

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING
OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL,
HELD AT PARKERS FARM, DELENTY DRIVE, WA3 6AN,
ON TUESDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2021, 6PM

Present: Councillor Ellis in the Chair
Councillors Atkin, Ball, Brereton, Dempsey, Evans, Reeves, Scott and Simcock
Clerk – Mrs. F. McDonald
RFO / Deputy Clerk – Mrs C. Caddock

Apologies: Councillor Allen (away) Councillor Bowden (away) PCSO Titans

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 Ellis – Birchwood Youth and Community Centre, and Development Management Committee (WBC)

Councillors Atkin, Reeves and Simcock – Birchwood Carnival Committee

392/21-22 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Police Monthly Update

PCSO Titans was unable to attend tonight's meeting. He had sent his Police Report to the Council earlier in the day, which was circulated to Members, prior to the meeting. The report is as follows:

The following comprises the Police report to Birchwood Town Council for the month of November to date. This is not an exhaustive list of all crimes and incidents recorded by Police. Incidents of a sensitive nature, or those not of public concern, have been excluded.

Burglaries

- One reported burglary involving the theft of car keys and the associated vehicle

Thefts

- 2 reports of making off without paying at a petrol station
- 2 reports of theft of pedal cycle from the area of Redshank Lane
- 1 report of theft of pedal cycle from the area of Birchwood Business Park
- 1 report of a male making off without paying a taxi fare

Criminal Damage

- 3 reports of criminal damage to security lights at the visitors' centre at Birchwood Forest Park. There are no known suspects at this time.
- 1 report of criminal damage to a gate leading to private land
- 1 report of criminal damage to a vehicle in the area of Redshank Lane
- 1 report of the window of a residential property being smashed by an unknown offender

Assaults/Violent crime

- 1 report of a male threatening members of the public with a hammer in Oakwood Play Area
- 1 report of a suspect in a shop threatening violence if goods are not handed over

Antisocial Behaviour

- Reports of youths gathering and smoking cannabis behind the visitors' centre at Birchwood Forest Park.
- 1 report of people behaving antisocially at a house party in the area of Gorse Covert
- 1 report of a group of youths wearing masks around Halloween and carrying eggs. No further reports were received regarding this group.
- One report of a group of intoxicated people behaving antisocially at Birchwood Railway Station
- 1 report of a male behaving aggressively in a pub
- 2 reports of a person throwing fireworks in the street in the area of Oakwood

Hate Incidents

- Police received a report of youths being racially abusive towards members of the public at Birchwood Shopping Centre.

Other Incidents of Note

- A report was received from a concerned resident of persons unknown tapping on the window of their residence
- Staff at a business premise reported that a forklift truck had been tampered with and damaged by persons unknown
- 1 report of a male acting suspiciously in the area of Redshank Lane, having peered into a residential property at an unsociable hour and left a chalk mark on the property
- 1 report of a male appearing to inspect properties in a suspicious manner in the area of Locking Stumps

Traffic-related incidents

- 1 report of a motorist driving dangerously on Birchwood Park Avenue
- A motorist was found to be driving without due care and attention in the area of Locking Stumps

Councillor Reeves commented that there seem to be a number of incidents surrounding Redshank Lane. He wondered if the Police were aware of any specific reasons for this.

Councillor Brereton commented that she was taken aback by the report of youths being racially abusive towards members of the public. She believes that Birchwood is mainly an inclusive and well-integrated community. This was unanimously echoed by the rest of Council. This is the first such report that has been brought to the Council's attention.

Members were also particularly concerned to hear of the report of a male threatening members of the public with a hammer in Oakwood children's play area.

As there were no Members of the public present to raise any issues, the Chair called Public Participation to a close.

393/21-22 **OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor Evans **proposed**, Councillor Dempsey **seconded** and it was **resolved** that: The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 26th October 2021 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

394/21-22 **PROPOSED PUBLIC MEETING**

The Clerk reported that she has been trying to find a suitable date to hold the public meeting, with a representative of the Police and the Cheshire and Warrington Traveller Team. A date in December had to be postponed as there was no suitable available room to hire and it clashed with the High School's production.

A date in January or February 2022 is now looking to be more likely, with a view to booking one of the theatre spaces at the high school, which can accommodate a large number of people and has presentation facilities.

Councillor Brereton asked if it might be possible to invite a member of the WBC Task Group to the meeting. They would then be able to explain the criteria that have to be met for a site to be considered suitable.

Members **resolved** to invite a member of the transit site working group to the meeting.

Action Clerk's office to continue to make arrangements for the meeting, and to invite a member of the working group to brief attendees on the criteria, etc. that will need to be met in order to deliver a suitable transit site.

Members commented that we need to publicise the meeting in as many ways as we can, in order that as many residents as possible are aware that it is taking place.

395/21-22 **MOBILE SPEED SIGN**

The Clerk has contacted the Police and asked them to return the speed sign and accessories to our offices. We are still awaiting its return.

396/21-22 **BIRCHWOOD CARNIVAL COMMITTEE**

The Clerk stated that a meeting that was due to be held on 9th November was not quorate, therefore although discussions could take place, no decisions could be made.

Councillor Atkin commented that the meeting was still productive.

The next meeting of the Birchwood Carnival Committee is scheduled to take place on 16th December 2021.

The Clerk reported that she has spoken to the Shopping Centre Manager, who has indicated that they will be able to put some funding towards the carnival.

397/21-22 **ACCESS ISSUES – BIRCHWOOD RAILWAY STATION**

The Clerk reported that this remains ongoing and is one of several continuing and unresolved items to be raised at a partnership meeting taking place on 2nd December 2021 with WBC.

398/21-22 **PLANNING TRAINING**

The Clerk reported that two online planning training courses, which several Members and Officers attended, have taken place, facilitated by WBC.

399/21-22 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG)**

The Clerk said that she, the Senior Maintenance Operative and Councillors Brereton and Scott went on a walkabout with Paul McNeilly the new Regional Housing Manager at YHG on 18th November 2021. They mainly covered the Chatfield and Spinal Path area and identified a few issues. The Spinal Path shrubbery has now been cut back.

The Clerk added that YHG will ask if their Landscaping Manager can attend the next walkabout; which will take place in Locking Stumps, with the date yet to be confirmed.

400/21-22 **FLOODING ON ROBERTS FOLD**

The Clerk has this item on the agenda for the upcoming partnership meeting with WBC.

401/21-22 **HS2 HIGH SPEED RAIL (CREWE – MANCHESTER)**

We are still awaiting details of when a tablet and stand, on which HS2 documents can be viewed (in digital format) will be delivered to us.

402/21-22 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Clerk said that a meeting with Dave Boyer, Director (Environment and Transport Directorate) and Ian Brackenbury (Operations and Commercial Services Manager) from WBC, has been arranged for 2nd December 2021.

403/21-22 **UPDATE – PLANNING**

- (a) Re: Application No. 2021/39954 Car parking areas adjacent to 2 Kelvin Close, Birchwood, WA3 7PB. Part retrospective alterations to the layout of the site to provide additional car parking, landscaping and associated works.

The Clerk stated that, as requested at the September meeting, a letter of objection has been sent to the Planning Department regarding this application. We do not have any additional information regarding the application at this time.

- (b) Application No. 2021/39939 - proposed change of use of land to residential and two storey side/rear extension and single storey rear extension with creation of hardstanding, was discussed at DMC on 11th November 2021.

Following consultation with Members, a letter of objection had been sent regarding this application, and Councillor Atkin spoke at the meeting against the application.

Councillor Ellis had declared an interest in the application and had not taken part in the discussion/vote. **The application was approved.**

404/21-22 **SHOPPING CENTRE**

The Clerk said that she has recently spoken to the Shopping Centre Manager regarding a number of matters. He has advised that there are two new shops opening in the centre – one is a furniture and homewares shop and the other is Tech Corner.

The centre manager has said that he will enquire with the Oops! food store what, if any, arrangements they have in place for the collection of their trolleys if any are taken off site.

The centre is also looking at its electric vehicle charging policy going forward.

Regarding a rumour that a KFC franchise would be opening at the shopping centre, the centre's manager is not aware of any plans in relation to any of the empty units.

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

405/21-22 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Sent/received – various emails / online reports following contact from residents re: flytipping, damaged road sign Killingworth Lane, concerns re: ramp on Powell Avenue.
- (b) Received – WBC Electric Vehicle Strategy/consultation. Closing date for comments is 23rd December 2021.
- (c) Received – Application for Street Traders Licence – GrillnChill in accordance with WBC Street Trading Policy.

406/21-22 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG)**

- (a) Sent/received – various emails / reports following contact from residents re: fallen leaves, bee/wasp nest.
- (b) Received – email ref: winter coppicing works. Confirmation YHG are finalising the programme etc.

407/21-22 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – various emails from Warrington Voluntary Action (WVA).
- (b) Received/sent – Emails to/from NW Ambulance Service re: defibrillator at BYCC which is now fully operational again and has been registered on ‘The Circuit’.
- (c) Received – email from Future Airspace (MAN) re: Manchester Airport Future Airspace project.
- (d) Received – Cheshire Fire Authority Draft Annual Action Plan – consultation. Closing date 7th January 2022.

408/21-22 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Various Neighbourhood Alerts.
- (b) Received – Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 and informing that John Dwyer, PCC will be conducting a county wide survey starting on 8th November 2021 which will be delivered to every household in Cheshire.

409/21-22 **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 – NALC Publication ‘What can local councils do on climate change?’
- (c) Received – ChALC weekly e-bulletins with various attachments, details of training sessions, an update re: their recent Speeding Issues consultation, etc.
- (d) Received – ChALC Report – Impact of Covid on Council Business (October 2021).
- (e) Received – SLCC – various updates, briefings, news items, etc.

410/21-22 **Publications Received**

Various LGC e-mail briefings, ‘Clerks and Councils Direct’ – November 2021 and ‘The Clerk’ – November 2021.

411/21-22 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

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

The next DMC is scheduled to be arranged for 9th December 2021. At the time of publishing the Clerk’s Report there were no documents available for the meeting.

- (b) Councillor Ellis commented that some other local Parishes have a separate planning sub-committee. He asked if Members thought that this might be necessary for BTC.

Following discussion, it was **resolved** by Members that the Town Council does not currently receive enough applications to warrant a separate sub-committee.

412/21-22 PLANNING DECISIONS

Application No. 2021/39654 8 Elton Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6NB. Proposed demolition of detached garage and proposed two story side extension. **Approved with conditions.**

413/21-22 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.

- (a) Application No. 2021/40355 32, Keyes Close, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 6RU. Retention of Wooden Gazebo in the back garden.

The Clerk commented that a resident had visited the office to speak to us about this application.

Councillor Ellis confirmed that he has contacted WBC planning officers about the application.

- (b) Application No. 2021/40376 37 Stonecrop Close, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 7PD. Proposed single storey side and rear extension.
- (c) Application No. 2021/40427 8 Monteliffe Close, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 7LX. Internal layout changes with opening amendments altering external elevations.
- (d) Application No. 2021/40428 49 Woolmer Close, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 6TT. Proposed single storey side extension.
- (e) Application No. 2021/40399 Unit 722 (within development parcels 701 and 702, Birchwood Park, Warrington. Application for approval of reserved matters (i.e., appearance, layout, scale, access and landscaping) pursuant to outline planning permission 2015/26044 (proposed industrial unit (Use Class B2) and associated ancillary research and development office space).
- (f) Application No. 2021/40460 59 Woolmer Close, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 7TT. Amendment to approved application ref: 2020/37543 to include additional areas of render and inclusion of double doors to front elevation.
- (g) Application No. 2021/40493 Dominion House, Temple Court, Daten Avenue, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 6GD. External alterations to the building including the creation of a ground floor terrace, roof terrace, roof lights, installation of cladding with feature planting and associated works.
- (h) Application No. 2021/40502 Land at Kelvin Street, Birchwood Park, WA3 7PB. Proposed works to widen Kelvin Street including its junction with Daten Avenue).

Members did not have any comments or objections to make from the Town Council at this point, regarding the above applications.

This part of the meeting concluded at 6.30 pm.