

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL,
HELD AT PARKERS FARM, DELENTY DRIVE
ON TUESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2022, 6.00 PM

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

Clerk – Mrs. F. McDonald
RFO / Deputy Clerk – Mrs. C. Caddock

PC Danielle Goodwin – Cheshire Police
PCSO Tom Palfrey – Cheshire Police

Apologies: Councillor 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.

Councillor Ellis – Birchwood Youth and Community Centre

239/22-23 **NOVEMBER 2022 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor Simcock **proposed**, Councillor Dempsey **seconded**, and it was **resolved** that: The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 22nd November 2022 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

240/22-23 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) Police Report

PCSO Palfrey provided the following report for November/December:

‘Birchwood Shopping Centre, Dewhurst Road – 2 youths arrested and released with bail conditions not to enter Birchwood Shopping Centre, 2 youths that have been causing a nuisance behavior there.’

PCSO Palfrey informed Members that the youths were not from the local area. He also confirmed that there had been no further reports of ASB in the last three weeks.

‘Several parking tickets issued to drivers parking around the Livewire building on an event working with Warrington Borough Council parking attendants.’

Members were informed that parking for the event had been atrocious and, despite there being parking available at Birchwood High School, few people actually made use of it. Those attending the event who had parked illegally were ticketed by Parking Enforcement. This approach will be adopted for future events.

‘Tru Cam- Warrington Road’ – PCSO Palfrey stated that speeding at this location is a concern.

Councillor Ellis enquired which location in Birchwood would be the highest priority with regards to siting the first speed indicator device.

PCSO Palfrey identified either Warrington Road or Admirals Road.

The below stats outline incidents from 22/11/2022 - 12/12/2022:

Anti-Social Behavior 4 reports:

1x Swallow Close- Males in Callers front Garden Kicking front door and climbing on bins.

1x Rendlesham Close- Explicit letter going through caller's door.

1x Birchwood Forrest Park, off-road bikes on park paths.

1x Birchwood Shopping Centre - Youths pushing trolleys into cars and stolen a small Christmas tree, which was then recovered by security staff.

Burglary Dwelling - N/A

Burglary Others - N/A

Vehicle Crime / Offences – Reports:

Asda Petrol Station- Driver making off without paying

Mansfield Close- Vehicle stolen from communal car park

Criminal Damage – 3 Reports

Admirals Road- 2 males have snapped off a car wingmirror and ran off shouting abuse at caller.

Ringwood Close- Stones being thrown at window.

Councillor Ball thanked PCSO Palfrey for his assistance with the removal of a bouncy castle that had been abandoned on a grassed area in Locking Stumps.

PCSO Palfrey commented that he had worked in conjunction with YHG's Legal Team.

Councillor Sheridan also thanked PCSO Palfrey for his efforts in getting a vehicle removed from Chaffinch Close.

PC Goodwin confirmed that the Police are visiting the shopping centre on each shift and that they are out and about in Birchwood. She added that there is a bike marking event tomorrow.

Councillor Allen raised the matter of youths gathering at Birchwood Railway Station.

PCSO Palfrey stated that sometimes it is quite innocent with young people just meeting up to chat with some music, although he did accept it can be quite intimidating for the public. He also added that, on occasion, there are more criminal occurrences. However, the Police will continue to monitor the area.

Councillor Scott entered at this point in the meeting.

(b) Presentation Re: Community Health and Wellbeing Project

Mr. Sam Ollerenshaw, Community Health and Wellbeing Project Lead had attended the November Town Council Meeting to give Members an overview of the Community Health and Wellbeing project which would be piloting in Oakwood.

He had stated that the project will employ six Community Health and Wellbeing Workers (CHWs) who will be based at Spencer House and that two had been recruited already with an intention to recruit an additional four CHWs from within the local area.

Since the November meeting, Mr Ollerenshaw has provided information regarding these roles, as local residents are considered to be best placed to understand the needs of their local community, and these positions have now been advertised locally.

241/22-23 **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC) – PCSO PROVISION**

The Clerk advised Members that a response has now been received which was copied to Members in their papers.

The email clarified that the PCSO for the area is PCSO 23508 Tom Palfrey who is dedicated to the Birchwood ward and doesn't cover any other area.

It was also reported that during the period 1st June – 31st October, Tom had supported the Birchwood Ward through 23 intelligence submissions, 20 of which were drugs related. 54 residents voice surveys were completed and of the 450 operational hours, well over half of those were spent out and about on the Birchwood Ward.

The remainder of the email received from the PCC was as follows:

'As an example of the qualitative work Tom is doing, he has identified that the number of residents voice respondents who feel safe during the day (100%), drops significantly at night time (56%) so Tom is working with partners and the designing out crime officer to problem solve this to ensure he can do as much as possible to improve confidence in policing and the partners.

I will address your other points below. Although you may be interested to know that Chief Superintendent Andrew Southcott now works in my office Heading up my Commissioning team securing Safer Streets funding and other sources like it, which have been in large directed towards Warrington.

On confidence in 101 – you may have seen recently that in my last budget I invested significantly in the Force Control Centre (Call Centre) both paying the staff more to reduce turnover and increasing the number of staff we have. This has seen a substantial reduction in average waiting times in the service, from around 17 minutes in August last year, to just over 5 minutes now. I would still like this to be lower, and there is more work needing to be done to ensure these gains are sustainable, but I want to reassure that the service is now much improved from where it was a year ago.

On Police visibility – I absolutely agree with you. Police visibility is essential for public reassurance, and I want to make sure that officers are out, on the beat as often as possible. My office is working with the Constabulary on how we can track and monitor this so we can in time show you when, where and for how long your officer was on patrol. Increasing Police Visibility forms an essential part of my police and crime plan.

On Cyber – the National Crime Agency estimate that there are around 700,000 active paedophiles in the UK. Locally we have seen a massive increase in demand on our Online Child Abuse Investigation Team (OCAIT) and I have taken the decision to resource OCAIT to match that demand. I am sure that you and your fellow Councillors will agree that Child Abuse is one of the most pernicious evils in society, and we must do everything we can to bring perpetrators of it to justice and safeguard some of the most vulnerable children in our county.'

Cllr Ellis commented that whilst the email talked about PCSO provision in Birchwood, the response did not fully answer the Town Council's query.

242/22-23 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (WBC)**

Communication

As stated in the October meeting, the Clerk's Office was expecting to receive a monthly update from WBC regarding outstanding and ongoing issues raised by BTC.

It was noted that the update given by WBC for the month of November had been very brief, it was lacking in detail and there were a number of inaccuracies. No report had been received for the month of December.

The Clerk advised Members that this is to be raised further with WBC in the New Year when a more direct approach to specific Officers might be required.

Action Clerk's office to continue to liaise with WBC regarding outstanding issues.

243/22-23 **OAKWOOD LOCAL CENTRE – MAINTENANCE**

At the October meeting, Members were advised that the Borough Council has been notified again regarding repair work needed on and around the privately owned car park area outside the shops in Oakwood.

We are still awaiting a response from WBC; see minute 242/22-23.

244/22-23 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG) – UPDATE**

The Clerk stated that she has raised the matter of future walkabouts with YHG. She informed Members that there are no further walkabouts planned at present but she will progress this in the New Year.

At the November meeting Councillor Evans had raised concerns regarding sightline problems when exiting from Chatfield Drive onto Admirals Road as overgrown shrubbery was making it difficult to see oncoming traffic.

The Clerk informed Members that this matter had been raised with YHG who, in turn, had made arrangements for the vegetation to be cut back.

Action Clerk's office to liaise with YHG regarding the next walkabout(s).

245/22-23 **INFORMATION REGARDING TRAVELLER ENCAMPMENTS**

At previous meetings, it had been agreed that an information document would be produced regarding Traveller encampments that can be published on the Town Council's website.

The Clerk stated that she has received a new briefing note regarding Police powers, together with a document entitled 'Gypsies and Travellers – A Cultural Awareness Guide' which were provided by the Cheshire and Warrington Traveller Team and were circulated to Members prior to tonight's Town Council Meeting.

These documents will be made available for public viewing on the Town Council's website.

The Clerk also informed Members that we had been advised that the group that had been located at Rutherford House had now left and that a clean up of the site had been requested.

The Clerk enquired if any Members would be interested in the Gypsy and Traveller awareness training which Councillor Ellis had raised at a previous meeting. Councillors Brereton, Dempsey, Sheridan and Simcock expressed an interest in attending.

Action Clerk's office to post the two documents on the Town Council's website and enquire about potential awareness training with the Cheshire and Warrington Traveller Team.

246/22-23 PLANNING UPDATE

Planning Application 2021/40696 – Trident Business Park – Proposed demolition of existing premises and redevelopment of site.

Since the November Town Council Meeting, the developers had hosted a public meeting, held in the Birchwood Youth and Community Centre on Thursday, 24th November which was attended by around 15 residents, representatives from the St Modwen Project Team and Councillors Ellis, Bowden, Allen and Scott. The Clerk and RFO/Deputy Clerk were also in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting was for residents of nearby properties to raise their concerns and clarify a number of matters prior to the expiration of the most recent consultation period; 30th November 2022.

The developers provided those present with hard copy information relating to the amended plans and a lengthy debate between the developers and residents ensued.

Residents remain steadfast in their objection to the amended proposals as the alterations were considered trivial and totally unacceptable.

Members had agreed at the November meeting that they believed the proposed amendments would have a negligible effect in relation to the concerns raised about the original plans, and it had been **unanimously resolved** to continue to object to the application, on the same grounds as the last objection submitted.

It had also been suggested that the Council's response should be produced after the public meeting and the response should reflect the concerns of the residents. This was **unanimously resolved** by Councillors.

Since the public meeting the Clerk's office had composed a draft letter of objection, which had been circulated to Members for their approval. This was approved and then submitted to Warrington Borough Council.

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

247/22-23 WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (WBC)

- (a) Received - Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Order Delenty Drive, Birchwood.
- (b) Sent/received – various emails/online reports/telephone calls following queries/contact from residents regarding landscaping, broken bollards, road maintenance, Traffic Notices, flooding, damaged utility covers, etc.

248/22-23 YOUR HOUSING GROUP

- (a) Received/Sent - Enquiry regarding regular maintenance of The Cage, Chatfield Drive re: fallen leaves.
- (b) Received/Sent - Query re: access to the rear of properties 41-48 Chaffinch Close.
- (c) Sent/received – various emails/reports following queries/contact from residents.

249/22-23 MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE/ISSUES

- (a) Received – various emails from Warrington Voluntary Action (WVA).
- (b) Received – Email re: the Manchester Airport Future Airspace project informing that on Friday 18th November the CAP1616 Stage 2 Develop & Access Gateway documentation had been submitted to the CAA.

(c) Hand Car Wash – Birchwood Shopping Centre:

It was noted that some residents had raised concerns with several Councillors via social media, including operatives trying to increase the cost of the car washing service once the customer was actually on site.

As requested by Members, the Clerk's office had contacted Trading Standards to raise these concerns on behalf of residents and the following response was received:

'Thank you for your e-mail. In respect of the allegations please can you advise anyone who directly experiences price alterations when using the car wash to report it themselves to the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline who will provide them with initial consumer civil advice and where necessary refer complex or criminal matters to us after they have assessed the case. This partnership between Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline and Trading Standards allows local services to focus on criminal cases, build up an intelligence picture of trading practices and provide business advice to traders to support them in improving their trading practices.'

CITIZENS ADVICE CONSUMER HELPLINE 0808 223 1133 (Mon-Fri 0900-1700)

Alternatively issues can be reported via the online form using on the following link <https://ssl.datamotion.com/form.aspx?co=3438&frm=general&to=flare.fromforms>

In respect of the allegations of intimidation, these should be reported to Cheshire Police. You may also wish to consider reporting these concerns to the management team at the shopping centre.'

250/22-23 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED** – various LGC e-briefings.

251/22-23 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received - Police Report for November 2022.
- (b) Free Cyber/Online training for Local Council Employees from Cheshire Police.
- (c) Received - various Neighbourhood Alerts.

252/22-23 **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (CHALC), NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC), SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS (SLCC)**

- (a) Received – ChALC weekly e-bulletins, details of training sessions, etc.
- (b) Received – from SLCC – news updates, training information, details of conferences, etc.
- (c) Received – NALC publications including the Chief Executive's Bulletins, events information, etc.

253/22-23 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

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

Documents were available on the WBC website for the DMC that took place on 8th December 2022. There were no items relating to Birchwood.

(b) **Planning Decisions**

Application decisions made at the DMC on the 10th November 2022:

- (i) Application 2022/41954 - Unit 722 (Within Development Plots 701 & 702) Birchwood Park, Warrington; **Resolved that the application be granted subject to conditions.**

- (ii) Application 2022/41955 - Land East of Kelvin Street, Birchwood Park, Warrington. **Resolved that the application be approved subject to conditions.**
- (iii) Application 2022/41426 - The Application Site Is Located Within A, Land East Of, Kelvin Street, Birchwood Park, Warrington. Proposed discharge of Condition 4 (Local Employment Scheme), Condition 8 (Travel Plan), Condition 12 (Characterisation, Remediation and Verification), Condition 15 (Drainage), Condition 17 (CHEMP) and Condition 18 (External Materials) on previously approved application 2022/41955 (Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (landscape scheme) on planning application 2021/40405 (Proposed construction of three general industrial and/or warehouse distribution (Use Classes B2 and/or B8) units (714, 715 and 716), access, parking and associated landscaping.) **Discharged.**
- (iv) Application 2022/41934 - Risley Sub Station Next To 687 Warrington Road, Risley, Warrington, WA3 6AY. Proposed mast with associated equipment. **Granted.**
- (v) Application 2022/41834 - Birchwood C E Primary School, Birchwood C E Primary School Admirals Road, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6QG. Proposed additional car parking to form 14 no. additional parking spaces. **Granted.**
- (vi) Application 2022/41563 – 24 Jay Close, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 6QJ Two storey rear extension. **Approved.**

(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 2022/42669 – 82 Sandicroft Close, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 7LA – Proposed single storey rear extension.
- (ii) Application 2022/42661 – 23, Deanwater Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6ER – Proposed rear extension and porch.
- (iii) Application 2022/42695 – Land East of Kelvin Street, Birchwood Park, Warrington - Discharge of condition - Discharge of condition 16 (Sustainable drainage management and maintenance plan) on application 2022/41955 (Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (landscape scheme) on planning application 2021/40405 (Proposed construction of three general industrial and/or warehouse distribution (Use Classes B2 and/or B8) units (714, 715 and 716), access, parking and associated landscaping.)
- (iv) Application 2022/42689 - Unit 722 (within Development Plots 701 & 702) Daten Avenue, Birchwood, Warrington - Variation of condition 1 (plans) to allow for changes to louvres and drainpipes on application 2022/41954 (Variation of condition 1 (plans) on application 2021/40399 (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) to allow for the addition of a pedestrian gate within the service yard fencing and relocate the gas storage compound to north-east corner of service yard).

- (v) Application 2022/42690 - Land East of Kelvin Street Birchwood Park, X365669/y392489, Warrington - Variation of condition 2 (plans) to undertake alterations to the louvres and flues on application 2022/41955 (Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (landscape scheme) on planning application 2021/40405 (Proposed construction of three general industrial and/or warehouse distribution (Use Classes B2 and/or B8) units (714, 715 and 716), access, parking and associated landscaping.)
- (vi) Application 2022/42737- 99 Carrington Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 7QB. First floor front extension over existing garage.
- (vii) Application 2022/42730 – Unit 722 (within Development Plots 701 & 702) Daten Avenue, Birchwood, Warrington. Non-material amendment to application 2022/41954 to enlarge the size of the approved substation, the addition of 1 substation and to omit 2 van parking spaces.
- (viii) Application 2022/42728 - Land East of Kelvin Street, Warrington. Non-material application to rotate the approved substation and add a new substation to planning permission 2022/41955.
- (ix) Application 2022/42751 – 2 Kelvin Close, Birchwood, Warrington
Part retrospective alterations to the layout of the site to provide additional car parking, landscaping and associated works.

Members were pleased with the revisions to the parking provisions, specifically the removal of parking spaces closest to residential properties. However, they would like to be assured that adequate landscaping will be planted/reinstated in order to protect nearby residential properties from noise and light and that they will have visual amenity rather than a view of a vast car park and offices.

The caveats from the Town Council are as follows:

- The work on the car park spaces planned for removal should take place as soon as possible.
- Landscaping/planting should take place immediately afterwards, as soon as ground conditions allow.
- The landscaping scheme must be of such a scale/density so as to protect nearby properties.

This landscaping should also have a programme of regular, ongoing maintenance so that it does not become untamed and cause damage to residents' fences/walls and that any trees are included within the maintenance programme.

- A time limit for completion of the work(s) should be imposed to ensure that it is all completed to the satisfaction of the Borough Council's Planners in a timely manner.

Action Clerk's office to send the above comments to WBC.

With the exception of (ix) above, Councillors had no comments to make.

This part of the meeting concluded at 6.30 pm