

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLE
BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2011
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr M Hayes

Councillors: Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr M Rashid Cllr A Terry
 Cllr Mrs. A Haywood [Except part Item 11] Cllr Miss J Ward
 Cllr I Hiley Cllr J Riordan Cllr J Whelan

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

Guests: Mr. Steven Hayes, Centro, [Items 2-4,6 only]

Public: 4 members of the public [2 for part of meeting only]

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr R Amos, Cllr E Knibb, Cllr J Horne-MacDonald and Cllr Mrs. L Smith were noted for the reasons given.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Whelan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesday 27th July and 9th August, 2011 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Guest Speaker – Steven Hayes, Centro

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Hayes outlined the role of Centro, who were responsible for commissioning bus services but did not actually operate them as this had been undertaken by commercial companies since 1985. Companies operated in ‘corridors’ where there was demand and Centro could offer subsidies for operating in off-peak hours and for less used routes. Centro had the role of representing the passengers and worked closely with all operators to ensure, where possible, that needs were met. Services for this parish were provided by National Express and changes made following a review of services in 2010. One example was the 94 route which was seen as confusing with a complicated route. This had been simplified for the Auckland Drive area with the 72 route taking over Windward Way instead. The 966 bus still served the airport and Solihull, although the evening service would change from the end of October. Centro was also responsible for providing information in a co-ordinated fashion and for the centralized on-street infrastructure, which was done for a fee to all operators. Travel Line was also managed by Centro with a website giving information on all services.

Members asked questions on the following matters: improvements needed on evening services to Heartlands Hospital; special services for elderly for shopping etc; real time information operating on part routes only; the need for a circular route via north Warwickshire to Coleshill Parkway/Hams Hall business park; noise nuisance in Beechcroft Road from ‘speaking’ bus stops; request for timetables and contact information. Mr. Hayes explained reasons for some issues but undertook to look into other matters. There were no objections to the Chairman’s suggestion of taking public questions as the next item.

ACTION

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 from the Park Hall ward asked about the bus service from Heartlands Hospital through Smiths Wood to Erdington which was valuable although it used older vehicles. A resident from Bradford ward pointed out that people working early shifts could not travel by bus to Solihull or Stratford Road, asking for improvements to allow job opportunities to be taken at the Airport and NEC. He also asked for a bus service that would bring home passengers who had visited Heartlands Hospital. Bor Cllr Sleigh asked what passenger numbers were required to establish viability for a service and Mr. Hayes replied that less than 5 passengers on average per journey would not normally qualify for a subsidy but confirmed that passengers using bus passes did count as a fare, adding that when concessions were allowed it attracted more passengers. Mr. Hayes added that Network Review hoped to bring stability to the network. The Chairman, on behalf of the Council thanked Mr. Hayes for attending the meeting and felt the information shared had been valuable.

Moving on to other topics, a resident from the Park Hall ward again highlighted the dangers of parents parking outside Park Hall school, particularly when collecting pupils. The Clerk was asked to email borough councillors and Sgt. Dalton to alert them to these continued concerns. A resident from the Bradford Ward informed members that Castle Bromwich Hall Hotel was due to open on Saturday 1st October and the Hall Gardens would be holding their popular Apple Day on Sunday 2nd October. Another resident from the Bradford ward complained that the circular flower bed at the Village Green was in need of weeding and leaf clearing. The Clerk was asked to check when work had last been done by the Mobile Warden and the contractor. The Clerk gave feedback given on the Wheelie Bin Speed Safety idea with the news that a meeting was being arranged to discuss potential designs. Sgt. Dalton hoped to attend the October parish council meeting but had been pleased to pass on that some recent arrests had quickly resulted in a noticeable reduction in crime.

Clerk
asap

Clerk
asap

5. Questions from Councillors.

On behalf of Cllr Amos, the Chairman asked that the Buildings and Open Space working party meet to prepare information for grant applications for Arden Hall and other areas, also considering expanding the liaison meeting with hirers to invite views on improvements. Following consideration, Cllrs Horne-MacDonald, Hiley, Amos, Riordan, Mrs. Haywood, Mrs. Allen and Miss Ward undertook to meet on Wednesday 19th October from 6.30-8.30 pm. It was **AGREED** that a set of questions could be set by Chairmen with Cllr Amos for him to raise with hirers if this was a quicker solution.

Working
Party
Asap

RA/PA/MH
/AT
asap

7. Communications.

Members noted the information listed. The customer complaint about disabled access in the Pavilion was referred to the next meeting of the Leisure Services Committee and the Legal Topic Note on Data Protection was referred to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Clerk
29/9 & 4/10
Asst Clerk
Copy to MH

8. Parish Plan Steering Group.

Cllr Whelan presented his report on behalf of the Steering Group and following consideration, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the recommendations be accepted. The Chairman commended the group on the progress made and though targeting information sources was a sound basis to proceed. He added that employment issues were important as they linked into development opportunities. The Group was also urged to ask for more support when it was needed.

Steering
Group
asap

9. Boundary Changes.

The Chairman reported this was an important issue and that Bor. Cllr Richards was attending a meeting elsewhere to discuss the matter, therefore unable to attend here tonight. Members discussed the information available and agreed to hear views from members of the public in attendance. Following suggestions and after due consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Terry, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Clerk register the parish council to speak at a future hearing, that views be sought from parishioners, Solihull MBC, the Borough Councillors, the MP, and the Solihull Area Committee of town and parish councils. **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** that a press release be written to raise parishioner’s awareness of the proposals, encourage views to be submitted to the Boundary Commission and to inform the parish council of their opinions at or before the next meeting. After considering responses, the Council would be in a better position to form its opinion on 26th October.

Clerk
30/9

10. Freedom of Information – compliance for first tier councils.

Members noted this information with interest.

11. Capital Projects.

Following clarification of the previous decision to proceed with replacing the ceiling and lighting in the Spencer Hall, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that an additional allocation of £10,000 be made to the Capitation budget for Arden Hall to enable this work to be completed. This would leave a balance of £20,000 from the sale of land at the Village Green. The Committees would formulate their list of preferred works. Members were invited to join the Clerk and the Bookkeeper for preparatory reviews of budget areas (date to be notified) so that draft budget plans for 2012/13 could be prepared for Committees in November and revised in December as necessary. The precept could then be duly considered as normal in January 2012.

Clerk
Asap

Members
Tba

Committees
Nov & Dec

12. Payments.

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

Admin Asst
29/9

13. Report of the Staff Panel.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Staff Panel held on Friday 29th July be duly received and noted. The minutes of the meeting on 10th August would be available at the next meeting.

Asst. Clerk
19/10

14. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Hiley, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 7th September 2011, having been circulated, be duly received and noted.

15. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Cllr Terry, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesdays, 27th July and 14th September, 2011, having been circulated, be duly received and noted.

16. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that on Thursday 4th August she attended a Youth Council

working party meeting. Also on that day she attended Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Trustees meeting. On Thursday 11th August she attended the Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens ‘Animals in Hands’ event as a Trustee. On Tuesday 13th September, she attended Notcutts Garden Centre for the ‘Solihull in Bloom’ finals, accompanying Youth Cllr Daniel Bliss, Youth Cllr Ruth Jennings and the Clerk. She congratulated the youth councillors for their hard work and was pleased they had got to the final round. On Wednesday 14th September she had attended Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens AGM. On Friday 23rd September, a barbecue for volunteers and trustees was held at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, and she was thankful for their kind invitation. The trustees had supplied some of the food and it had been a most enjoyable evening.

Cllr Whelan reported that on 6th September he had attended the Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee meeting, which began with a report from the Chief Executive confirming the recently reported financial performance for 2010/2011 which recorded turnover of £103m, EBITDA of £40m and a post tax profit of £5m. In the circumstances he considered this a good performance citing amongst other things the problems caused by the Icelandic volcano. UK Airport traffic statistics showed strongest performance at “full service” airports operating scheduled European and Long Haul flights. Heathrow for example was showing a moving annual growth figure of 5.4%. This compared with Birmingham’s negative growth figure -0.8%. Birmingham effectively served four markets - the two “full service” sectors were performing strongly but discretionary travel and charter flights were struggling for business. New business continued to be sought however, with talks in progress with an Asian carrier for a Malaysian service and BMI Baby/Flybe both planning to operate more aircraft next year. The move to a single terminal and the new shopping facilities has increased retail turnover by 20%. At the moment the major issue with the new facility was the long queues which could arise at Immigration. A new “smart zone” was being introduced in order to alleviate this problem. This would see passengers cleared in flight on the basis of forwarded information with no further need to scan passports. On the infrastructure side, the new control tower was proceeding towards completion and compulsory purchase orders had now been issued to enable the new runway extension to proceed. In addition tenders had been issued for a new radar installation. The Head of Planning and Environment then gave his report which showed a zero violation record for the second quarter in respect of both day and night flying. There were zero violations with respect to full power engine ground running. The consultation period with regards to night flying ended on 24th August and the Airport company would now prepare its proposals for consideration by the Environmental Monitoring Working Group of which Cllr Whelan was a member. He undertook to report back in due course. Flight paths throughout the UK were currently under review, with the core of the debate being narrow versus wide corridors. The committee reserved its position pending further information on traffic arising from the runway extension. It should be noted that Government projections showed that by 2030 Birmingham would handle 25 million passengers per year (currently 9 million). This assumed no new runways at Heathrow or Stanstead and the go ahead for HS2.

17. Report of the Officer of the Council.

Members noted that the revised insurance schedule had been received; that Solihull MBC had been asked for more notice of the date of the next Core Strategy meeting to enable a representative to be arranged; that a reminder had been sent to all recipients of the Residents Concerns Log sheets about the strict confidentiality of this sometimes

Members
Tba
Clerk
Asap

sensitive data; details were given of 3 events taking place at short notice – Bulb Planting in the Spinney on 5th October, the NHS consultation with patients/public on 6th October and a 12 mile walk on 9th October for Solihull Together.

ACTION

18. Report of the Chairman.

The Chairman reported that on 31st July he had been most humbled to attend the Charity Football Match which was the culmination of other peoples hard work. Money was raised to help those people who had given so much for this country. Fellow members who helped were thanked and £386.40 was raised in the playing fields, although the final total raised was higher as activities continued throughout the day elsewhere.

The Chairman was pleased to also announce that the refurbishment work to the Chain of Office had been completed and looked superb.