

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD AT PARKERS FARM, DELENTY DRIVE**  
**ON TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024, 6.00 PM**

**Present:** Councillor Dempsey in the Chair  
Councillors Ball, Bowden, Brereton, Scott, Sheridan and Simcock

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

2 members of the public

**Apologies:** Councillors Allen (other commitment), Atkin (health), Ellis (health), Evans, and Reeves (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.

001/24-25 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Police Monthly Update**

There were no Police present at this meeting and no Monthly Police Report had been received.

(b) **Public Participation**

Councillor Dempsey welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and explained that there is an allocated time of up to 30 minutes for this section of the meeting.

One resident reported that the underpass at the fire station is currently flooded and has been so for a while. The Clerk stated that this has been reported by Officers to WBC.

Another resident stated that, at the time of the meeting, an incident involving several cars had occurred at the Garrett Field roundabout. She said that the speed of traffic on the stretch of road is often dangerous. The road had previously been a 50 MPH zone, and was recently reduced to 40 MPH, and she believes that residents are often unaware of the change to the speed limit. She stated that her son had been involved in an accident at this location within the last 12 months, and would like Councillors to consider enquiring with WBC if the speed limit could be reduced to 30 MPH.

Councillor Sheridan stated that many commuters use the area, and some may be unaware that Birchwood is mostly residential and therefore might not be as mindful as they should be in relation to the speed limits.

Councillor Ball stated that he believes that a 30 MPH speed limit across the whole of Birchwood, minus the expressway, is adequate enough.

Councillor Bowden proposed that the Council ask the Clerk to write to WBC Highways authority to ask them to review the speed limit again.

This proposal was **unanimously agreed** by those Members present.

**Action** The Clerk's office to contact WBC Highways to discuss the issue.

002/24-25 **MARCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor Simcock **proposed**, Councillor Brereton **seconded** and it was **unanimously resolved** that: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

**PROGRESS**

003/24-25 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (WBC)**

**Communication**

(a) **Abandoned Trolleys**

The Clerk stated that Officers now have email addresses for Aldi, Asda and Home Bargains and can therefore send the stores themselves emails if the trolley recovery services are not attending to collect the abandoned trolleys.

The Clerk stated that Birchwood Shopping Centre are getting more involved and have organised a further walkabout in the surrounding area with their facilities team to retrieve abandoned trolleys and return them to the shopping centre. The Clerk said that she has asked the shopping centre whether they might consider displaying posters around the shopping centre to advertise the trolley reporting apps, but she has not had a response yet.

Councillor Sheridan stated that she believes that the Town Council needs to do something 'radical' to highlight the problem and encourage residents to return their trolleys.

Councillor Ball asked if a locking system could be installed on the car park, as used to be the case. This system locked trolleys' wheels to prevent them from being taken beyond the car park perimeter. However, it is BTC's understanding that there is a break in the circuit that is installed to do that job. It would potentially be too costly to dig up the car park to establish where the break is and repair it.

Councillor Simcock stated that a deposit scheme would be a good way to eliminate trolley theft, however, this would be hard to monitor as additional staff would be needed to facilitate the program, and therefore incur more cost to the supermarkets.

(b) **Flooding – Lords Lane and Delenty Drive**

The Clerk stated that WBC have now undertaken a camera survey of the drain and have located an issue causing the flooding. They will organise a 'dig-down' to try and resolve it. No date has been given yet.

The Clerk also stated that WBC highways operatives have attended Delenty Drive, after multiple reports to WBC regarding flooding outside of our offices which continues down the street.

WBC appears to have located an issue at this location. BTC is unaware of when they will be resolving the issue, but visible spray paint notes have been sprayed onto the grass and paved area near the drain, so it would appear that work is imminent.

(c) **Information Board at Cross Lane South Cemetery**

The Clerk stated that she has emailed WBC to enquire about the progress of this matter. She is yet to receive an update.

(d) **Wildflowers**

BTC has now informed WBC that the location chosen by Councillors for Locking Stumps wildflowers is Locking Stumps Common.

(e) **Milk Bottles**

The Clerk stated that three more crates of milk bottles have been collected by BTC operatives and are currently being stored on BTC's premises. The Clerk said that a representative was supposed to collect them last week, however, they did not attend. According to the dairy, someone will be over to collect the crates this week.

(f) **Work on Delenty Drive**

The Clerk stated that there has been a large amount of mud on the road from the building works at 3 Delenty Drive. She has spoken to a construction worker, who said that the street sweeper attends regularly, and she later saw the workers shovelling mud from the road.

004/24-25 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG) – UPDATES**

(a) **Rubbish Bin at 'The Birches' Play Area**

The Clerk said that she has chased-up YHG regarding replacing the waste bin which was removed from The Birches play area due to it being rotten, and regarding an additional bin to be situated on Redshank Common, however, she is still awaiting a response from them.

(b) **Vegetation on Chatfield Drive / Admirals Road**

The Clerk stated that she has not heard back regarding this matter. The Clerk and Senior Maintenance Operative have a meeting arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 with the Regional Housing Officer, Paul McNeilly, to discuss issues which have been ongoing regarding YHG owned land.

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

005/24-25 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (WBC)**

- (a) Sent/received – various emails/online reports/telephone calls following queries/contact from residents regarding flytipping, tree/shrubbery/hedge issues (including ownership), flooding, etc.
- (b) Received – Birchwood Election Notices for both contested and uncontested elections. These have been displayed on BTC's noticeboards, website and Facebook page.

- (c) Received – list of locations that are cut back with a side arm flail in Birchwood.
- (d) Updated BTC cutting schedule sent to WBC for their information.
- (e) Monthly Report, with BTC's updates, sent to Simone for her information. This was circulated to Members before the meeting.

006/24-25 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP**

- (a) Sent/received – various emails/reports following queries/contact from residents including issues with flytipping, shrubbery maintenance, trees blocking light from streetlamps, waste removal etc.
- (b) Sent – email to YHG to enquire about an update to a fridge freezer that had been flytipped in January, after a concerned resident called our office to make a complaint. This was followed up by a phone call from YHG who put a note on their file for an update to be given regarding a removal date.

The Clerk confirmed that the fridge freezer has now been removed and the concerned resident called BTC offices to update us. Thanks has been sent to YHG representatives.

007/24-25 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE/ISSUES**

- (a) Received – various emails from Warrington Voluntary Action (WVA).
- (b) Received – emails from a resident re: a sign at the Walled Gardens that appeared to have been pushed over. A second email was sent after the resident 'reinstalled' the sign with suggestions on how the issue could be fixed. The Ranger who deals with the Walled Garden was copied into the emails.
- (c) Received – emails from a resident sharing the 2015 WBC Prohibition Order for Silver Lane, Croft. A number of Councillors were copied into the resident's email, the contents of which have been noted.

008/24-25 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

Received – Various Neighbourhood Alerts.

009/24-25 **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.

010/24-25 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

Various LGC e-mail correspondence/briefings.

## 011/24-25 ANNUAL TOWN AND ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

In an election year, the annual meeting of the Council must be held on or within 14 days following the day on which the Councillors are elected to take office. Therefore, both meetings will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

The Annual Town Meeting, at which the current Chair presents their Chair's Report for 2023/2024, will commence at 6pm.

The Annual Council Meeting will commence at 6.30pm.

The current Chair must open the proceedings and call for the nominations for a new Chair of the Council.

Current Councillors formally retire on the fourth day after the ordinary day of election. All newly elected Councillors take office (provided they have made Declarations of Acceptance of Office) on the day on which their predecessors retire (Local Government Act, 1972, Section 16(3)).

All newly elected Councillors will be required to come in person to the office between 9am and 3pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024, to complete and sign their Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which has to be witnessed by the Clerk.

All Members must complete a new Register of Interests form to bring to the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024. This is a legal requirement.

If any Member has a 'sensitive' interest in relation to their form, they must contact WBC's Solicitor directly regarding this.

## 012/24-25 CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES

### (a) **Warrington Borough Council - Development Management Committee (DMC)**

- (i) A DMC Meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024. There were no items specific to Birchwood on the main agenda for discussion.

There is currently no May DMC meeting scheduled.

- (ii) Information re: enforcement cases specific to Birchwood have been circulated to Members.
- (iii) Received – an email from Planning Enforcement in response to a concern from a resident regarding potential unauthorised works near a TPO for works at 3 Delenty Drive. A reference number of **ENF/24/10154** has been given to the case.

### (b) **Planning Decisions**

There were no planning decisions for Birchwood listed on WBC's weekly lists for the last four weeks.

(c) **Planning Applications**

*All plans can be viewed via:*

[http://www.warrington.gov.uk/home/transport\\_planning\\_and\\_environment/Planning/Se  
arch\\_planning\\_applications/](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/home/transport_planning_and_environment/Planning/Se<br/>arch_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. 2024/00288/FULH** 9 Jay Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6QJ. To erect a single storey rear extension to provide an accessible ground floor bedroom and shower room.
- (ii) **Application No. 2024/00303/FULH** 71 Woolmer Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6TT. Part single part double rear extension.
- (iii) **Application No. 2024/00443/VARC** N/a Land at Trident Business Park, Warrington. Removal of conditions 1, 8, 9 & 10. Variation of condition 2 (approved plans and landscape plan) on planning application 2021/40696 to allow the inclusion within the scheme of two substations, and minor layout changes and variation of wording of conditions 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 28, 29, 34, 35, & 36.
- (iv) **Application No. 2024/00443/FULH** 6 Redvales Court, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 7NN. Proposed single storey rear extension.
- (v) **Application No. 2023/01208/VARC** 3 Delenty Drive, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6AN. Variation of Condition 2 – to reflect the changes in materials and change in site layout and removal of Condition 4 – in relation to application 2019/34700.

Members had no comments or objections to make regarding the above applications at this point in time.

- (vi) **Application No. 2024/00312/FULM** Spencer House, Dewhurst Road, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 7PG. Proposal for 11no. small industrial units contained within 2no. buildings to be located on land adjacent Spencer House 81A Dewhurst Road, Birchwood, WA3 7PG.

The Clerk stated that this application had been received earlier today and, as such, the plans had not yet been published on WBC's website. The Council may, therefore, wish to make comments once they are able to view the plans.

**This part of the meeting concluded at 6.30 pm.**