

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2022 COUNCIL MEETING**  
**OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL,**  
**HELD AT PARKERS FARM, DELENTY DRIVE, WA3 6AN,**  
**ON TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022, 6PM**

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

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

2 Residents

**Apologies:** Cllr Bowden (health), Cllr Evans (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, Reeves and Simcock – Birchwood Carnival Committee*

*Councillor Reeves – Birchwood High School*

001/22-23 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Residents' Questions:**

A resident posed a question to the Council regarding the criteria for becoming a Town / Parish Councillor.

The Chair stated that the election processes are administered by the Borough Council and there are several criteria that, if met allow a person to be eligible to stand in a Local Council election.

The resident was advised to contact Democratic Services at Warrington Borough Council for further details.

The residents left the meeting.

(b) **Police Monthly Update**

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

- *1 reported burglary of business premises*
- *2 reported burglaries of private dwellings*

### ***Vehicle Thefts/Crime***

- *1 report of theft from motor vehicle –Fuel siphoned out of lorry*

### ***Thefts***

- *Several reports of theft of a bicycle*

### ***Criminal Damage***

- *4 reports of criminal damage*

### ***Antisocial Behaviour***

- *2 reports of nuisance/antisocial behaviour*

Members commented that the number of bike thefts from Birchwood Shopping Centre was of concern. Members wondered if the bicycle parking is adequately protected, or could there be more done by the centre to reduce the thefts? They made several suggestions for enhancing bicycle security.

**Action** Clerk's office to contact Birchwood Shopping Centre.

Members also commented that the Police occasionally have drop-in bike-marking events. They suggested asking the Police for advance notice of when these sessions are happening, so that the details can be circulated to residents.

**Action** Clerk's office to contact the Police regarding bike-marking events.

### **Mobile Speed Sign:**

At the March 2022 meeting, Sgt Gulam said that he has asked for costings for a new tripod and battery for the Town Council's mobile speed sign. These items will be purchased by the Police to replace the ones that are missing.

There is still no update on this matter.

Members raised the issue regarding the speed of vehicles on Glover Road and wondered whether flashing speed signs could be installed to inform drivers of their speed when entering Glover Road.

The Chair advised that the speed survey that was done in the area showed that in the majority of cases the speed level was within the speed limits. Warrington Borough Council has put the area on a consideration list for traffic calming measures.

The Chair stated that he would forward the data from the speed monitoring onto Councillors.

**Action** Councillor Ellis to circulate the speed monitoring data to Members and the office.

### 002/22-23 **FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor Atkin **proposed**, Councillor Brereton **seconded**, and it was **unanimously resolved** that: The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

003/22-23 **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.

It was noted that an objection has been submitted by the Borough Council's Highways Department, but that the issue raised of impairment to residential amenity does not seem to be being considered as a factor at this stage of the planning process.

004/22-23 **PROPOSED PUBLIC MEETING**

The Clerk reported that she is still trying to arrange a date for the meeting to discuss matters regarding encampments in Birchwood. All requested attendees have agreed to hold a meeting. The attendees are still in discussion in regard to the format of meeting.

Members discussed their suggestions for what they would like to get out of the meeting and what would be most beneficial to the residents.

Councillor Brereton wondered if it would be possible to ask for questions to be submitted prior to the meeting, rather than holding an open Q & A session at the end. This might be more productive and might enable questions to be put from some residents who do not like speaking in public.

One Councillor stated that they believed that a public meeting would be a waste of time.

The Chair asked Members to vote on whether BTC wished to continue trying to facilitate a meeting.

Vote: Eight Councillors were in favour, one Councillor was against. There were no abstentions.

It was therefore **resolved** by a majority that the Clerk's office continues to try to arrange a public meeting.

Members asked if it would be possible to create a document that gives information regarding the legal processes and timeline for the moving on of encampments.

**Action** Clerk's office to draft a proposed document for BTC's website and social media with input from the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Team.

005/22-23 **BIRCHWOOD CARNIVAL COMMITTEE**

The Clerk reported that the planning is progressing well. The next meeting of the Birchwood Carnival Committee is scheduled to take place on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

006/22-23 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG)**

(a) Correspondence has been exchanged between YHG and BTC regarding YHG's proposals relating to making Birchwood a priority neighbourhood. This has been circulated to Members.

The Clerk asked Members, if they have any specific areas in mind, to let her know and she will pass details onto YHG. This document is a working document and will be updated as necessary. Several areas have already been mentioned to YHG, as those are areas that our office receives the most complaints about.

YHG have already been made aware that several of the 'cut-through' paths between roads on their estates do not seem to be included on their maintenance programme.

- (b) BTC has been informed that replacements for the concrete blocks on Ainscough Road have been authorised. We do not yet know when they will be installed.
- (c) Sent/received – various emails / reports following contact from residents re: fallen trees, overgrown shrubs, flytipping, etc.

#### 007/22-23 **ACCESS ISSUES BIRCHWOOD RAILWAY STATION**

The Clerk stated that at our last partnership meeting with WBC, it was promised that BTC would receive an update report on this matter and on a number of other items before each meeting. So far, this has not been forthcoming. The Clerk added that she will chase this up.

#### 008/22-23 **ORDNANCE AVENUE – PUFFIN CROSSING**

Work on the installation of a new puffin crossing on Ordnance Avenue at the junction with Redshank Lane has now been completed.

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

#### 009/22-23 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Sent/received – various emails / online reports / telephone calls following contact from residents re: flytipping, fallen trees, blocked drains, damaged pavements, etc.
- (b) A proposal for 2 new bus shelters has been sent to WBC for consideration. The Clerk stated that she is currently waiting for someone from WBC to make contact.

#### 010/22-23 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – various emails from Warrington Voluntary Action (WVA).
- (b) Received – Poster for Friends of Gorse Covert Mounds regarding meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
- (c) Received – Warrington Together update – March 2022

#### 011/22-23 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Various Neighbourhood Alerts.
- (b) Stakeholder Bulletin for March 2022
- (c) Email sent regarding extending the funding for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse services. A new needs assessment needs to be completed. This assessment will cover the funding needs for 2022/2023.

012/22-23 **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. This included an update on Legal Topic Note L01-22 – ‘Code of recommended practice on Local Authority Publicity (England) / Publicity During the pre-election period.
- (b) Received – ChALC weekly e-bulletins with various attachments, details of training sessions, etc.
- (c) Received – SLCC – various updates, briefings, news items, etc.

013/22-23 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

- (a) Various LGC e-mail correspondence/briefings.
- (b) Following the publication of an article in The Clerk – March 2022 re: BTC’s electric vans, we received a phone call from a second local Council (Alsager) asking for guidance on the processes we went through to reach this point.

014/22-23 **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 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022. There were no items specific to Birchwood on the main agenda for discussion. The next DMC is scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – there were no documents available for this meeting at the time of writing.

- (b) The Clerk stated that correspondence has been received regarding the redevelopment of Birchwood Leisure and Tennis Complex to incorporate Birchwood Library.

*Councillor Reeves declared an interest as he is a Governor at Birchwood Community High School.*

The Clerk said that plans will be displayed at both the library and Leisure and Tennis Centre from 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, and a number of ‘drop-in’ sessions are also planned.

The option of an on-site tour to guide Councillors through the proposed changes has been offered.

It is expected that formal plans will be submitted within the next week.

(c) **Planning Decisions**

- (i) Application No. 2022/40982 – 9 Westhay Crescent, Birchwood, WA3 6UZ. Proposed single storey extension – **Approved**
- (ii) Application No. 2022/40960 – 5 Cross Lane South, Birchwood, WA3 7AF. Proposed remedial work to no.1 tree. – **Approved**
- (iii) Application No. 2022/40801- Birchwood Childrens’ Services – Ainscough Road, Birchwood WA3 7PN. Proposed existing use of residential school for children with learning difficulties – **Approved**

- (iv) Application No. 2021/40243 – 19 Carden close, Birchwood, WA3 6LT. Proposed retention of use of land to side/rear to be used as private garden – **Approved**
  - (v) Application No. 2022/41186 – 6 Eccleston Close, Birchwood, WA3 7NL. Proposed amendment to side of porch, change of position of window from front to side, change window type to high level window on the side - **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<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. 2022/41186 – 6, Eccleston Close, Birchwood, WA3 7NL. Proposed amendment to size of porch, change of position of window from front to side, change window type to high level window on the side.
- (ii) Application No. 2022/41286 – Site of Former Fox Wood School, Chatfield Drive, Birchwood, WA3 6QW. Proposed Discharge of Condition 8 (remediation and validation) attached to planning permission 2020/36579 (residential development).
- (iii) Application No. 2022/41222 – 15 Burrough Close, Birchwood, WA3 6QF. Proposed single storey rear extension.

**This part of the meeting concluded at 7.05 pm.**