

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

**Present:** Councillor Dempsey in the Chair  
Councillors Allen, Atkin, Ball, Brereton, Ellis, Evans, Reeves, Scott, Sheridan  
and Simcock

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

7 Members of the Public

**Apologies:** Councillor Bowden (work)  
PCSO Palfrey – Birchwood Police

**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 declared that he has now amended his Register of Interest form to show he is no longer a Governor at Birchwood Community High School.*

*Birchwood Carnival Committee – Councillors Atkin, Sheridan and Simcock.*

290/23-24 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Police Monthly Update**

PCSO Palfrey sent apologies for this meeting, but sent the following report for the period 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024:

*“Tru Cam has been deployed to areas around the East and Birchwood, we have caught a number of drivers and the highest being 38 MPH on Admirals Road.*

**Anti-Social Behaviour**

*2x Halliday Close- caller reporting males are gathering in the woods at the back of the park taking drugs.*

*1x Youths have been throwing snowballs at callers’ door.*

*1x Miles Close- Dog incident*

*1x Birchwood Rail Station- 20- 30 youths on the bridge intimidating the public- passed to BTP*

*1x Dewhurst Road- youths throwing till rolls.*

**Burglary Dwelling**

*N/A*

### **Burglary Others**

N/A

### **Vehicle Crime / Offences – Reports**

*1x Layton Close- gloves taken from vehicle, vehicle owner had left door unlocked.*

*1x Gilderdale Close- Vehicle taken from the address, keys were still with occupant and no forced entry to property.*

*1x Whitethroat Walk- 2 youths have smashed a car window with a brick and made off from scene.*

### **Criminal Damage**

*1x Redshank Lane- Domestic incident*

*1x Heather Close- Damage to a vehicle*

*1x Birchwood Shopping Centre- Blanket on fire inside a phone box outside the Barclays Bank*

*1x St Andrews Close- Damage to a vehicle”*

#### **(b) Public Participation**

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

One resident started by thanking Councillor Ellis for his assistance in getting an appropriate bus shelter installed on Warrington Road in Risley. She then explained the risks and concerns that residents face with regards to inconsiderate parking along the stretch of road from the Spar roundabout up to the former ‘Noggin Inn’ pub. The resident stated that recently, a tractor and a car were parked in the bus stop, and that vehicles parking in this location is a common occurrence. The resident also stated that in this location, there are no safe and marked out pedestrian crossings nearby. Her daughter is averaging between five and seven minutes to cross the road safely. She said that her daughter has missed buses because they have driven past whilst she is trying to cross the road to get to the bus stop, and on occasions when vehicles have been parking at the bus stop, so the bus has not pulled in and stopped.

Councillor Ellis explained how WBC determines if a stretch of road is eligible for a crossing. He stated that they prioritise areas with a high vehicular activity and the number of pedestrians who regularly cross the road. He said that WBC will monitor areas where crossings have been requested and make a decision accordingly. Councillor Ellis advised that this would only be looked at by WBC in the next financial year, as this year’s budget has already been allocated.

The same resident also wanted to raise some concerns regarding ‘Cheshire Windows’ which operates behind houses on Warrington Road, Risley. The residents said they have checked the conditions of operations and there appears to have been several breaches of those conditions. The resident gave examples including alarms going off at unsociable hours and operating on days which were not agreed upon.

Councillor Ellis advised gathering evidence and keeping a log of any breaches of condition to pass to WBC's Enforcement Team, and that without this, the issue may not get escalated.

Another resident asked if Councillors knew what stage the new service station at Junction 11 of the M62 Motorway was currently at, and whether there will be any impact on nearby residential properties or loss of use of the public footpath.

Councillor Ellis stated that they are starting to discharge conditions and that building is likely to commence soon. He also said that there will be a light-controlled crossing so that pedestrians, cyclists etc. can access the service station safely.

Councillor Reeves said that the Public Right of Way will be diverted.

Councillor Atkin said that in the conditions, it states that construction vehicles will use the motorway junctions to travel to the site during construction work, and therefore, no extra congestion should be noticed in and around Birchwood.

The resident also commented on the number of trolleys which are seemingly dumped around Birchwood. She said that it is hard to identify which store some of them are from.

The Clerk explained that there are two services, Trolleywise, who collect abandoned Aldi and Home Bargains trolleys, and Collex, who collect Asda trolleys. The Clerk stated that the Trolleywise operative had been invited to BTC's offices following a BTC and YHG walkabout on the Chatfield estate to discuss the issues.

The Trolleywise operative explained that he spends two full working days in Birchwood. On one day, he will work on putting the trolleys in the correct bays within the car parks at Birchwood Centre, and the other he will focus on retrieving them from the estates.

The Clerk also stated that she has been in contact with both the Area Manager for Aldi and the Manager at Birchwood Shopping Centre, who will work towards increasing signage to deter trolleys being taken.

Councillors discussed different ways to raise awareness or to stop the problem occurring, including, but not limited to, displaying posters, asking the stores to reinstall a mechanism that will lock the trolleys upon leaving the shopping centre boundary, and asking the supermarkets to take more responsibility with the monitoring of the trolleys.

Councillors also discussed ways in which residents and Councillors could help get trolleys back to the supermarkets so that they are not littered around Birchwood, including pushing abandoned trolleys back to Birchwood Shopping Centre, wheeling all trolleys to the roadside so the collection teams can locate them easier and reporting them on the collection apps.

A resident queried that, with the Trident Development starting imminently, if Risley residents have BTC's full support in regard to reporting any breaches of conditions that may occur.

Members made residents aware that whilst the Council will support them, this is not something that formally requires Town Council support.

If a condition breach is noted, they should report this directly to WBC's Planning Enforcement Team who will be able to investigate the matter. If they wish to copy the Council into correspondence, for information, it would be appreciated.

The Chair thanked the residents for attending and stated that the maximum allotted time for Public Participation had now been reached.

Four members of the public left at this point in the meeting.

#### 291/23-24 **DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor Reeves **proposed**, Councillor Scott **seconded** and it was **unanimously resolved** that: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

#### **PROGRESS**

#### 292/23-24 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (WBC)**

##### **Communication**

##### (a) **Rotten Bench and Posts in Havisham Close**

The Clerk stated that partial checks have been completed and the bench will be programmed for repair in due course and the fallen posts will be removed from the site.

##### (b) **Flooding Opposite Locking Stumps Shop**

The Clerk stated that this has been reported to WBC and their feedback is that the issue has been rectified.

Councillor Allen confirmed that WBC highways team spent around four days at the location, jetting and clearing the drains, and that the road sweeper had been down the road several times.

##### (c) **Lords Lane Flooding**

The Clerk said that WBC states that partial works have been completed and further checks are ongoing.

Councillor Ellis stated that the location was flooded again today.

#### 293/23-24 **CHESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024-28**

The Clerk's office has sent BTC's response to the draft Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), detailing thoughts raised by Councillors at the last meeting, to Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service. The Engagement and Public Affairs Manager confirmed receipt of BTC's response. He confirmed that the response will be included in the consultation feedback report.

294/23-24 **UPDATE TO NOVEMBER 2023 MINUTES**

In minute 262/23-24 (b) of the December 2023 Council Meeting, it was decided that the two clarifications to comments Councillor Scott had made at the November 2023 meeting, would be formally considered in this meeting.

Members **unanimously agreed** to approve the clarifications requested by Councillor Scott.

295/23-24 **MEMBER'S REFERRAL REGARDING WASTE BIN STORAGE AREAS ON CHATFIELD DRIVE ESTATE**

The Clerk confirmed that the arranged walkabout with YHG took place on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Members had planned to discuss with YHG the possibility of more communal bin storage facilities on several streets, however during the walkabout it became apparent that the storage facilities tend to attract flytipping and make it harder for the bins to be collected by the refuse workers, which can lead to them getting missed.

In the streets where there are no main waste bin storage facilities, the waste bins are placed on the road. As the drains and corners of the roads were full of silt and overgrowth, it made it impossible for the bins to be put-away in a tidy manner. The Clerk stated that BTC's maintenance team spent several hours clearing the silt and overgrowth as a 'one-off' with permission from the landowner, YHG.

Councillors were asked to report other areas to the office if they notice similar issues.

The Clerk stated that there are some steps behind Leatham Close which appear to be falling apart. As a member of YHG was in attendance, she took photographs and reported them to their contractor following the walkabout. Councillor Dempsey said that hazard tape was promptly placed on the steps but has since been removed.

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

296/23-24 **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, bin collections etc.
- (b) Received – Email from Public Rights of Way Officer to say that the Rights of Way Forum will be held on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January. This was sent to relevant Councillors.
- (c) Sent – Email to Environmental Crime Officer to report dumped milk crates full of empty glass bottles on Glover Road.

The Clerk stated that both Enforcement and Environmental Crime are aware of the situation and have investigated the matter to find the company responsible. Collection of the milk crates was arranged by the Environmental Crime Team, but they are yet to be collected from our site, where they are being kept in order to ensure they are not smashed on roads and footpaths.

297/23-24 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP**

- (a) Sent/received – various emails/reports following queries/contact from residents including issues with flytipping, shrubbery maintenance, trees blocking light from street lamps, waste removal etc.
- (b) Sent/received – Emails following walkabout with YHG on the Chatfield Estate on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January (some with photographs) showing work undertaken by BTC's Maintenance Team, issues reported by YHG and correspondence relating to the collection of abandoned shopping trolleys.
- (c) Sent/received – Emails regarding flytipping on Redshank Lane which has been reported both by residents and BTC multiple times, and has been there for a period of 7-8 weeks.

The Clerk stated that YHG have confirmed that the sofa and mattress which was reported have both now been removed by YHG, but the fridge-freezer that was also flytipped has not yet been collected. YHG have confirmed that they have arranged for it to be removed.

298/23-24 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE/ISSUES**

- (a) Received – various emails from Warrington Voluntary Action (WVA).
- (b) Received – Email forwarded by Councillor Dempsey to Officers relating to a drainage/flooding problem noted by residents on Barham Court and Delenty Drive. BTC has reported the flooding to WBC and asked Councillor Dempsey to follow up with the residents.

Councillor Dempsey said that he has given feedback to the residents and asked them to check their drainage, as advised by BTC, and updated them that a report has been filed with WBC.

- (c) Received – Email from Tom Bedworth, on behalf of the 'Peace in Mind' Campaign, and Community Reporter for the Warrington Guardian, asking about the possibility to use Birchwood Forest Park as a site for a memorial vigil. The Clerk's office directed him to WBC and the Ranger responsible for the Forest Park.

The Clerk also noted that Tom Bedworth will no longer be the Community Reporter for Birchwood, and going forward Birchwood will not have a designated Community Reporter for the Warrington Guardian.

- (d) Received – Invitation from the Birchwood and Woolston Churchwarden inviting representatives of the Council to the Licensing of the new Team Vicar on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm. This email was forwarded to Councillor Dempsey as Chair.

As Councillor Dempsey is not available for this engagement, he asked if any other Councillors would like to attend and represent BTC.

Councillor Sheridan as Vice Chair, and Councillor Brereton will attend the Licensing on behalf of BTC.

**Action**

Clerk's office to respond to the invitation and confirm Councillors' attendance.

- (e) Received – Email from resident asking for follow-ups to complaints made in 2017. BTC has responded asking for more information and advising the resident of other options they could try to find out the information they are looking for.

299/23-24 **CESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received – Various Neighbourhood Alerts.
- (b) Received – Email containing link to a survey to gather residents’ views ahead of setting the Police Budget 2024/2025. This was forwarded to Councillors and shared on BTC’s Facebook page.
- (c) Received – Email from Cheshire Police asking BTC to share information relating to Courier Fraud. This information was circulated to Members and posted on Facebook.

300/23-24 **CESHIRE 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 – Information regarding D-Day 80 and ways local Parishes can get involved.
- (e) Received – ChALC – Note highlighting the key changes to the National Planning Framework.
- (f) Received – ChALC – Email forwarded from the Emergency Planning Team that the Cold-Health alert has been updated in the North West. Email was forwarded to Members.

301/23-24 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

Various LGC e-mail correspondence/briefings.

302/23-24 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

- (a) **Warrington Borough Council - Development Management Committee (DMC)**
  - (i) The DMC meeting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024. There was one item of note on the agenda: Unit 722 (Within Development Plots 701 & 702), Birchwood Park – Application No. 2023/01085/VARC.
  - (ii) Information re: enforcement cases specific to Birchwood have been circulated to Members.

(b) **Planning Decisions**

- (i) **Application No. 2023/01055/FUL** The Poacher, 40 Gorse Covert Road, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6UG. New external grade timber pergola with poly-carbonate roof covering. New external timber and metal tall posts.  
**Granted with conditions.**
- (ii) **Application No. 2023/01239/NMA** Land at Trident Business Park, Warrington. Proposed changes to Condition 2 (Approved plans), Condition 15 (Boundary treatment), Condition 17 (Parking and servicing area), Condition 18 (Parking and servicing area), and Condition 31 (Landscaping scheme) on previously approved application 2021/40696 (Employment use and associated works) to allow changes to maintenance track, footway and fencing.  
**Non-Material Amendment – Approved**

(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 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. 2023/01530/DISCON** Land at Trident Business Park, Warrington. Discharge of conditions no's 6 (Local Employment Scheme), 21 (CHEMP) and 22 (Construction Method Statement) attached to planning permission 2021/40696.

Councillors had no comments to make regarding the above applications.

**This part of the meeting concluded at 6.55 pm.**