family and that councils should avoid being insular, aiming to work together and use money jointly to go further. If councils thought about what they were doing, where they wanted to go then WALC would help them all feel valued. Members asked Cllr Lowe about the problems facing rural parishes and support for corporate business. The Chairman thanked Cllr Lowe for his interesting talk.

5. Co-option of new member for Whateley Ward.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Horne-MacDonald explained he had lived in Birmingham for over 8 years and moved to Castle Bromwich where he lived with his family. He had noticed that more was needed to be done for children and wanted to give something to the community, which he thought would be fulfilled by being a parish councillor. Following questions, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Mr. Horne-MacDonald be co-opted as a councillor for the Whateley ward, which was geographically closest to his home address.

6. To Receive Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and the Chairman welcomed the new member to the Parish Council. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hayes, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the declaration be accepted and that Cllr Horne-MacDonald serve on the Finance and General Purposes Committee. There were opportunities to serve on Leisure Services Committee and working parties which would be explained by the Clerk at a later time.

7. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, with 9 votes in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd December and the amended sections of the meeting held on 25th November, 2009, be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

8. Precept 2010/11.

Following the setting of budgets previously, members expressed their views on the options, the current economic climate and the Retail Price Index. Following a request, the Chairman and Cllr Hayes clarified figures to ensure understanding. Cllr Hayes suggested a zero increase on the current precept. Cllr Amos suggested a 5% increase on the current precept. Cllr Mrs. Knibb **PROPOSED** a 3% increase on the current precept, which was **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen. Cllr Hayes **PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT** of a 2% increase on the current precept and this was **SECONDED** by Cllr Horne-MacDonald. With 7 votes in favour, 4 against and no abstentions, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the precept for 2010/2011 be increased by 2% to £219,288, which for a Band D house would equate to £53.20 per annum.

9. Motion by Cllr Amos.

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Mrs. Allen took the Chair for this item only. **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Amos, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, the motion

Clerk/JH
Tba

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to express the full and unreserved support of Cllr Amos for the way Cllr Riordan was conducting himself in the role of Chairman of this Parish Council was considered by members. The importance in a democratic society of being able to express differing views whilst retaining respect for each other's opinions was stated. As two world wars had been fought for freedom and today the nation had commemorated the horrors of the holocaust, members **AGREED** that a vote would not be taken. Cllr Mrs. Allen expressed her support for Cllr Riordan. Cllr Amos said his motion was prompted by his wish to support all serving members on the council and he urged everyone to speak honestly at meetings but agree to differ so that once decisions were made, members should be able to shake hands before going home, as was the custom and practice in the past.

10. Questions from Councillors.

None submitted. The Clerk's report on questions deferred from the last meeting was noted and referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to agree on any further action.

11. Questions from the Public.

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

Mr. Gibbins, Kingsleigh Drive, asked why the Council had not amended hire regulations following the insurer's confirmation that some cover existed if the Council cancelled a room hire? The Chairman replied that the matter would be referred to the Leisure Services Committee. Mr. Gibbins referred to the report on the financial investigation and asked the Council to record meetings as there were no verbatim records of discussions? Cllr Hayes replied that in some documents he had examined it was not easy to understand how some decisions were made and confirmed again that there was no evidence of irregularities. He supported recording of meetings to produce a verbatim log, which would allow the recording to be destroyed.

Mr. Woodhouse, Blandford Avenue, said that parishioners expected a united parish council that would be pulling in the same direction. In his experience of charring events, he knew it was necessary to sometimes knock heads together. He thought that it would take many years to recover financially from the recession and urged the Council to focus its attention in the right direction and work better together and do it's job.

The Chairman then gave feedback from Bor. Cllr. Richards who had confirmed that the new signage on the Bradford Road for the Coach and Horses Public House would be removed as it was on Borough Council land. The operators of the car wash at the rear of the Chester Arms had until 31st January to apply for permission, otherwise enforcement action would be taken.

12. Correspondence received from Member.

As the correspondence referred to personal circumstances of a councillor, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that for this meeting, under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is 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 exempt information under paras 1 and 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act, that the public be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw.

After careful consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED**

FGP
10/2

LSC
3/3

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BY Cllr Mrs. Haywood and with 8 votes in favour, none against and 1 abstention, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that Bill Robinson be approached, via WALC, to act as a facilitator, and an informal meeting for all members would be arranged as a matter of urgency.

Clerk
28/1

13. Style and format of Parish Council Minutes and

14. Recording of Council Meetings.

15. Mediation of local issues.

Following consideration of Item 12, it was **AGREED** that members should aim to consider these matters at the special informal meeting, with recommendations fed back to Council.

Council
urgent

16. Communications.

Members noted the information listed. The Clerk would invite the Monitoring Officer to the February meeting and was delegated to arrange the support to Park Hall Academy in line with the policy of supporting activities to enhance the curriculum.

Asst Clerk
2/2 and
Asap

17. Working Parties.

No meetings had taken place.

18. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, with 7 votes in favour, no votes against and 3 abstentions, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 20th January 2010, 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 Terry, with 9 votes in favour, no votes against and 1 abstention, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesdays 23rd December 2009 and 13th January 2010, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

20. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that on Tuesday, 26th January she represented the Chairman at a meeting of the Solihull Standards Committee and information was available from the Clerk on request from members. On Wednesday, 27th January Cllr Mrs. Allen had also represented the Chairman at the Holocaust Memorial Commemorative Service in Solihull for the 65th anniversary.

The Chairman reported that on Wednesday, 20th January he had attended the annual meeting of the WALC County Committee. Member appointments were decided upon. The annual meeting was followed by the quarterly meeting of the County Committee. If members wished to see copies of the agenda, minutes and reports they should contact the Clerk.

21. Report of the Officer of the Council.

Members noted that a copy had been tabled of the changes to Standing Orders, which should be appended to their copies. Information had been received for environmental champions to remove graffiti on fences from Water Orton Road to Lanchester Way and volunteers were welcome on 12th February from 10.30 am – 2.30 pm.

22. Report of the Chairman

On Friday 26th March, the next Chairman's Charity Quiz Night would take place in the Spencer Suite and teams were invited to submit their entry forms.

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**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 [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.

23. Style and format of Parish Council Minutes and

8. 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 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

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.

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.

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.

MH/PA
Tba

Clerk 15/12