

Parish Council of Balsall

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18th March 2013 at 7.30pm at The Jubilee Centre, Balsall Common

Present

Cllr Ian Hedley (Chair), Cllr Judy Lea, Cllr Raymond Ritchie, Cllr James Hope, Cllr Peter Lea, Cllr Lionel King, Cllr Douglas Money and 9 members of the public to include David Felthouse (Chair, Residents Association)

Headings are those set out on the Agenda

1. **Apologies**

Cllr Richard Lloyd

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None

3. **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 14th January 2013**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th January 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

4. **Matters arising from the Minutes**

None

5. **Public Forum**

Mr Dave Ellis raised the matter of the Airport Consultation that is taking place. The Consultation ends on 12th April 2013. Mr Ellis made some detailed comments regarding the proposed routes. It was agreed that a response to the Consultation shall be formulated with the Action Group.

David Felthouse advised that the problem with the defibrillator is being resolved and we hope to receive delivery soon.

A resident asked if the Parish Council had considered the Right to Bid. Chair advised that SMBC had considered the Right to Bid. It was suggested that the Jubilee Centre is considered for a Right to Bid. The Centre needs a new roof over the kitchen. Chair advised that the Parish Council presently does not have funds to consider such action and the liability that would follow upon acquiring an asset.

An update was requested for the Chadwick End Village hall. Chair advised that work following the flood had been undertaken. However, due to lack of maintenance, the place needs major attention to bring it up to a reasonable condition. This is being undertaken at present.

A resident also mentioned water across the road creating a danger to motorists when it freezes. This is in Chadwick End and needs addressing. Chair asked for precise details of location and photographs and he will take the matter up with SMBC.

A resident mentioned that this same problem was occurring at Needlers end Lane in Balsall Common. Chair will follow this item up as well.

Mr O'Regan expressed his disappointment with Cllr Lloyds action to take legal action against SMBC. This is a huge waste of taxpayers' money. To defend the action will cost SMBC several thousands of pounds that in Mr O'Regans opinion are being diverted away from true causes. Mr O'Regan advised that he had taken measure at great expense but despite this, Cllr Lloyd has taken legal action. Chair made it clear that this was not a Parish Council issue and that the Parish Council does not support the action taken by Cllr Lloyd. It is a personal action not supported by the Parish Council.

6. Correspondence

6.1. HS2 – e-mail from HHAG

6.2. Letter from SMBC – Governance Review

Chair read out the letter from SMBC and outlined the decisions reached for a new Parish Council to be created comprising of West Ward

7. Budget – To consider recommendation of budget by Finance Committee and agree budget for 2013/2014

The recommendation was provided by the Finance Committee to accept the draft Budget. Details of the matters discussed were repeated.

Resolved – The draft Budget is approved (Chair proposed and Cllr Peter Lea seconded)

8. Library - Donation – To consider request from Library for donation in the sum of £140.00 for a storyteller in the school holidays

Resolved – That the donation in the sum of £140.00 is approved

9. Street Watch – Donation – To consider and agree a donation to cover the Insurance for Street watch

Resolved – That the donation of £215.00 for insurance cover is approved

10. Reports from Committees

10.1. HS2

Member absent

10.2. Birmingham Airport

This was discussed earlier in the public forum.

Resolved – That a joint working party is established to respond to the consultation. Members of the Working party are Cllr Ian Hedley, Cllr Peter Lea and Mr David Ellis

10.3. Joint Working with Berkswell

Chair confirmed that he has had a meeting with Kay Howles of Berkswell Parish Council and a Green space review is to be carried out.

As for Communications group, Cllr Judy Lea & Cllr Lionel King re appointed as joint representatives to replace Mrs Trudi Thomson.

Cllr Ritchie advised that he had nothing further to report at this stage

11. HS2 – To consider request made by HHAG for support in relation to Blight & Compensation and to agree Parish Council's position

It was clarified that the request was not made by HHAG but personally by Mr Paul Lucas. The e-mail was read out. It was confirmed that £2,000 has been set aside in the Precept to assist residents with issues relating to HS2. Chair advised that we must ensure that the money is used in line with legal parameters. As to the position of the Parish Council, it was opposed to HS2 and a consultation response to the Blight & Compensation consultation has been submitted and is available on the website.

12. Birmingham Airport – To agree response to Departures consultation

This item is to be dealt with the Working Group established at item 10.2

13. Environment

Cllr Hope advised that he has been involved in Meriden Wood and planning proposals affecting the environment

14. Recreation Areas – Annual Inspection reports – Details of repairs and maintenance work

Clerk provided an update of the reports and work carried out to various items of play equipment due to vandalism.

Resolved – A working group is established to review the Recreation Areas and provide a report to the Parish Council. Members of the working group are Cllr Judy Lea and Cllr Douglas Money

15. Councillor Vacancies - Update and to agree that the Co-option applications are referred to the Staffing Committee for recommendation

Resolved – That the applications are referred to the Staffing Committee for recommendations to be made to the Parish Council

16. Cemetery – To consider recommendation from Finance Committee relating to Remembrance Garden and Fees

The Finance Committee recommended that the a review is undertaken of the Cemetery to include fees, running costs and Remembrance Garden

Resolved – That the recommendation of the Finance Committee is accepted and the members appointed to the Working Group to undertake the review are Cllr Judy Lea, Cllr Douglas Money and Cllr Raymond Ritchie

17. Clerk – To consider recommendations of Staffing Committee

Resolved – That this item is dealt with as confidential

18. Accounts & Governance

18.1. Financial Report

18.2. Clerk confirmed that the signatories to the Co-operative mandate were in the process of being changed.

18.3. **PROPOSAL** - To approve list of Payments for Approval and Payments Made

Resolved – That the accounts are approved for payment

19. Date for next meeting – The next Parish Council Meeting shall be held on Monday May 20th 2013 at 7.30pm at the Jubilee Centre, Balsall Common

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.50pm

Signed..... Dated.....

Cllr Ian Hedley

Chair

Balsall Parish Council

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

It was resolved that this item is dealt with as a confidential and members of the public were asked to leave

17. Clerk – To consider recommendations of Staffing Committee

Cllr Hedley confirmed that the Staffing Committee had met to discuss the Clerks employment and made recommendations for approval

RESOLVED – (Chair proposed and Cllr Lea seconded) that the recommendations of the Staffing Committee are accepted. The Clerks salary grade shall be LC2 spinal point 27, clerks working hours shall be increased to 28 hours per week effective as of 1st June 2012 and the Clerk shall be paid a working from home allowance of £1,000. This shall be reviewed in 12 months