

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT
PARKERS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE, DELENTY DRIVE, RISLEY
ON TUESDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Higgins in the Chair
Councillors Balding, Bolton, Bowden, Evans, Fitzsimmons, T. Hearldon,
M.Hearldon and Nelson

Clerk – Mrs. F. McDonald
Deputy Clerk – Mrs. C Caddock
Business and Finance Officer - Mr. G. Crowe

PC Natalia Tuozzo – Beat Manager and PCSO Davies

1 resident

Apologies were received from Councillors Allman and Spencer

Councillor Lines-Rowlands was absent

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair of the Town Council had asked the Vice Chair to preside over tonight's meeting on her behalf as she was feeling unwell, although she remained for the meeting.

Councillor Fitzsimmons proposed, Councillor Evans seconded and it was resolved that:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council which took place on Tuesday, 24th September 2013, be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility to declare any personal interest or prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when the item is reached.

386/2013 **RECESS**

(a) **Police Monthly Pledge Meeting and Update**

PC Tuozzo and PCSO Davies reported on policing activities that had taken place over the last few weeks in Birchwood.

PCSO Allison Davies stated that an area of Oakwood had been heavily monitored due to anti-social behaviour over the last few months. There had been a high visibility Police presence in the area and people had been stopped and searched when it had been deemed necessary.

PC Tuozzo confirmed that this approach had shown positive results and that there had not been any recent reports of anti-social behaviour in that area.

PCSO Davies informed Members that PCSOs had been into the primary schools to educate children about anti-social behaviour and the effects it can have, particularly in the run up to Halloween and Bonfire Night. Local shops have also been requested not to sell flour and eggs to young people on or around Halloween and 'Mischief Night'.

Anti-social behaviour 'hotspots' have also been monitored by the Police – such as the Forest Park and Pestfurlong Hill.

PC Tuozzo stated that the Police are continuing to receive good intelligence from the local community, particularly regarding drugs offences. Where enough intelligence has been gathered, warrants have been executed and arrests have been made or other appropriate action has been taken when drugs have been found.

The Police are working with the local housing authorities and if people in social housing are found to be dealing in drugs, efforts are made to have them evicted and removed from the area.

PC Tuozzo reported that following reports that a pit bull dog had been seen in the area, which are a banned breed, the Police were able to identify the owner and the dog has been taken into custody, pending a court case. The owner of the dog was also found to be in possession of cannabis.

PC Tuozzo stated that Locking Stumps Lane has been assessed to see if the speed van could be used on that road, but due to the layout it is not suitable. However, the speed alert sign has been used to try to raise driver awareness and the speed enforcement equipment ('speed gun') can be used. During one recent operation, out of 275 vehicles monitored, 5% were in the enforceable range above 30mph.

PCSO Davies told Members that as part of the community engagement scheme, the Manchester team from HM Prisons had recently been into Locking Stumps Primary School to talk to the children about issues such as 'stranger danger', internet safety, drugs, etc. The drug dog went along as part of the visit. The other primary schools will also be visited at a future date.

The PCSOs have also been involved with the Birchwood High School career day. In addition they have been part of a winter driving campaign with Cheshire Fire Service and have been offering crime prevention advice and undertaking cycle marking at various events.

Other Police operations in the local area have included pro-active visits to the local public houses in the area with Officers from Trading Standards and Licensing. The drug dogs were also used in the operations.

Councillor Bowden raised the issue of parking on Cross Lane South, which is an ongoing issue of concern for the local residents.

Councillor Nelson commented that this matter has worsened since The Noggin started to charge people to use its car park, including patrons (to try to deter local employees from the nearby business park from using it to park their vehicles during the day whilst they are at work).

PC Tuozzo stated that unfortunately they can only issue tickets where there is a legal obstruction.

PCSO Davies added that they will continue to monitor the area.

Councillor Bolton informed PC Tuozzo and PCSO Davies about a site visit to Silver Lane (the Croft side) that is taking place on 5th November, to try to decide the best place for a small car park for visitors to the Risley Landfill Site once it has been landscaped. Councillor Bolton asked if a representative of the Police would like to attend the visit to give their input. As stated at previous meetings; if the car park is too far down the lane it will leave the space open for travellers to use as an unofficial site, which is an ongoing issue. If the parking spaces are too close to the main road, it might become a car park for local employees and leave no spaces for visitors to the landscaped waste site.

PC Tuozzo asked Councillor Bolton to email the details and she would ask if someone from the Police would be able to attend.

Councillor Bowden stated that he also hoped to attend the site visit.

Action Councillor Bolton to email details of the site visit to the Police.

Councillor Balding asked if there had been any burglaries in the local area recently.

PC Tuozzo replied that there was nothing of major concern that would indicate a current trend. There had been a few random garage break-ins and a break-in at Risley Moss.

Councillor Bolton informed the Police that one of the offices on the business park is to be used as a temporary law court for up to three years to cover the Hillsborough Inquiry. She wondered, as the building is just behind the houses on Warrington Road, whether there may be implications for local residents; possibly with traffic issues or local/national media, as it is a high profile inquiry.

The Police indicated that any issues would be monitored and dealt with appropriately if they were to arise.

Councillor Nelson reported that she had been asked to offer an official note of thanks to PCSO Davies from a local resident regarding a matter that PCSO Davies had dealt with.

Councillor Higgins thanked the Police for their report.

(b) **Priorities**

The most recently available information regarding local Policing priorities can be found on the Cheshire Police Website: <http://www.cheshire.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/warrington-east/birchwood/priorities.aspx>

The Twitter address is @WarrEastNPU.

(c) **Resident's Concern – Speeding on Ordnance Avenue**

A local resident attended tonight's meeting to raise his concerns about the speed of traffic travelling along Ordnance Avenue. He stated that as an employee at a company on the business park and local resident, he had to cross the road daily (and in rush hour).

He stated that, as a driver, he knows that 30mph can feel slow when driving along this road and a lot of drivers seem to think it is a 40mph road. He wondered whether, as it runs parallel to Birchwood Way, drivers from outside the area might assume that it has a similar speed limit, as there are no speed signs other than at each 'end' of the road. He stated that it is easy to miss the sign at Oakwood Gate and because there are no repeater signs there is nothing further to advise drivers of what the speed limit is.

The resident continued to say that he is aware that guidance followed by the Borough Council does not allow for repeater signs, but wondered whether simple text signs, stating something like ‘this is still a 30mph zone’ could be put up instead.

The resident added that he is fairly spritely yet still sometimes finds it difficult to cross safely; a mother with a pram or people who are less able bodied, or elderly might find it difficult to get across Ordnance Avenue safely, particularly at busy periods.

He wondered whether, as the Police sometimes have the speed van on the road, if a speed camera sign might cause some drivers to check their speed (although he didn’t know if that was a possibility given that a speed camera is not a permanent feature).

Councillor Higgins stated that the speed of this road is an ongoing issue that the Town Council regularly raises with the Borough Council to try to find a solution to. There used to be reminder roundels painted on the road, but when it was resurfaced, we were advised by the Borough Council that they could not be reinstated.

Councillor Bowden explained the reason that the roundels could not be repainted on the road was because it would require a new traffic order to make them legal, which has a cost implication to the Borough Council.

PCSO Davies reminded Members that previous and recent attempts to encourage the Borough Council to install repeater signs have resulted in a resounding ‘no’ as they say that people should know what the speed limit is on Ordnance Avenue.

PC Tuozzo asked if the Borough Council’s budgeting priority with regard to traffic calming issues is based on accident statistics.

The Borough Council does have to prioritise some traffic work based on statistics.

The resident stated that having been made aware of proposals (only received today by the Town Council) for a bus gate between Birchwood Way and Ordnance Avenue (if the Borough Council can obtain the necessary funding) – he hopes this may have the effect of slowing traffic down as a new junction would be created on to Ordnance Avenue.

Members thanked the resident and the Police for attending the meeting.

387/2013 **PARKING ISSUES**

(a) **Ordnance Avenue and Redshank Lane**

At the September meeting the Clerk stated that the Traffic Order was advertised in the Warrington Guardian on 5th September. There is currently nothing further to report.

(b) **Cross Lane South and Warrington Road**

As stated in Minute 386/2013 (a) above; the Police will continue to monitor this area.

(c) **Silver Lane (Croft Side – Parking Issues)**

As stated in Minute 386/2013 (a) above; a site visit is to be undertaken in the next few weeks regarding this matter.

388/2013 **SILVER LANE (JCT 11 END) – FLYTIPPING ISSUES**

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council has informed her that it is currently taking legal advice with regard to this matter

389/2013 **JOINT POLICE/TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY**

These surgeries currently take place, the third Saturday of each month (except August) in the Community Corner in the Encounter Café, from 10.30am to 12 noon.

The next surgery will be held on 16th November 2013.

Councillor Balding reported that no residents had attended the October Surgery.

Councillor Higgins stated that Councillors and the Police seem to be wasting their time with these surgeries as on most occasions they do not attract any visitors.

Several Members confirmed that people tend to chat to them on an 'ad hoc' basis whilst they are out and about shopping, at the doctors, socialising in one of the local pubs, etc.

Councillor Higgins asked whether it is worthwhile continuing with the surgeries.

The Clerk stated that this would have to be discussed with the Police as it is a joint surgery.

390/2013 **DEFENDER BOLLARDS – KINSALE DRIVE**

The Clerk reported that we are still waiting for keys for the bollards to be given to us.

391/2013 **ADMIRALS SQUARE**

The Clerk reported that we have been advised that the ownership of this land has changed. Warrington Borough Council is currently trying to obtain the contact details of the new owners.

392/2013 **PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS**

At the September meeting, the Clerk reported that the Borough had advised us further regarding the proposal for three pedestrian crossings - two on Dewhurst Road and one on Admirals Road. The email received from the Borough Council had indicated that there would not be a crossing installed on Admirals Road.

Members had discussed the email in some detail and agreed that the Town Council should insist that there is a controlled crossing put in place near Chatfield Drive, on Admirals Road.

At tonight's meeting, the Clerk stated that she had written to the Borough Council, as requested and we are currently awaiting a reply.

393/2013 **EMERGENCY PLANNING**

The Clerk reported that the Emergency Planning Working Party had met prior to tonight's meeting and had worked through one of the template documents that had been supplied at the July Council meeting by Sue Silvester from Warrington Borough Council.

It had also been agreed that we should ask if a visit could be arranged to the 'command centre' in Warrington that is used by heads of various local organisations and emergency services to coordinate a response, if an emergency is declared.

Councillor Bolton had made this suggestion and feels it might clarify what a Local Council's role could be in an emergency, specifically with a view to ensuring that efforts are not duplicated and that Local Councils do not inadvertently hinder or interfere with protocols and processes already in place.

Action Clerk's office to enquire if we can arrange a visit to the 'command centre'.

394/2013 UPDATE ON PLANNING MATTERS

(a) **Planning Appeals**

Planning Appeal References: APP/MO655/A/13/2196226 (Full Planning) and APP/MO655/C/219229 (Enforcement). Prospect Farm, Prospect Lane, Rixton-with-Glazebrook, WA3 6EH - Proposed change of use to provide a clay pigeon shooting club, clubhouse and associated parking.

The two appeals will be dealt with collectively at a hearing that commences on 26th November 2013 for a three day period. It will be held in Warrington Town Hall Council Chambers, starting at 10am.

The Clerk reported that we had put details of the appeal on the front page of the Town Council's website.

(b) **Planning Applications**

Application 2013/21632 Overflow Car Park to the rear of Spencer House, Birchwood. This application was originally discussed in May 2013 at which point Members did not have any comments to make, given the information available at that time.

The Clerk reported that comments had been sent to the Planning Department, as requested following the recent receipt of additional information. Since these comments were sent even more information has subsequently been received.

Councillor Bolton has asked for clarification on one sentence in the most recent paperwork that has been sent to us which states:

"The strategy will be to prohibit unnecessary trips by the private car into the Birchwood centre and in particular commuter trips for employers who currently travel into the centre."

The Clerk stated that this sentence had also confused Officers and we had asked for clarification, but have not yet received a reply. We think that 'employers' should possibly read 'employees'.

Councillors wondered who should be able to decide what 'unnecessary' trips are and who decides this, if they are to be 'prohibited'.

Members discussed this application and made the same comments as they had previously, with the addition of the request for clarification of the sentence mentioned above.

Action Clerk's office to send comments to the Borough Council.

395/2013 ENCOUNTER STATUE LIGHTING

Councillor Higgins stated that he had spoken to Dave Boyer who has said he will look into this ongoing matter, but cannot make any promises due to budget constraints.

Councillor Bolton said that the original technical problem had been with the expensive colour changing mechanism, but suggested that simple white lighting would be sufficient illumination.

Councillor Fitzsimmons reported that the Borough Council has a programme to work on improving the 'gateways' into Warrington. The issue could possibly be addressed as part of this programme.

396/2013 **BIRCHWOOD RAIL STATION**

The Clerk reported that we have been informed that Warrington Borough Council has encountered a few delays in their dealings with Network Rail, but they are close to a solution on the issues causing the delays. An update should be available in the next two weeks.

397/2013 **ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

The Clerk reported that, as requested, she had written to Birchwood Lions to advise them which Councillors will be able to attend the Annual Service of Remembrance at the Birchwood Memorial which is being held on Saturday 9th November 2013 commencing at 10.30 am.

Councillor Higgins offered his apologies as he has a prior engagement on that day.

NEW ITEMS RAISED UNDER THE CLERK'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

398/2013 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Received – Email re: Member Development Training event covering Controlling Agricultural and Equestrian Development and Enforcing the Rules.
- (b) Received – Information re: structural maintenance work on Cinnamon Lane; programmed to commence 7th October 2013 for up to 4 weeks.
- (c) Sent/Received – Emails re: refuse/recycling bins being left out on pavements.
- (d) Sent – Email regarding vehicles parking on grass verge on Glover Road (also sent to Police) following complaints from residents.

The Highways department at Warrington Borough Council are looking into this matter.

- (e) Received – Invitation to a stakeholder event on 4th November 2013, re: the Neighbourhood Area Boards review of their Area Plans.
- (f) Received – Neighbourhoods Monthly Bulletin and related email.
- (g) Received – ‘Wired’ – Young Carers autumn newsletter and events list.
- (h) Received – Notification that Parish details have been updated on the Borough Council’s website. We have checked the details and notified the Borough that they are correct.
- (i) Received – Email re: a complaint made about a large advertising trailer stating it is now being investigated – however, the complaint was made several weeks ago and the trailer has already moved.
- (j) Received – Copy of the presentation slides presented at the HS2 briefing that took place on 23rd September 2013.
- (k) Received – Posters detailing HS2 public consultation events. These have been placed on our notice boards and there is a link to the poster on our website under ‘News’. Additional information can be found at www.hs2.org.uk

- (l) Received – Notification that a briefing meeting re: HS2 with Ward/Parish/Town Councillors (previously postponed) will now take place on Wednesday, 13th November, 6.30pm – 8.30pm at St Helen’s Primary School, Birch Road, Rixton.
- (m) Sent/Received – Email correspondence re: query raised by resident about being allowed to take hired vans with domestic waste in to Community Recycling Centres.

We have been advised that residents can take vans / hired vans to community waste sites as long as they make prior arrangements with the Borough Council to obtain a permit. This can be done by telephone (01925 443322) – there is no cost. The Borough will need to know the name and address of the resident, details of the vehicle being used, the number of trips they will need to make to the site and what date the trips will take place. The resident will also need to list the items that are being disposed of. They will be given a reference number to quote to allow them access to the site and will need to take proof of their address with them (e.g. a utility bill, Council Tax bill, etc.)

Vans are not accepted at Stockton Heath Community Recycling Centre.

- (n) Sent – Email re: damaged PO (BT?) grid cover in pavement on Deanwater Close.
- (o) The Clerk reported that we had received, late in the afternoon of the meeting, a time sensitive request for a letter of support to be sent regarding a ‘Local Pinch Point Fund Bid – Birchwood Traffic Relief Package’.

Not much detail had been included with the request, but we are advised that the proposed works (if funding can be obtained) would include, *‘an enlargement and capacity increase at the Moss Gate junction between Birchwood Way and Daten Avenue, a partial signalisation of the tear drop junction, and a bus gate between Birchwood Way and Ordnance Avenue.’*

The bid for funding has to be made by the Borough Council by the end of the month; therefore the letter needs to be sent quickly.

Members discussed the request. It was considered that the Council was being put in a difficult position as it does not really have enough information to make a fully informed decision; however some Members felt that not to support the bid might mean that Birchwood could miss out on some much needed traffic improvements.

Members decided to vote on the proposal that, in principal, they would wish to support improvements to try to solve local ‘pinch point’ traffic issues and would therefore send a letter of support.

Seven Members voted in favour of the proposal. Councillors Balding and Bolton abstained from the vote for the reason that they felt they did not have enough information or time to make a decision at that point.

Action Clerk’s office to send a letter of support, but make it known Members were unhappy to be only given basic details regarding this proposal and little time in which to consider the request.

399/2013 **BIRCHWOOD FORUM**

- (a) Received – Invitation to the October Forum meeting (15/10/2103).
- (b) Received – Follow up from October meeting – presentation slides from Warrington Borough Council Transport Planning.

400/2013 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – Updates and information emails from Warrington Voluntary Action.
- (b) Received – E-bulletin from the Big Lottery Fund.
- (c) Received – Copy of the minutes and presentation given at the last Risley Liaison Meeting; held in July. A site visit to Silver Lane took place 16th October 2013. Another site visit is to take place on 5th November 2013.
- (d) Received – Poster - Volunteers wanted for the Warrington MoneyBox Shop.
- (e) Received – Details of Golden Gates Housing Trust Community Sponsorship Fund.
- (f) Received – Invitation to join the National Association of Civic Officers - free organisation offering support for anyone who works in a civic office.

It was decided not to join this association.

- (g) Received – Parklife E-bulletin, October 8th 2013.
- (h) Received – Correspondence from a resident, via Councillor Bolton, about speeding, the speed limit and speed signage on Ordnance Avenue.

This was dealt with during recess (see Minute386/2013 (c) above) as the resident came to tonight's meeting to address the Council.

- (i) Received – Poster – Mossland Rescue Day with Friends of Gorse Covert Mounds – Saturday, 26th October.
- (j) Sent/received – correspondence with Your Housing regarding a missing drain cover on Swallow Close.
- (k) Received – Invitation to the Cheshire Community Action AGM – 5th November 2013.

401/2013 **ICAN ALERTS**

Received – Various scam alerts, consumer updates and information emails from iCAN:

- (a) Scam telephone preference call
- (b) Information about Warrington MoneyBox Shop
- (c) Scam plea for help from a friend
- (d) Barclays bank email scam
- (e) Theft of charity bags
- (f) Recall of mobile phone charger Emerson network power, A1299 USB connector plug – risk of electric shock or fire
- (g) Recall of Next item – Baby Rabbit Plush Toy – item number 135057 – risk of the ribbon at top of toy becoming detached
- (g) PayPal email scam
- (h) Recall of Hello Kitty Cuddle Pillow sold through Argos
- (i) Recall of MiTec mains adaptors/chargers sold at Tesco
- (j) Recall of B&Q bamboo and roman blinds
- (k) Scam phone calls from a company offering Sky protection or warranty renewals
- (l) Inheritance scam
- (m) Phishing emails supposedly from HMRC and MBNA
- (n) Alert regarding bogus social workers and bogus Housing Association callers

Full details regarding recent iCAN alerts, consumer information, etc. and details of free membership to the service can be found at <http://www.tsarrington.co.uk/ican>

402/2013 **SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS**

Received – E-news bulletin; including article and letter encouraging local Councils to get involved with the government's 'Our Place!' programme and an updated version of 'Openness and transparency on personal interests – A guide for Councillors'.

403/2013 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received – Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable’s Update – Issue 02 – September 2013.
- (b) Received – Email regarding updates to the Neighbourhood Alert System.
- (c) Received – Link to online consultation for people who have been victims of crime: www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/News-and-Events/News/2013/09/Commissioner-gives-Victims-a-Voice.aspx
- (d) Received – Correspondence re: February 2014 Police & Crime Commissioner meeting with local Councils.
- (e) Received – Alert that three burglaries were committed in the Warrington East area on 17th October 2013 during late afternoon. Rear windows/patio doors were smashed using objects found in the gardens. Residents are reminded not to leave any valuables in clear sight, ensure alarms are activated when the premises are vacant and to use a timer switch on lights if possible.
- (f) Received – Link to a survey about perceptions of crime and safety and levels of street lighting (closed 1st November 2013).

The Clerk stated that Members are able to respond to this survey in a personal capacity.

404/2013 **CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY**

Received – Email re: Launch of Consultation on Future Plans for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service. The consultation runs until 16th December 2013.

The documentation received made reference to there being ‘no change’ for Birchwood.

405/2013 **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

- (a) Received – ‘You’ve got the Power’ – a guide to community rights.
- (b) Received – Notification of a change to the 2014 training programme.
- (c) Received – Reminder re: the ChALC Annual Meeting (24th October).
- (d) Received – October newsletter.

406/2013 **PRESS ARTICLES**

Copies of various articles from local publications of relevance/interest to Birchwood.

407/2013 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

LGC Magazine – 26/09/13, 3/10/13, 10/10/13, 17/10/13
Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service Annual Report 2012-2013
‘Local Councils Explained’ – published by NALC

408/2013 **MEMBERS' REFERRALS MADE VIA THE CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING**

There were no Members' referrals made prior to the issue of the Clerk's report.

409/2013 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

(a) **Warrington Borough Council**

Received – Notification re: the Planning Application Sub-Committee meetings on 2nd October and 23rd October 2013. There were no items of specific relevance to Birchwood on the agenda for discussion.

410/2013 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

- (a) Application 2013/22290 Allday House, Birchwood Park Avenue, WA3 6GR. Application for approval of details reserved by Conditions 4 (bike shelter/structures, bollards and bin store), 5 (facing materials) and 7 (landscaping) to be discharged – following previously approved application 2012/20778 (external refurbishment of existing building). **Condition Part Discharged/Part Not Discharged**
- (b) Application 2013/22334 Birchwood Railway Station. Prior approval (Under Part 11 GPDO 1995): Proposed construction of a new footbridge. **Approved with conditions**

411/2013 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

All plans can be viewed via the Borough Council's website:

http://www.warrington.gov.uk/home/transport_planning_and_environment/Planning/Search_planning_applications/

Certain applications are not Planning Applications and therefore there is no statutory opportunity to allow 21 days for comments. Such applications are: Non material amendment applications, Lawful development certificates (S192) and 28 day prior approval/determination applications. In respect of any of these types of applications, they would be received on an information basis only.

- (a) Application No. 2013/22530 Risley Primary Substation, Warrington Road, Risley, WA3 7AQ. Lawful Development Certificate (Section 192) – Proposed installation of 13m high telecommunication tower with panel antenna and ancillary equipment, cabling and fixings in existing primary substation.

We circulated this application to residents in the local vicinity for information, as a matter of courtesy.

The Clerk reported that some residents had telephoned who were unhappy about the proposed mast. The Clerk has passed the residents' concerns on to the Borough Council.

We have subsequently received a response from the Borough Council stating that the residents' concerns have been passed on to the applicant. Whilst the applicant is reviewing the situation as they appear reluctant to upset the neighbours, they are constrained by operational requirements.

Councillor Bowden added that he has also met some residents about this matter. The main problem is the positioning of high voltage underground cables that cannot be built over, which leaves fewer alternative options for the positioning of the mast within the site, which still has to be suitable for the line of sight link for the mast to be functional.

We are awaiting the outcome of any deliberations.

- (b) Application No. 2013/22552 4 Sovereign Court, Birchwood, WA3 7NA. Proposed single storey extensions to side of house and rear of garage.

There was no objection made at the meeting to this application.

- (c) Application No. 2013/22474 Ramada Encore Hotel, Aston Avenue, Birchwood, WA3 6ZN. Application for consent of various illuminated signs.

There was no objection made at the meeting to this application.

- (d) Application No. 2013/22569 Bridgewater Place, 305 Birchwood Park. Proposed change of use from use class B1(a) (Offices) to use class D1 (Law Courts) for a temporary period of up to 3 years.

Members discussed this proposal (which was also briefly discussed earlier in the meeting, see Minute 386/2013 (a) above).

The proposal is for this building to be used as a temporary law court for up to three years to cover the Hillsborough Inquiry.

Members wondered whether there may be implications for local residents; possibly with traffic issues or local/national media interest, as it is a high profile inquiry.

Members decided to support the application in principle, but to ask that the potential impact on local residents be considered and any way to minimise possible impairment to the amenity of the local surroundings and residents be put in place.

Action Clerk's office to write to the Planning Department regarding the above application.

412/2013 **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Councillor Fitzsimmons **proposed** the Payment of Accounts be approved and Councillor Evans **seconded** the proposal. This was agreed by those Members present.

This part of the meeting concluded at 8.05pm