



suspected that public perception of speed was distorted by high revs or noisy engines as the reality of true speed during operations was different. Community meetings were not well attended so the Inspector was not in favour of them continuing. Alternative links were well established, like PCSO Collins regularly attending local schools. Neighbourhood Watch schemes did operate in Castle Bromwich but not much information was forthcoming to the police via this route so updates were being changed to bi-monthly and supplemented by use of the KIN communications. A 6 month review of neighbourhood policing was taking place, having started 2 months ago, and he anticipated things would be different in the future.

In response to questions from members, the following topics were discussed: speeding traffic in the parish – members felt that traffic speed on Water Orton Road was undetected as a problem because officers were wearing hi-vis which meant motorists knew speed guns were in use. The Chairman additionally confirmed that from his clear knowledge, as a past trainer of police officers on speed perception, there was a clear speeding issue that residents were witnessing far too regularly; government funding cutbacks which would require alternative investigation approaches; information request about Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators; opportunity for police to investigate cars parking in the Bradford ward that may be undertaking suspicious activities; request to consider yellow lines and CCTV; for re-education/rehabilitation of offenders when in prison or on probation; money for drugs being the excuse given by offenders when committing for crimes.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked Sgt. Heathcote for his comprehensive and detailed report showing the positive notable successes by using his innovative and commendable approach to neighbourhood policing.

#### **5. Questions from the Public.**

Under Standing Order 3(d), the Chairman temporarily suspended standing orders for this item to invite questions from members of the public. A resident from the Bradford ward asked if police speeding surveillance could be done covertly but Sgt. Heathcote replied that regulations did not permit that and hi-vis had to be worn and officers visible. Problems with noisy motorbikes and quad bikes in the parish were highlighted, although some recent successes were noted with interest. Sgt. Heathcote then left the meeting. A resident from the Bradford ward then reported concerns about flyposting by traders working in the parish and asked about road sweeping being completed on half of the Birmingham Road, which was not blocked by parked cars, as was sometimes the case in other parts of the parish.

#### **6. Questions from Councillors.**

Cllr Mrs. Allen asked to raise a question, under confidential terms, which was deferred to the end of the meeting.

#### **7. Communications.**

Members noted the information listed and sample of recycled plastic decking that would also be available for Leisure Services Committee members to view.

#### **8. Minutes of the previous Meeting.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION OF** Cllr Horne-MacDonald, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meetings.

#### **9. Protection of Open Spaces.**

Members noted the increased potential risk that could require installation of more bollards, potentially at the Village Green and Bradford Gardens. The provision of a budget allocation would need to be considered by the Leisure Services Committee.

**10. Code of Conduct.**

Following concerns about adherence to the Code, the Chairman requested that all members re-read the Code, endeavour to understand it, sign the form to undertake to abide by it, which should then be handed to the Clerk. He invited personal discussion after the meeting if anyone required clarification.

**ACTION**

Members  
4/11

**11. Smarter Working Group.**

A meeting had not yet been held and a date needed to be set. The Chairman confirmed he had some information about apprentices which would need to be put before council.

Smarter WP  
Tbc

**12. Finance and Payments.**

a)The income and expenditure report was noted and at the request of the Clerk, the Chairman undertook to verify and sign the bank statements omitted last month.

MH  
28/10

b)At the request of Cllr Upton, it was confirmed that bar purchase invoices were monitored in relation to bar sales figures via the Hall Manager’s monthly reports to the Leisure Services Committee, which additionally included opening/closing stock figures, trading analysis of individual functions and profitability margins. The Clerk was still awaiting information from BT in response to enquiries about special offers. Delay in authorizing payments by members was discussed and the Clerk was asked to email members to seek new volunteers, with Cllr Hicks and Cllr Terry expressing an interest.

Clerk  
asap

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman,**SECONDED** by Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** thatthe payments as listed be approved. Following discussion and contrary to the concerns of the RFO, it was **FURTHER RESOLVED** that as an emergency measure the Clerk should authorize electronic payments if they were delayed by members not fulfilling their role, as it prevented the council from moving forward to the next stage of the trial. The Admin Assistant would be asked to check if payments had not been authorised and send a second email to remind authorisers to action the payments. Questions were posed regarding completion of some contracted work and **AGREED**a Warden shouldinvite the contractor to a site meeting, accompanied by the Hall Manager and 3 members, when certain concerns could be discussed and clarified.

Admin Asst  
29/10

Clerk  
asap

Warden  
asap

**13. Report of the Leisure Services Committee.**

The Chairman reported that he had met the previous week with Chairmen of Committees and Panels to address some of the items that were causing disruption to staff who were unable to work on the priority issues that should be addressed. Members noted that the minutes from 7<sup>th</sup> October had not yet been produced for members to receive and note so this item was deferred.

Chairmen  
tbc

Clerk  
urgent

**14. Report of the Staff Panel.**

Members noted that the minutes from 5<sup>th</sup> October had not yet been finalised for members to receive and note so this item was deferred.

Clerk  
urgent

**15. Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.**

**ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Rashid, **SECONDED** byCllr Horne-MacDonald,**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup>September, 2015, having been circulated, be received and noted the decisions duly made. Members noted that the minutes from 14<sup>th</sup> October had not yet been produced for members to receive so this item was deferred.

Clerk  
urgent

**16. Representatives to Outside Bodies.**

Members noted the report tabled by Cllr MacDonald on the Solihull Area Committee meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October, also attended by Cllr Knibb. Cllr Knibb reported on the WALC County Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at Royal Leamington Spa Town Hall and copies were available from the Clerk.

**17. Report of the Officer of the Council.**

The Clerk reported two recent staff changes and asked for assistance the following day to prepare equipment for the Remembrance Parade. She was seeking clarification from Solihull MBC on a representation role, hopefully reporting to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting. Cllr Upton reported a delivery problem with the Castle Bromwich Gazette and urged that the advertising invoice should not be paid when it was received.

**18. Report of the Chairman.**

The Chairman apologised for his unexpected absence at the last Council meeting. He reported that on 15<sup>th</sup> October he had supported the local Beaver group with a ‘High Five’ event doing bag packing at Tesco Supermarket. The youngsters really loved and had chosen to support Water Aid as their charity. Also on 15<sup>th</sup> October the Chairman had attended the Castle Bromwich Singers show at Arden Hall. He had thoroughly enjoyed a really good show and had been pleased to note new faces performing in the group, which was really good to see too.

**6. Questions from Councillors.**

As deferred from earlier in the meeting, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the remainder of the meeting be conducted under confidential terms. A financial matter was raised by Cllr Mrs. Allen and members noted the information relayed and the satisfactory resolution of the matter.

**19. Staff Matters.**

Under confidential terms, Cllr Mrs. Allen notified members that the staff meeting had now been arranged in accordance with council instruction on 29<sup>th</sup> July. She additionally confirmed that she had independently sought HR advice, establishing that mediation could be arranged for the council if needed. The Chairman requested that each future agenda should include an opportunity for further consideration of this matter to avoid more unnecessary delays.

**ACTION**

Volunteer?  
29/10

Clerk  
asap

Staff Panel  
2/11

Clerk  
29/10

