

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLE
BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 27TH APRIL 2011
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr Mrs. P Allen

Councillors: Cllr M Hayes Cllr M Rashid Cllr Ms. J Smith
 Cllr Mrs. A Haywood [Item 1-7 only] Cllr Miss J Ward
 Cllr J Horne-MacDonald Cllr J Riordan Cllr J Whelan
 Cllr E Knibb Cllr Mrs. L Smith Cllr Mrs. B. Wilkins

Guests: Mr. T. Morrison/Dr. L Browne of Park Hall Academy
 Youth Cllr D Bliss, Park Hall Academy

Officer: Mrs C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council/RFO

Public: 6 members of the public [Items 1-20 only]

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr R Amos and Cllr I Hiley were noted for the reasons given. Cllr A Terry was absent.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 30th March, 2011 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Presentation of Award for Service to the Community – Daniel Bliss, Park Hall Academy.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman was delighted to present Daniel Bliss with his award, which was particularly pleasing as Daniel served as a member of the Youth Parish Council. Youth Cllr Bliss explained the many activities that he had been involved with that contributed to his winning the award, being particularly delighted with a business award when he won Young Director of the Year. Daniel apologized that he had missed the last meeting but had been taking part in a charity fashion show.

5. Guest Speaker – Park Hall Academy

The Chairman introduced the Guest Speaker, Mr. Tony Morrison, Principal of Park Hall Academy to members and also welcomed Dr. Lesley Browne of the Academy. Mr. Morrison spoke about the student’s performance in the GCSE examinations for 2010 when Park Hall Academy Year 11 students achieved incredible results with 100% of them obtaining 5 A* - C grades. The number of students going into the sixth form had also increased greatly and it was felt the Academy prepared students from this community well for their future lives. Following a presentation of awards in London, Caroline Spelman MP, had visited the Academy and presented awards to the School Council and kindly took part in a ‘Question Time’ debate with the politics group. Mr. Morrison outlined the extensive extra curriculum activities available and the statistics of what pupils moved on to after they had left the Academy. He warmly thanked the Parish Council for the support and financial assistance given and then introduced Dr. Lesley Browne from the Academy. Dr. Browne spoke about her community role during the past two years and outlined in depth the students’ achievements at the Academy. These

ACTION

included a full election at the Academy for their own School Council with all students being interested and taking part in this democratic process. Dr. Browne spoke about the students' varied experiences, particularly mentioning the Youth Parish Council, the input into environmental issues, including the Wildlife Trust working in the ancient woodland and old walled garden of Castle Bromwich Manor, which 10 youngsters visited every week; Year Six gifted and talented students had taken part in the team Maths Challenge; the Debating Team had been very successful and a large number of other students had also been winning awards in a number of competitions for various activities. An Academy Radio station had been launched with students gaining experience in producing, presenting, researching and editing radio programmes, which built on the performance skills learnt during shows like 'Narnia' (the latest production). The Academy was building on the already established relationships with local schools, elderly people in the community, the youth centre, local theatres, running a breakfast club by their award winning catering staff, charitable fundraising, activities with local public services (particular the fire service). She looked forward to building relations with new groups like the U3A, the army (via ex-pupils who were currently serving but on leave from Afghanistan); international school links with Sweden and by visiting foreign countries to enhance curriculum studies. There was a lot of excitement and planning taking place for their impending 60th Birthday celebrations.

Cllr Riordan referred to his profession in engineering and queried openings for students and whether the Academy found there were skill shortages that needed addressing. Skill needs within occupations changed over time and he asked if the Academy actively promoted openings for students. Mr. Morrison replied that the Academy worked closely with Aston University with regard to taster courses in engineering for students in Years 10 and 11, with other connections also being established with Jaguar Landrover. The Chairman thanked Mr. Morrison and Dr. Browne for their time attending this meeting and for their talk, which she was sure members had found most enjoyable, interesting and enlightening.

6. Questions from the Public.

In accordance with Standing Orders, the meeting was temporarily adjourned so that members of the public could ask questions.

A resident living by the Village Green praised the recent work undertaken by the Youth Council to the Sensory Garden and expressed concern at the litter and vandalism which had taken place since the Sensory Garden had been built. Branches had been pulled off trees, youths had been playing football on the Green and the other evening users of the nearby public house had parked on the Green, leaving a sea of litter and damaging the grass. He asked if the youths were allowed to erect goal posts on the Village Green to play football? The Chairman thanked the resident for his question which would be referred to the Leisure Services Committee.

LSC
4/5

A resident asked for more information about the reference in previous minutes linking speed limits to wheelie bins. Details of this topic were explained and the council was hopeful that a reduction in speeding traffic could be achieved if motorists saw large speed limit stickers on the weekly bin emptying day.

Council
18/5

7. Questions from Councillors.

Cllr Miss Ward expressed her concern about intimidating behaviour that she had witnessed by older youths playing football and abusing equipment inside the young children's play area. This had taken place on a Sunday afternoon and she had chosen to leave the park as a result.

LSC
4/5

8. Communications.

Members noted the information listed and the request from Bor.Cllr Richards for improved liaison between Solihull MBC and the Parish Council would be placed on the next council agenda.

9. Consideration of HS2 issues.

Members noted the consultation document was available and Cllr Hayes volunteered to start the circulation to members.

10. Civic Service – Sunday 12th June, 2011

Members noted the suggestion of the Rector to update the format of the service and **IT WAS AGREED** to delegate this matter to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman.

11. Notice of Audit 2010/2011.

Members noted receipt of the notice, the information requested and the action required.

12. Sharing information of Residents Concerns.

Following consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Horne-MacDonald, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that a copy of the monthly summary of residents concerns be supplied to the 3 Borough Councillors **AND** that residents be made aware of the change to confidentiality by the sharing of this information. Notices would be posted on noticeboards, the website and verbally to parishioners when concerns were registered. Cllr Knibb asked if this was the 3 Ward Councillors, which was confirmed. Cllr Mrs. Haywood asked that the Borough Councillors reciprocate the arrangement by telling the council their results/actions.

13. Committee Structure and responsibilities.

Following consideration, explanations and discussion, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that delegated powers to Committees to approve payments and deal with financial matters would be removed and these matters be dealt with by full Council. New terms of reference would be drafted.

14. Payments and financial matters.

Following clarification of queries, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Whelan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments be approved. Members noted the additional year end reports and new year financial printouts. The year end financial checklist was commenced to assess governance, signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Council and is appended to the minutes. Outstanding items on the checklist would be considered when accounts had been finalised.

15. Working Parties.

Although a meeting had not taken place, the Chairman reported that Cllr Mrs. Haywood, Cllr Mrs. Wilkins and herself asked for the hosepipe to be installed in the Garden of Memory. When Cllr Mrs. Wilkins and she had planted the bed for the Royal Wedding the Warden had supplied water from the pavilion. On Friday 15th April the Chairman had worked on the Village Green with Youth Cllr Jessica Browne and Dr. Lesley Browne weeding the flower beds. They were later joined by Youth Cllr Alice Munro, her mother and sister, other youth councillors and venture scouts. On Sunday 17th April the community joined together to finish the weeding, replant the shrubs that had been pulled out the previous evening and then new plants were put in. A very big thank you was expressed to all who had helped.

ACTION

Members
19/5

Clerk
Asap

Asst
Clerk
Asap

Asst
Clerk
26/5

16. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, bearing in mind that Item 7 required further discussion, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 6th April 2011, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Under confidential terms, at the end of the meeting, members discussed Item 7 and **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Ms. Smith, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that no decision be reached on additional keyholders until the arrears were paid. The Clerk was instructed to write to the hirer and request that all grievances be put in writing by 20th June, with possible solutions included if they wished, so that the relationship could move forward and staff be supported. **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Council would consider their written grievances on 29th June if the arrears had been paid and the account satisfactorily up to date.

ACTION

Clerk
Asap

Clerk
Asap

Council
29/6

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 Wednesday, 30th March and 13th April 2011, having been circulated, be received, approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

18. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Riordan reported that on Thursday 14th April he had attended the WALC Solihull Area Committee (SAC) when two guest speakers gave presentations. Nick Tromans, from SMBC, spoke on community cohesion and hate crime, stating the Community Cohesion Strategy was aimed to help ensure that all communities got along with each other. Solihull was a diverse community and the recent census would give an up to date picture. The Strategy would be impacted by financial cuts but he would be willing to come and talk to Parish Councils if they so wished. He then spoke about hate crime which tended to be under reported although 168 hate crimes were reported in Solihull last year, 16% of these led to prosecutions by the Police. He felt that some people were reluctant to report such crimes to the Police and he was looking at third party reporting centres for people to use instead, having in mind Citizens Advice Bureaux and Parish Councils, if Parish Councils wanted to take part. He was looking to get a number of centres in place by end of May. Sarah Barnes, from SMBC, spoke about the role of Partnership forums and SAC and the Stronger Communities Strategic group. She said the five Strategic groups within the Partnership would have to change due to the cuts climate and become more cost effective. The five groups may condense to three. The SAC Chair currently had a place on the Stronger Communities Strategic Group, which may be combined with the Safer Communities Strategic Group. She went on to outline what had happened so far in the local Partnership Forums. There had been three rounds of meetings to date and the next round would be in June/July and would focus on crime and community safety. A report was given by a SAC member relating to the proposed high speed railway saying four exhibitions by the Heart of England High Speed Railway Action Group had been held so far, the last one in Chelmsley Wood when 5000 copies of their newsletter had been distributed. The SAC Standards Committee representative had reported that SMBC had no appetite to help Parish Councils when legislation abolished the statutory standards regime. It would be up to Parish Councils to make their own arrangements. The Committee discussed possible options which would be

discussed in greater depth at the next meeting.

On Tuesday 19th April Cllr Riordan had attended a meeting of the WALC County Committee held in Warwick Town Council offices. The first item on the agenda was the election of a new chairman as the current chairman's council has not renewed its membership with WALC. Councillor Vaughan Owen was elected chairman. The end of year accounts to 31st March 2011 and the balance sheet were approved. 3 year forecast and budgets for each year up to 31st March 2014 were presented and discussed. Budget savings were agreed and the subsidies for the Parish Development Officer, Good Councillor Guide and the CILCA study were removed. Reports from the NALC Council meeting held on the 29th March 2011 and a Local Enterprise Partnership Briefing event were discussed. It was agreed that the Chairman & the County Secretary should attend the NALC Communities in Action Conference to be held later this year. Copies of all paperwork relating to this meeting can be obtained from the Clerk.

The Chairman reported that on Thursday 14th April, she had attended a meeting of Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens as a representative of the Parish Council. Trustees were given a tour of the gardens to see the changes they were making with planting schemes.

19. Report of the Officer of the Council.

The Clerk requested members complete their preference forms for responsibilities in the next civic year so that preparations could be made for the AGM. Members noted the confirmation that 13 members who had completed their nominations forms had been elected unopposed, with the council being able to co-opt and fill the two new vacancies remaining after 5th May. The Clerk clarified the requirements for members to return election expense forms to the Borough Council, to sign the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office at or before the meeting on 19th May and to update their existing Register of Interests.

20. Report of the Chairman.

The Chairman reported that on Saturday 23rd April, she had attended the Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Easter Event. The Mayor and Mayoress of Solihull and herself had judged the Easter hats which was a very difficult job to do but it was a very pleasant and enjoyable afternoon.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman expressed her thanks to Cllr Barbara Wilkins and Cllr Janine Smith for their many years of valuable service to Castle Bromwich and its parishioners. Although they were standing down from the council, she hoped to see them again at council events in the future.

21. Proposed refurbishment of Business Annex at Arden Hall.

Under confidential terms, members considered initially the feasibility of the council office being relocated to the ground floor, which had first been planned many years ago, and accepted the principle. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that Standing Order 1 (a) be suspended for a period of 15 minutes to allow the item to be concluded. Members felt unable to proceed without further information and careful planning as the existing plans for capital projects had been agreed. The Clerk outlined additional costs that would fall on the council (e.g. rates) whilst the annex was unused. As this project had not been previously included in budget plans, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hayes, **SECONDED** by Cllr Ms. Smith, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Buildings working party meet and prepare estimates for existing plans to establish a 5 year rolling programme, which was welcomed by the Clerk.

ACTION

All members
19/5

Buildings
WP
tbc
(June 11)