

operating in the Borough, although they did have ebbs and flows in frequency of sessions. As the police could not undertake constant laser checks, help from people in the community raised awareness and educated motorists about speeding.

After attending training and then running sessions, Community Speedwatch volunteers sent their data to WPC Grant and for those motorists above the limit a warning letter was sent to outline what they were doing and why they shouldn't speed. There was a low percentage of motorists re-offending and over the years, she was aware of just 3 vehicles that had committed offences 4 times, therefore statistics showed that people took heed. It would be necessary to purchase a Community Speedwatch kit and either residents did fundraising or approached their Parish Council for £384. The operating details and risk assessment procedures were outlined and the differences between police Pro Laser operations and Speedwatch schemes explained. Statistics would then show percentage of vehicles using the road properly and at speed but it was important to be seen when operating checks because drivers would slow down and that was part of their learning - this is what you wanted to happen and in time drivers would half expect you to be there and slow down anyway. Topics covered in the 2 hour training session included kerbside safety, health and safety, conflict resolution and the demonstration of equipment (by another group using it). The group would need a person to agree to be the co-ordinator in charge and it was best to have a team of 12-14 volunteers. She suggested schemes were usually more successful if you could recruit from people in the community who were concerned about speeding and warned that parish councillors might not be the best people to run the scheme as they were often already very busy people with lots of existing commitments or work. Communities needed to realize the limitations of the scheme and publicity was needed to get recruits.

In response to questions, details were given about training; Borough Council officials already being trained; not using personal video technology, snapshot of speeds outside Park Hall Academy in a half hour period showed over 50% of vehicles were exceeding 30 mph limit, some driving at 50 mph, highest speed recorded in other schemes was 67 mph; new scheme operating in Knowle had resulted in 21 people going to court; Police Pro-Laser was not used every day as police operational commitments sometimes had other priorities; Community Speedwatch usually did operate everyday and showed value of voluntary schemes; restorative justice working in places and more successful than issuing tickets; headteachers had little support from parents; stickers on wheelie bins worked successfully to clearly publicise the speed limit to motorists one day per week (had big impact in Cambridgeshire villages) and had been raised by the parish council with SMBC.

Parish Problems highlighted were:

1. Parking obstructions by parents near to schools;
2. Brazen attitude of parents who refused to see consequences of their parking;
3. 15 motorbikes racing in service roads on Water Orton Road previous evening;
4. Secondary School not open for parents to use car park;-
5. Quad bike/scramblers in parish – have registration number but plate too small
6. Hazlehurst Road dual problem of speeding cars (accidents at high speed) and parked cars at school times by Infant parents, including on bends and zig-zags.
7. Suggestion to put low fencing to stop parking on verges, or tree line the verges
8. Request to stop straight road being a run through by perhaps installing centre post or restrictor/pinch points as in village.

Warwickshire/Water Orton problems highlighted were:

- a) Speeding traffic between Water Orton and Castle Bromwich (motorists saw green space by motorway and would drive faster when houses finished);
- b) Success in previous year after half-hour sessions identified 90 vehicles speeding -

- Community Speedwatch had clear benefits by educating drivers;
- c) County Council repainted the roundels in the road which helped reduce speeding to 50 vehicles at next check.

Following consideration, **IT WAS AGREED** the matter be considered further by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at their next meeting on 15th October and appropriate action agreed. A member asked about publicizing the information from the meeting but no action was reached.

FGP
15/10

7. Questions from the Public.

Under Standing Order 70, the Chairman temporarily suspended standing orders for this item and invited questions from members of the public.

Two residents from the Timberley Ward highlighted serious accidents and speeding issues in Hazlehurst Road which also suffered from dangerous parking by parents using the Infant School. They suggested measures that the Borough Council and police could take. As the road surface was deteriorating it could be timely to make changes.

A resident from the Bradford Ward reported quad bike problems, which was echoed by a councillor. The resident also questioned the roadside hoardings belonging to Castle Bromwich Hall Hotel, which the Clerk undertook to raise with the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator.

Clerk
10/14

The Chairman thanked the police officers for giving such valuable information during the meeting and as the topic was now concluded they left the meeting at this point.

A resident from the Bradford Ward was pleased the repair to the wall had been completed at the Coach and Horses pub and thanked the parish council for their help.

The Chairman gave an update on matters raised by residents at previous meetings as follows: The Borough Council's Neighbourhood Co-ordinator had met with the Clerk at the Birmingham Road (at the rear of Castlehills Drive) and agreed for alitter pick to be done and a sweep every 6 weeks arranged to clear the eyesore problem. Although there seemed to be boundary queries, residents believed the road was owned by Solihull MBC. In response to residents' concerns about increased aircraft noise and frequency of planes on altered flightpath approaches, a representative from the airport would be attending the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 12th November. The Chairman concluded by saying the work by the Borough Council to redesign the Hurst Lane shopping area would commence on 20th October, being done in two phases to allow Christmas trading to place. The Clerk was asked to remind the Borough Council that an offer had been made to provide a bench.

Clerk
asap

8. Questions from Councillors.

None.

9. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr Riordan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hiley, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 30th July, 2014 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

10. Communications.

Members noted the information listed. In response to a question by Cllr Knibb regarding the WALC AGM on 4th November, the Chairman said he would endeavour to attend. Cllr Knibb volunteered to stand for election to the NALC Larger Councils' Committee for 2 years and confirmed that his expenses would be paid by NALC. Members supported this nomination. A new opportunity had been extended to join Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee but following the successful application by a Castle Bromwich resident, members declined to submit their own representative. The Clerk was asked to request periodic updates from the resident.

EK/MH
4/11Asst. Clerk
8/10Asst. Clerk
15/10

11. NALC Model Standing Orders 2013.

In accordance with standing orders, the draft document had stood adjourned since the last meeting. Members noted that many previous working party recommendations were not fully incorporated and as some members had not read the NALC book being circulated since 30th July, the matter was deferred. Members were all asked to locate the book and circulate it. **IT WAS AGREED** that Cllrs Hayes, Horne-MacDonald, Knibb, Riordan and Terry, with the Clerk, re-form a working party to meet on 22nd October at 6 pm in the Council Office. Suggestions from members could be emailed to the Clerk.

12. Tree Planting – Leisure Services Committee.

Following consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hiley, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hicks, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to release £1,300 from earmarked reserves to enable 10 new trees to be planted at a cost of £4,300. Members noted the quote for '13 week' work had not been received but asked for the £1,560 quoted works to be actioned under the Clerk's delegated powers. A site meeting would be arranged and members invited to attend.

13. Written Contracts – Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Following consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to adopt a policy statement that all contract agreements should be in writing, signed, and copies kept. Any amendments to existing agreements must also be in writing. Any instructions by staff for emergency works at short notice must be confirmed in writing within 7 days.

14. Temporary re-siting of bench at Village Green.

Following consideration and in the absence of transport/storage options, **IT WAS AGREED** that the circular bench at the Sensory Peace Garden be temporarily re-located to enable the new peace tree to become established and reduce the risk of damage and vandalism. This would be for an anticipated 6-9 month period and a location was agreed by members.

15. Christmas Tree.

Following consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Horne-MacDonald, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to purchase a LED Tree from Blachere Illuminations at a cost of £1,036, with the request that a gold star be included at the top of the tree. Two sets of installation brackets would be ordered, one on the outside of the wall and the other to be situated internally at Arden Hall at the rear of the stage (subject to measurement).

16. Replacement of IT Back Up System.

The Chairman suspended Standing Order no 1(a) to enable the rest of the agenda to be concluded. Following consideration of the additional information and revised quote for secure UK cloud storage, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to accept the quotation for an initial cost of £1,335 (including monthly charges to March 2015), which would decrease as the size of data was reduced. Members noted that when the network required replacement, the earmarked reserves for future hardware costs could be reduced if 'cloud technology' was utilised, thereby enabling a future saving to be made.

17. Finance and Payments.

- a) Members noted the latest income and expenditure report. Bank statements and reconciliations were scrutinized by Cllr Hiley.
- b) Cllr Hiley withdrew from the meeting. Following clarification of questions put to the Clerk on products purchased and services provided, the Chairman added that the financial services provided by RBS were working efficiently and cost-effective. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS**

ACTION

Members –
immediate
MH/JHM/
EK/JR/AT
& Clerk
22/10
Members
21/10

RFO
31/3/15

Clerk
asap
Clerk
asap

Asst.Clerk
30/10

Asst. Clerk
30/10

Clerk
asap

Clerk
1/10
Clerk
asap

RFO
31/3/15

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the payments as listed be approved, including ratifying 8 urgent invoices in the August recess. Cllr Hiley rejoined the meeting.

18. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Hiley, **SECONDED** by Cllr Riordan, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Wednesday, 3rd September 2014, having been circulated, be received and noted.

19. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Terry, **SECONDED** by the Chairman, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesdays, 30th July and 10th September, 2014, having been circulated, be received and noted.

20. Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Mrs. Allen reported that on Thursday 18th September she had attended the AGM of Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens when everyone was voted 'en bloc' to remain. A vacancy was being advertising for a new Head Gardener and the Treasurer had indicated an intention to resign the following year, after completing 20 years in the role.

21. Report of the Officer of the Council.

The Clerk reported that some photographs had been donated to the Council Office and were available to any members or community groups who wished to see them. She sought help with delivering letters to all residents at the Village Green for the forthcoming Remembrance Parade. She confirmed a guest speaker would be attending the next meeting on 29th October to talk about new opportunities in Castle Bromwich by Age Uk.

EK
30/9

22. Report of the Chairman.

The Chairman reported that on 22nd August, he and the Vice chairman had attended the last day of the Summer Soccer School held in the playing fields. From meeting the children, it had been obvious to see the enjoyment and achievement of the participants and he recommended the parish council continue to support Vision Sports Academy if they wished to repeat the project. Members agreed with the suggestion that they be invited to send feedback to the council and request the next dates they would like to operate again. The Chairman regretted the cancellation of the Charity Quiz Night and announced it had been re-arranged for 12th December. He urged people to get their team entry forms in early to ensure their places.

Clerk
5/10