

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLE
BROMWICH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY 29TH FEBRUARY 2012
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr M Hayes

Councillors: Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr J Horne-MacDonald Cllr A Terry
 Cllr Mrs. A Haywood Cllr M Rashid Cllr Miss J Ward
 Cllr E Hicks Cllr J Riordan Cllr J Whelan
 Cllr I Hiley Cllr Mrs. L Smith Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins

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

Guest Speakers: Bor. Cllr Richards, Cabinet Portfolio SMBC [Items 1-18]
 Ms. Emily Walsh, SMBC [Items 1- part 6]

Public: 1 member of the public [Items 1-18]

Prior to the start of the meeting, members stood and observed a minutes silence in tribute to former Chairman, Dan Kettle, who had recently died.

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr R Amos and Cllr E Knibb 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 Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 25th January, 2012 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Guest Speakers: Bor. Cllr Ted Richards and Emily Walsh, Solihull MBC.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Cllr Richards said that the many and varied results to the Chester Road traffic consultation had been analysed and plans made as a result. Funding had been granted to extend the North Solihull Cycle Network and it was planned to de-clutter the Hurst Lane shopping area. He also referred to the forthcoming changes for the Chester Road and Craig Croft village centre and then introduced Emily Walsh who was the Transport Planner/Engineer for Solihull MBC. Ms. Walsh reported that the Borough Council had been both surprised and pleased by the high level of response to the two consultation schemes for the Chester Road and the Stratford Road. The Chester Road scheme had received 2422 public responses and 18 business responses, with a good attendance also at the drop-in sessions. There were lots of detailed and varied issues but main points were quality of routes, lack of seating, congestion and speeds in different places. The issues had been gathered together and collated for the report to Cabinet, which was available on line (the link to be forwarded to the Clerk). Unfortunately there had been a hiatus on the project due to uncertainty regarding funding, with next year's budget being known but only indicative funding after that making the 3 year emerging programme difficult to confirm. Ms. Walsh undertook to supply the link for information on the identified funding that would help deliver the early part of the project, the North Solihull Cycle Project, part of which would be at the Hurst Lane shopping area. Being able to cycle to employment areas and/or stations was an identified need to help reduce unemployment. Later in the 3 year programme were 2 projects when it was hoped money would be spent on de-cluttering the area and on pedestrian/parking improvements. There were also lots of issues with the area from the

ACTION

Ms. Walsh
asap

Ms Walsh
asap

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Bed Warehouse to the Chester Arms but it was important to assess the whole picture. The new access point to the Craig Croft centre was referred to, with a funding bid being considered hopefully by June. Recently there had been a planning application to develop the Chester Arms site and a business consultation on waiting restrictions, with responses being analysed to see if the 30 minute waiting period could be extended. At the invitation of the Chairman councillors asked questions on the following topics: whilst maintaining the existing road width, transferring the service road to the other side of the Chester Road which would improve pedestrian and vehicle safety; suggested improvements to the Morrison's petrol station layout, which had received a positive response from the store management when approached by the Parish Plan Steering Group; disappointment that the Borough Council's draft Local Development Framework had too much focus on national retail policy and too little on parking and safety improvement at Hurst Lane shops when it had been recognized in 2010 that pedestrians were not safe; surprise that the only confirmed improvements were to cycle routes; fears that Craig Croft access would make Chester Road traffic worse; details on where the budget for road improvements would be spent in the Borough. Bor. Cllr Richards acknowledged the disappointment expressed but explained that financial constraints had been problematical for the Borough Council, giving details of the spending already completed within the parish but unfortunately not having details of future plans to hand. Ms. Walsh reassured members that the Highways Authority was looking for the developer to prove the Craig Croft access designs would work and be safe, with the Borough Council independently assessing if the work and model was right.

Bor. Cllr
Richards
asap

5. Questions from Councillors.

None.

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 parishioner from the Bradford ward said the Hurst Lane Traffic Management scheme was important and felt that the supermarket had a public duty to make every endeavour to prevent a fatal accident. He wondered how many non-fatal accidents had occurred in the past 24 months on this stretch of road and hoped the police may have such information. He felt the supermarket should replicate the designs of others who managed the queuing cars for petrol within their own car park boundaries. The Chairman informed the meeting that Morrisons had kindly sent apologies for this meeting and were most keen to hear more about the discussions. The parishioner also asked for the road markings to be repainted at the Timberley Lane junction with Chester Road, Old Chester Road and Manor Park Road, which had faded so badly they were nearly non-existent. This was noted by the guest speakers. The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, thanked Ms. Walsh and Bor. Cllr Richards for attending the meeting and looked forward to receiving the promised information.

Clerk
asap

SMBC
tba

Bor. Cllr Richards, as a resident, referred to budget information he had received and expressed his disappointment that the parish council were increasing the precept by 3% when others were not. He questioned the split of budgeted expenditure on capital and revenue and also the increased expenditure to over £46,000 on Open Spaces, which the previous year had only cost £5,000. He asked what the split was between revenue and capital expenditure and also why 54% of the budget was spent on Democratic

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He asked for a written response which the Chairman accepted would be appropriate.

A parishioner from the Bradford ward referred to the pre-draft document within the Parish Plan on Law and Order and the issue of the Village Green being an alcohol restricted zone. He had been shocked to witness two middle-aged adults drinking at 8am one morning, followed by a small group of young adults drinking alcohol at 4 pm. Although the mild weather was exceptional, he fervently hoped this would not be a sign of things to come.

7. Communications.

Members noted the information listed. Following a question on the Information Commission Officers guidance document, the Clerk undertook to clarify details further.

8. Local Development Framework – Solihull Draft Local Plan.

Cllr Whelan had been interested to read the document following his prior attendance at the Shirley meeting. From a Castle Bromwich point of view he noted the new housing at the Village Green, the plans for housing at National Garage and car wash but no mention of the 452 site or the Chester Arms development. He noted 40 pages on the topic of retail but no local references other than to haphazard parking at the Chester Road, which earlier had been confirmed still did not have a timescale for any solutions other than a cycle route. With the permission of the Chairman, Bor. Cllr Richards clarified the omitted housing references because the 452 site had prior planning consent and the Chester Arms development was newly associated with McCarthy and Stone.

9. Local Development Framework – Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.

Following brief discussion, **IT WAS RESOLVED** the document be noted with interest.

10. Finance.

a) Further to the resolution on 21st December, 2011, members acknowledged there was no early access to the deposited funds if placed in an Investment Account with Co-operative Bank and **IT WAS RESOLVED** to seek further clarification on potential penalties and to defer action until the next meeting.

b) In accordance with the Appendix 10 of the Practitioners Guide, members confirmed to the Chairman that questions 1-4 had been met (see appendix). Other questions would be addressed after the financial year had ended.

11. Garden of Rest.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the scattering of ashes could be permitted in this location, subject to there being a clear link with service on or employment with the Parish Council, with a written request to be submitted and approval by the Council's Proper Officer being completed. Other applications by people with service to the community would be considered by the Leisure Services Committee and assessed on their own merit.

12. Project Footprint.

The Clerk reported that information had not yet been supplied by Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club and the matter was duly deferred. An invitation would be confirmed to the Club Committee to present details to the Leisure Services Committee at the meeting on 4th April or 2nd May.

13. Payments.

Following resolution of queries about music licence changes, stock of paper and recovery of security charges, **ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Riordan,

ACTION

Clerk/RFO
21/3

Clerk
March '12

Clerk
5/3

Clerk
16/3

Clerk
8/3

Council
April '12

Clerk

CBC&SC
March '12

SECONDED by the Chairman, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the payments and retrospective salary costs be approved. Members noted the latest budget printouts.

14. 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, 1st February 2012, having been circulated, be duly received and noted.

15. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Smith, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 25th January and 8th February 2012, having been circulated, be duly received and noted.

16. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Whelan reported that on 1st February he had attended the opening of the new Flight School at Birmingham Airport, when an official ceremony was performed by Vince Cable MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. Flight School was a joint venture between the Airport, local schools notably Small Heath School and several aerospace engineering companies such as Goodrich and Bromford Industries. The objective was to allow children to study in the airport environment and to learn more about business and in particular science, technical, engineering and manufacturing (STEM) activities. During his opening speech Vince Cable highlighted the chronic shortage in the UK of skilled technical personnel and praised all those concerned with this new project. West Midlands Police were also supporting the venture as they saw it as an opportunity to highlight the role they played in the Airport, also developing educational materials that explore some of the issues young people face today. The School was housed in the main terminal building in the area which previously housed the aircraft spotters. It overlooked the airfield and was well equipped with computer terminals and Smart Boards to facilitate study. Use of the facility was free but must be pre-booked, there is no public access. There was space for 40 students and facilities for Nursery children right up to post 16. The facility would support study across the entire curriculum. Visits were self run and teachers were fully responsible for their own sessions. The facility opened for business on 27th February. He believed the facility would be of interest to our local schools and relevant to our Parish Plan.

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that on Sunday 12th February she had attended the Snowdrop Event at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens as a representative of the Parish Council. On Tuesday 14th February the Youth Council had met as a working party in the Pavilion as unfortunately only 2 councillors attended. There was still a lot of work to do for the Picnic In the Park and their next meeting was being held the following Tuesday.

Cllr Riordan reported that on Tuesday 28th February he had attended the North Solihull Partnership Forum Meeting at Smith's Wood Community Primary School. David Reed of Solihull Library Service spoke about the consultation regarding the Library Service which closed today. So far they had received 1800 replies. He also spoke about the Home Library Service which offered a personalised home delivery for anyone in Solihull who was unable to leave their home due to physical or other issues and did not have someone who could help use the library services on their behalf. A report was given on a cultural festival to promote and celebrate all the good things that were happening in the summer regarding the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. Unfortunately no funding had been found to run such a festival. However finance has been found to purchase a website to highlight celebration events taking place in Solihull. People or organisations who were holding such events were invited to supply details

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so that they could be promoted through the website. Hilary Samms, Manager of North Birmingham Credit Union talked about her organisation. A credit union was a financial cooperative where people gather together to provide financial services for the common good. They were traditional in their approach, encouraging people to save and making judgemental decisions when it came to borrowing. North Birmingham Credit Union covered the whole of Solihull, having 2200 adult members and 400 junior members and had been active in North Solihull since 2007, with 300 members in this area. If required, information leaflets could be obtained from the Clerk. Information was given on Solihull Council's new "Enterprise for Success" scheme. This scheme offered free business assistance and mentoring for business start-ups. Information was also given on Development in Social Enterprise which is a Community Interest Company offering expert business support and advice to third sector organizations. Development in Social Enterprise, with partners The BEST Network, Business in the Community and Solihull SUSTAIN, had been awarded European Regional Development funding from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, to provide Voluntary and Community Organisations and socially motivated businesses with essential development support. The next meeting of the North Solihull Partnership Forum would be on 17th July.

17. Report of the Officer of the Council.

The Clerk reported that in the past two weeks youths had caused serious problems at park closing time and criminal damage had occurred during two serious incidents, being the subject of both police investigations and insurance claims. This had occurred whilst staff were busily managing refurbishment projects and caused difficulties and upset also to local residents. An invitation had been received to attend a free Neighbourhood Planning workshop on Monday 26th March and any councilor interested was asked to see the Clerk after the meeting.

18. Report of the Chairman.

The Chairman reported that on Friday 3rd February, the Chairman's Charity Quiz Night had taken place, with a new quizmaster, and interest had been expressed in arranging another date. Lots of money had been raised and he thanked everyone, including Cllr Mrs. Allen and Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, for working hard both before and on the night. On Sunday 19th February, he had been accompanied by other councillors and the Council Officer to the Castle Bromwich Guide Association Thinking Day celebration. He admired the many hours of work that were put into these events and had enjoyed being at the service. On Friday 24th February he had presented the Club Mark Accreditation Certificate to the Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club which was achieved as a result of their successful youth programme.

19. Hirer Complaint and Issues.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY 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. Members noted that the overdue accounts had been settled in full and the Chairman reported that on 25th February he had been pleased that, with two fellow councillors and officers, a constructive and productive meeting had been held with the hirer to set the basis for proceeding to a better future. Two further dates had been set and topics for discussion provisionally agreed.

Members
10/2