

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2022 COUNCIL MEETING**  
**OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL,**  
**HELD AT PARKERS FARM, DELENTY DRIVE, WA3 6AN,**  
**ON TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2022, 6PM**

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

Clerk – Mrs. F. McDonald  
RFO / Deputy Clerk – Mrs. C. Caddock  
Admin Assistant – Mrs. H. Vout

PCSO Titans

**Apologies:** Councillor Bowden (work), Councillor Reeves (away) and Councillor Ball (personal)

**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 – Development Management Committee (WBC)*

*Councillors Atkin and Simcock – Birchwood Carnival Committee*

499/21-22 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Police Monthly Update**

PCSO Titans attended and presented a verbal report for the council. The report is as follows:

*The following comprises the Police report to Birchwood Town Council for the month of February to date. This includes the period of January not covered in the previous report.*

***Burglaries***

- *2 reported burglaries at business premises*

***Vehicle Thefts/Crime***

- *Reports of theft of motor vehicle – from a local business park.*

PCSO Titans advised that throughout the period there has been a reduction in incidents reported.

PCSO Titans gave an update regarding Warrington Road traffic monitoring.

Residents have previously expressed an interest in setting up a community speed watch scheme in this area. However, community speed watch scheme cannot operate where Police enforcement already takes place.

Council Members discussed ongoing issues regarding the traffic at Birchwood High School at drop off/pick up times. Members stated that the parking on the paths and road is causing issues with visibility and access.

Councillor Ellis suggested the implementation of a ‘school street’ road. This is a road outside a school with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. The restriction would apply to school traffic and through traffic.

PCSO Titans was not aware of this type of street and wondered how these types of restrictions could be enforced.

Members commented that it would be safer for everyone if people dropped their children off in the car park at the shopping centre and allow them to walk the short distance to the high school.

The Clerk asked PCSO Titans about the return of the speed sign and accessories to our offices.

PCSO Titans advised that the stand and charger for the sign are missing, and he will chase this matter up.

Members thanked PCSO Titans for attending and he left the meeting.

As there were no members of the public in attendance, the Chair called Public Participation to a close.

#### 500/21-22 **JANUARY 2022 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor Evans **proposed**, Councillor Scott **seconded**, and it was **resolved** that: The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

#### 501/21-22 **OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION 2021/40696 – LAND AT TRIDENT BUSINESS PARK**

*Councillor Ellis declared an interest, as he is a member of the Borough Council’s Development Management Committee*

Re: Application No. 2021/40696 Land at Trident Business Park (north of Daten Avenue, west of Trident Way). Proposed demolition of existing premises & redevelopment of site to provide buildings for employment use (use classes E(g) (iii) / B8) access and car parking, landscaping, and associated works.

To note that, as requested at the January 2022 meeting, the Council sent an objection letter as per the outcome of last month’s discussion.

#### 502/21-22 **PROPOSED PUBLIC MEETING**

The Clerk reported that she is still trying to arrange a date for the meeting. Hopefully it will take place within the next couple of months. The new Police Sergeant, Nathan Gulam will be invited, as will a representative of the task force that is looking into options for a traveller site.

#### 503/21-22 **BIRCHWOOD CARNIVAL COMMITTEE**

The Clerk reported that next meeting of the Birchwood Carnival Committee is scheduled to take place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

#### 504/21-22 **ACCESS ISSUES – BIRCHWOOD RAILWAY STATION**

The Clerk reported that this remains ongoing and is one of several continuing and unresolved items that were raised at a partnership meeting that took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> December with WBC.

All the issues have been chased with WBC, but we have not yet received feedback regarding any of the items raised at the meeting.

505/21-22 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG)**

The Clerk stated that the walkabout which was due to take place tomorrow has been postponed, as several people will be unavailable due to unexpected additional work commitments caused by the recent storms.

Paul McNeilly has advised that a work order has been raised for the replacement of the concrete bollards on the Village Green, off Ainscough Road. He does not yet have a start date for when the work will commence.

A discussion took place relating to The Birches area, owned by YHG, which was destroyed several years ago in an arson attack. YHG advised that there will be some improvements taking place at the Birches. The running track lines will be repainted, and a game, such as snakes and ladders will be added. Some of the exercise equipment on the site will be repainted.

The next walkabout will cover Whinchat Drive, Whitethroat walk and the surrounding areas, which were previously due to be visited tomorrow. A date is to be confirmed.

506/21-22 **FLOODING ON ROBERTS FOLD**

The Clerk stated that this was discussed at the recent partnership meeting with WBC. It remains an ongoing issue.

507/21-22 **HS2 HIGH SPEED RAIL (CREWE – MANCHESTER)**

The laptop, on which HS2 documents can be viewed (in digital format) were delivered to us on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Representatives of HS2 visited the offices to ensure that we had received the laptop, paperwork, and digital memory sticks. Residents can make an appointment to view the documents during office hours. This has been advertised on our notice boards, website and Facebook page.

There will be 2 webinars in March regarding the MA04 Broomedge to Glazebrook and MA05 Risley to Bamfurlong routes. This has been advertised to the residents via social media.

508/21-22 **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Member discussed moving the Monthly meetings back in to the community room as of the next month. It was agreed that (Covid restrictions permitting) our March meeting will move back from the barn room, to the Community Room inside Parkers Farm. We will meet with windows open and with chairs spaced out as much as possible, etc.

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

509/21-22 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Sent/received – various emails / online reports / telephone calls following contact from residents re: fly tipping, flooding, barriers knocked down, damaged play equipment, blocked drains, speeding traffic, overgrown landscaping, several fallen trees, etc.
- (b) BTC Councillors have raised concerns regarding a self-formed litter picking group that has been undertaking work on WBC land – stretches of Birchwood Way (seen on local social media). BTC does not have permission to work on this road due to the high speed of vehicles using the route – it must be done with the landowner's permission and WBC traffic management in place.

The group leader has been contacted and made aware that they cannot pick on high-speed roads. The litter will be removed by WBC under traffic management before the first grass cut of the season.

- (c) Sent/received- email correspondence with WBC and a local resident re: contact for Northern Trains, relating to a query regarding maintenance of the footpath on the Liverpool side of the train line.
- (d) Councillor Ellis advised Members that a new puffin crossing is going to be installed on Ordnance Avenue near the junction with Redshank Lane. Work is to commence around the 14/03/2022.

Members were advised that there may be some travel disruptions during this time.

510/21-22 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG)**

- (a) Sent/received – various emails / reports following contact from residents re: fallen trees, fly tipping, etc.

511/21-22 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – various emails from Warrington Voluntary Action (WVA).
- (b) Received / sent – email correspondence from a resident re: Footpath maintenance around Rangemoor Close. This has been dealt with by our team.

512/21-22 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Various Neighbourhood Alerts.
- (b) Received – Stakeholder update January 2022.
- (c) John Dwyer re: Youth Endowment Bid from Youth Endowment Fund– The fund is to help provide support to organisations that help young people, from falling into a life of crime. The Clerk has requested more information from PCSO Stefan Titans as to which organisations in Birchwood might fall under this category.

Councillor Ellis has also written to PCSO Titans regarding previous proposals for youth activity in Birchwood.

513/21-22 **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 – ChALC weekly e-bulletins with various attachments, details of training sessions, etc.
- (c) Received – SLCC – various updates, briefings, news items, etc.

514/21-22 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

- (a) Various LGC e-mail correspondence/briefings.

515/21-22 **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 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022. There were no items specific to Birchwood on the main agenda for discussion. The next DMC is scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 – there were no documents available for this meeting at the time of writing.

(b) Received – details of proposed active travel improvements on Benson Road. Members discussed and they agreed that this is a good improvement for the area.

(c) **Planning Decisions**

Application No. 2021/39835 704 Warrington Road, Risley. Proposed two storey side extension, single storey front and rear extensions. **Approved**

(d) **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. 2022/40962. HS2 Phase 2b Western Leg (Crewe – Manchester). The Government is running a public consultation on the ES for HS2 Phase 2b Crewe – Manchester, which will close at 23:45 on 31 March 2022.

(ii) Application No. 2022/40801. Birchwood Children’s Services, Ainscough Road, Warrington, WA3 7PN. Existing use of residential school for children with learning difficulties and autism, and internal works.

(iii) Application No. 2022/40960. 5 Cross Lane, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 7AF. Proposed remedial work to 1 no of tree.

(iv) Application No. 201/37796 12 Nelson Road, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6NF. Proposal of the change of use land from waste to residential curtilage. Notification of amendment.

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