

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING
OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL,
HELD AT PARKERS FARM, DELENTY DRIVE
ON TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 6PM

Present: Councillor Ellis in the Chair
Councillors Allman, Ball, Brereton, B. Dhillon, K. Dhillon, Evans, Price,
Reeves, Sheridan and Simcock

Clerk – Mrs. F. McDonald
Deputy Clerk/RFO – Mrs. C. Caddock
Administrative Assistant – Mrs. H. Thomas

PC Tom Shevlin – Birchwood Police

Apologies: Councillor Atkin (work)

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.

Councillor Reeves – One Community Trust (spouse)

143/24-25 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Police Monthly Update**

Birchwood Police sent their Police Report from the period of 26th July – 24th September 2024 prior to the meeting.

‘Tru Cam has been out of action for the past 2 months but have been performing speed monitoring with the radar in areas of the East to act as a deterrent.

Anti-Social Behaviour – x5

1x Woodhouse Close – issues with youths

1x Admirals Road – Kids refusing to leave

2x Fernbank Close – Children on construction site

1x Admirals Road – off-road bikes

Burglary Dwelling

N/A

Burglary Others

N/A

Vehicle Crime / Offences – Reports

N/A

Criminal Damage

1x Halliday Close – call from fire

1x Pipit Lane – vehicle damage

1x Strawberry Close – vehicle damage

1x Penzance Close – reporting issues with youths on construction site possibly causing damage

1x Starbucks – damage to benches outside’

PC Shevlin said that it has been a relatively quiet summer, with nothing too concerning to note on the Police report. He stated that those committing anti-social behaviour offences do not appear to be repeat offenders.

PC Shevlin reported that in recent weeks, two motorbikes have been seized, and since doing so, there have been no further noise complaints relating to off-road bikes.

Councillor Ellis asked about the use of electric bikes and scooters on the road, and what efforts are made to ensure proper insurance and safety clothing are used.

PC Shevlin responded by saying that there are currently no means available to safely stop these vehicles, so it is a difficult area. He stated that when the vehicles are found, they are seized. Work is being done to look at how to educate parents on the dangers of children owning this type of vehicle.

The Clerk asked if the Police were aware of a wooden structure located between the two garages which has recently appeared.

PC Shevlin said he would look into this.

The Chair thanked PC Shevlin for attending on behalf of Birchwood Police, and PC Shevlin left the meeting.

(b) Public Participation

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

144/24-25 JULY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Councillor Sheridan **proposed**, Councillor Simcock **seconded** and it was **unanimously resolved** that: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23rd July 2024 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

145/24-25 AUGUST EXTRAORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

Councillor Reeves **proposed**, Councillor Simcock **seconded** and it was **unanimously resolved** that: The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 7th August 2024 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

PROGRESS

146/24-25 WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

(a) Meeting with WBC

The Clerk reported that she and Councillor Ellis attended a meeting with Dave Boyer and Ian Brackenbury from WBC on 8th August 2024. The Clerk produced a set of notes of the meeting which were sent to WBC and copied to Members in their papers. A series of actions were noted, but we still await feedback from WBC.

(b) **Locking Stumps MUGA Joint Use Agreement**

The Clerk stated that we are waiting for One Community Trust to liaise with Locking Stumps Primary School. She noted that while all parties involved seem to be satisfied with the continuance of the existing arrangement, there are some finer details that require consideration before being finalised, such as the responsibility for public liability insurance and maintenance of the equipment.

(c) **Dropped Kerb – Kelvin Close**

Following Councillor Ellis' Member's Referral at the July meeting, he has received an update from WBC indicating that this request will need to be included in the Capital Budget. Whilst it is too late for consideration in this year's budget, it has been added to the list for potential inclusion in next year's budget. Any new dropped kerbs are installed based on their priority.

147/24-25 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG) - UPDATES**

The Clerk reported that she and Councillor Ellis attended a meeting with the CEO of YHG and three other senior managers, on 6th September 2024. A follow-up meeting took place the next day with one of the YHG management team, Aaron Hammersley, Director of YHG Housing and Customer Services.

The Clerk stated that she felt that this was a positive meeting with actions being picked up by YHG already. The Clerk added that flytipping is slowly being removed from all YHG areas.

BTC's Senior Maintenance Operative went out with Paul McNeilly, Regional Housing Manager of YHG, to identify areas that were not addressed, and it is now believed that YHG have a team assigned to flytipping issues, rather than relying on contractors as previously.

Councillor Ellis noted that YHG is a large organisation, and the CEO acknowledged that they may have overlooked certain matters. However, it appears that they have recognised many of the key issues in Birchwood and are demonstrating a willingness to address them effectively, including flytipping and green maintenance.

Councillor Ellis also stated that it would be prudent for YHG tenants to note that the Service Charge will always depend on the amount of work that is being undertaken. For example, if extra resources are needed to remove resident's flytipping, this will affect the amount charged. Councillor Ellis has asked YHG communicates this to residents, as many may not be aware.

The Clerk reported that meetings between BTC and YHG have now been scheduled every two months.

148/24-25 **MEMBER'S REFERRAL – SOCIAL MEDIA**

Following the July meeting, Officers have been posting regular updates on BTC's Facebook page, ensuring that comments are turned off. Several Councillors have shared these posts to local community Facebook pages, which then gives residents the opportunity to discuss.

Officers have tried to share updates from the different areas of Birchwood to ensure residents can see the type of work that is being undertaken, and that all areas are being maintained by the team.

A discussion took place, where most felt that any comments received on local groups were a mix of praise and complaints. We will continue to monitor this.

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

149/24-25 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Sent/Received - Various emails/online reports/telephone calls following queries/contact from residents regarding flytipping, tree/shrubbery issues, grass cutting, etc.
- (b) Received – various Traffic Notices.
- (c) Sent – emails to the Park Ranger at Birchwood Forest Park, following emails/phone calls from residents, enquiring why the football goals have been removed and when they will be reinstated, and information regarding when the toilets are open for public use.
- (d) Received – a forwarded email in response to a resident requesting more litter bins around the area.

WBC had informed the resident to contact BTC to enquire about additional litter bins.

- (e) Received – an email from the Democratic Service Officer containing a letter regarding the Gambling Policy Consultation Guide. This was forwarded to Members.

150/24-25 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP**

- (a) Sent/received – various emails/reports following queries/contact from residents including issues with flytipping, shrubbery maintenance, fallen trees, damaged bollards, etc.
- (b) Received – email re: a gated area off Trefoil and Campion Close which is being used for flytipping.
- (c) Sent – an email regarding a sightline issue on Strawberry/Trefoil Closes onto Glover Road. This has been passed onto YHG's contractors for action.
- (d) Sent – an email, including pictures, to YHG of vandalism to 'The Birches' exercise park in Locking Stumps, after a paint can had been thrown over the park.
- (e) To note that a YHG 'drop-in' session will be taking place on 26th September at the Encounter Centre from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

The Clerk noted that since this is the first session, YHG is eager to understand the priorities of its residents. If this session proves successful, additional meetings may be scheduled, potentially at different times to better accommodate residents' needs.

151/24-25 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – various emails from Warrington Voluntary Action (WVA).
- (b) Received – an email from a resident regarding Silver Lane, inc. information on 'Negotiated Stopping'.
- (c) Sent – multiple emails to Trolleywise and Collex regarding abandoned trolleys in the area.

In the absence of any updates, further emails have been sent to managers of the stores to ask for their help with collections.

- (d) Received – an email and phone call from a resident complaining about a camera which has been installed near to the bin store on Layton Close.

BTC is not aware of who installed the camera and are currently looking into this. We believe this could be WBC’s mobile CCTV unit, however, we are not certain. We have asked YHG, as it is on their land, to look into this and contact the resident directly.

- (e) Received – an email from the Department for Transport including a draft proposed Stopping Up Order for Highways on Benson Road. This was circulated to Members.

152/24-25 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received – Various Neighbourhood Alerts.
- (b) Received – email re: a Section 34 Dispersal Order for Warrington on 7th August 2024, for up to 48 hours; the police were granted additional powers, following speculation of planned protests.
- (c) Following an email from a resident regarding alleged ASB at the building site known as ‘Birchwood Gardens’, BTC contacted Birchwood Police on their behalf, and advised the resident to do the same. PCSO Palfrey attended the site and a Designing Out Crime Officer also attended the site.

153/24-25 **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (CHALC), NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC), SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS (SLCC)**

- (a) Received – NALC publications including the Chief Executive’s Bulletins, events information, etc.
- (b) Received – ChALC weekly e-bulletins with various attachments, details of training sessions, etc.
- (c) Received – SLCC – various updates, briefings, news items, etc.
- (d) Received – ChALC – an email enquiring if they had the correct contact details for the current Chair of the Council. A reply was sent, confirming Councillor Ellis’s BTC email address.
- (e) Following an email regarding Chairmanship Training, the Clerk asked Members if they would like the opportunity to undertake this online training provided by ChALC, which may prove helpful should they be called upon to Chair a meeting in future.

Councillors Brereton, B. Dhillon, K. Dhillon and Price showed an interest in attending an upcoming training, and Members **unanimously resolved** to approve the cost associated with this Councillor training session.

Action Clerk’s office to liaise with ChALC to arrange training sessions.

154/24-25 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

Various LGC e-mail correspondence/briefings.

(a) **Warrington Borough Council – Development Management Committee (DMC)**

- (i) During recess, a DMC meeting took place on 15th August 2024. There were no items of specific interest to Birchwood on the Agenda for this meeting.
- (ii) The most recent DMC meeting was held on 19th September 2024. There were no items of specific interest to Birchwood on the Agenda.
- (iii) Information re: enforcement cases specific to Birchwood have been circulated to Members.

(b) **Planning Decisions**

- (i) **Application No. 2024/00502/ADV** EE Stanford House Garrett Field, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 7BH. Replacement signage for 4no. totem signs and 2no. “EE” logo signs. **Granted.**
- (ii) **Application No. 2024/00828/DISCON** Aldi, Unit D, Birchwood Shopping Centre Benson Road, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 7PQ. Discharge of Conditions 4 (Construction, Highways & Environmental Management Plan) on previously approved plan 2024/00225. **Discharged.**

(c) **Planning Applications**

All plans can be viewed via:

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

Certain applications are not Planning Applications; therefore, there is no statutory opportunity to allow 21 days for comments, e.g: Non material amendment applications, Lawful development certificates (S192) and 28 day prior approval/determination applications. These types of applications are received for information only.

- (i) **Application No. 2024/00897/VARC** Heathfield House Day Nursery, Heathfield House Delenty Drive, Birchwood, WA3 6AP. Variation of Conditions 1 (Alteration to building and amended parking layout), 2 (increase to 68 Children), 4 (Revised parking) on previous 2019/35322 application on appeal. This application was discussed at an Extraordinary Meeting during recess. (See separate minutes of meeting held on 7th August 2024.)
- (ii) **Application No. 2024/00937/NMA** Land at Junction 11 of the M62 Motorway, Warrington. Proposed amendment to condition 5 (Approved drawings) on previously approved application 2023/00333 (Motorway service area) to replace to Combined Parameter Plan.
- (iii) **Application No. 2024/00938/DISCON** Land at Junction 11 of the M62 Motorway, Warrington. Discharge of Condition number 6 (phasing plan) on application 2023/00333/VARC (Application to vary Condition 5 and Condition 26 attached to outline planning permission 2019/35726).
- (iv) **Application No. 2024/00884/FULH** 14 Dalby Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6TD. Single storey rear extension.
- (v) **Application No. 2024/00673/FULH** 12 Daniel Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6QL. Single storey rear extension to form bedroom and en-suite bathroom.

- (vi) **Application No. 2024/01074/FUL** The Turf And Feather, Glover Road, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 7PH. New covered pergola to side elevation with new doorway opening from public house. Demolish front conservatory and form new accessible ramp to main entrance. New resin surfacing to front, new tall metal festoon mounting posts.
- (vii) **Application No. 2024/01116/FULH** 71 Woolmer Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6TT. Part single, part double, rear extension.
- (viii) **Application No. 2024/00963/REMM** Land at Junction 11 of the M62 Motorway, Warrington. Approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout, scale) pursuant to ref. 2023/00333/VARC for Phases 1 (Enabling Works) and 2 (Hotel and Facilities Buildings) comprising creation of development platforms, earthworks including diversion of Silver Lane Brook, creation of Peat Habitat Zone, strategic landscaping, internal site circulation, vehicle parking including Electric Vehicle Hub, foul and surface water drainage feature; Facilities Building including commercial units, seating areas, associated amenities and management suite; 100-bed hotel and associated facilities; landscaped external areas including outdoor seating areas and play equipment; internal and external plant areas; associated infrastructure including service yard, external bin storage areas, photovoltaic panels, LV panels and substations, lighting, and fencing.
- (ix) **Application No. 2024/01142/ADV** Pentahotel, Aston Avenue, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6ZN. Installation of replacement signs to include, 2x sets of totem panels fitted to existing steelwork, 1x illuminated projecting sign, 1x set of illuminated letters and logo, 1x illuminated fascia sign, and 3x set of replacement panels to existing framepost.
- (x) **Application No. 2024/01157/FULH** 14a Keyes Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6RU. One and a half storey side extension and proposed front porch.

This part of the meeting concluded at 7.00 pm.