

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL,
HELD AT PARKERS FARM, DELENTY DRIVE
ON TUESDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2022, 6.00 PM

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

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

PCSO Palfrey
WBC Councillor Balding – attended in his capacity as a resident

Apologies: Councillor Allen (away), Councillor Atkin (health), Councillor Bowden (work),
Councillor Evans (personal) and Councillor Reeves (away)

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 Warrington’s Own Buses

171/22-23 **SEPTEMBER 2022 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor Brereton **proposed**, Councillor Scott **seconded**, and it was **resolved** that: The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 27th September 2022 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

172/22-23 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Police**

The following comprises information taken from the Police Report to Birchwood Town Council for the period of 25/09/2022 to 24/10/2022.

Burglaries

- 2 reports of attempted theft from a business.
- 2 vehicle registration plate removed from vehicles.
- 2 burglaries from residential properties.

Criminal Damage

- 3 reports of criminal damage.

Anti-social Behaviour

- 13 reports of nuisance/anti-social behaviour.

PCSO Palfrey reported that the increased number of reports regarding anti-social behaviour is one of the main points of focus for the local Police. The Police will be increasing patrols around the train station and the shopping centre.

The Police have advised the security staff at the shopping centre to report any serious issues via 999. This will enable the Police to direct resources to the shopping centre as a matter of urgency, which may allow more opportunity for the Police to apprehend any suspects.

The PCSO noted that at previous meetings the Council has raised concerns regarding the reduced number of PCSOs in the Warrington East area. He informed Members that currently the Police are recruiting more PCSOs, and that Warrington East is now nearly at full capacity. PCSO Palfrey stated that he is currently the PCSO for Birchwood.

PCSO Palfrey acknowledged that he has not been particularly pro-active in posting on social media recently. He commented that, now there are additional PCSOs covering Warrington East, visibility both on social media and relating to community engagement is something that should improve over the coming months.

Cllr Scott mentioned that he had been pleased to read on social media that a Police street stall had been arranged at the shopping centre. However, when he walked past towards the end of the allotted time there was no one present at the stall. Cllr Scott accepted PCSO Palfrey's explanation that the Officers had been called away to deal with reports elsewhere. Cllr Scott added that he has contacted Birchwood Police via their Facebook page to raise an issue. He is currently awaiting a reply.

Cllr Sheridan asked PCSO Palfrey about an issue regarding an alleged suspicious vehicle in Oakwood.

PCSO Palfrey advised this is currently being dealt with.

The Chair asked if there was any update regarding some ongoing parking issues on Lords Lane.

PCSO Palfrey advised that he has not been able to deal with this issue due to the vehicles not being there when he makes his rounds. He stated that he now has the owner's information and will contact them regarding the matter.

The Clerk asked if there is any update regarding the letter of support to accompany the Council's application to the PCC for funding the installation of speed indicator devices in the Birchwood area.

PCSO Palfrey stated that a letter of support will be supplied to the Town Council by the local Police.

PCSO Palfrey informed Members that he has contacted the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), and has received an email from them that he will forward to the Clerk's office. He noted that the PCC has provided funding for a number of other areas to install these devices and he is not sure if the PCC wishes to continue to utilise their available grant funds in this way.

The Chair commented although there have been several grants given for the purpose of installing speed indicator devices in other areas, and the PCC may prefer to fund alternative types of projects, it should not deter the Council from submitting an application.

Action Clerk's office to liaise with PCSO Palfrey regarding the letter of support.

The Clerk noted, that as requested at the September meeting, regarding queries in relation to transporting young people to the new Youth Zone in Warrington, contact details for Warrington's Own Buses had been sent to PCSO Palfrey.

The Clerk informed Members that an issue raised by Cllr Allen on behalf of a resident, regarding a vehicle parked so that it is blocking visibility of a road (reported to PCSO Palfrey at the September meeting) was also reported to Your Housing Group (YHG). We have not yet received any information from YHG regarding this matter.

(b) **Questions/Comments Raised by Cllr Balding**

Cllr Balding thanked Officers for ensuring that he received copies of papers for the Town Council's monthly meetings. He asked if he could receive copies via email for future meetings, rather than receiving hard copies.

Action Clerk's office to arrange to email papers to Cllr Balding for future meetings.

Cllr Balding commented on a number of items that were minuted from the September 2022 Town Council meeting.

Cllr Balding advised that the gate on Silver Lane leading to the farm (at the entrance close to Junction 11 of the M62) is no longer serviceable as it has completely rusted through in parts.

He also stated that during the last 18 months, fly tipping on Silver Lane has not been as much of an issue as it has previously been.

The Chair asked Cllr Balding if he is aware of there being any CCTV in this area of Silver Lane.

Cllr Balding informed Members that The Friends of Gorse Covert Mounds have previously investigated whether CCTV could be installed in that area of Silver Lane to deter fly tipping. He added that if CCTV is installed in an area, signs must be displayed to warn people that they are in situ.

(Ref: minute number 138/22-23 (b)): Cllr Balding informed Members that he has been to check if there is any evidence of Japanese Knotweed on Mansfield Close. He reported that he could not find any evidence of the plant actually within Mansfield Close, but there are a couple of small patches close by, growing towards the woods. These are on a WBC list of invasive plants that are logged to be treated.

(Ref: minute number 140/22-33 (c)): Cllr Balding advised Members he has become more optimistic that WBC are prioritising efforts to try to identify land which could potentially be developed into a transit site for the Gypsy and Traveller communities.

(Ref: minute number 150/22-33 (a) (i)): Cllr Balding expressed a note of thanks to the Council, particularly to Cllr Atkin, for speaking against a retrospective planning application at a recent Development Control Meeting. The application was refused, which was the desired outcome for Birchwood residents.

173/22-23 **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC) – PCSO PROVISION**

The Clerk advised Members that, as requested, an email was sent to the PCC's Office regarding PCSO provision in Warrington East and Birchwood.

The PCC sent a response on the 11th October 2022 stating that as it is an operational policing matter, Cheshire Constabulary need to review and respond to the Town Council's query.

The PCC's Personal Assistant noted that the Town Council wished to receive a response prior to tonight's meeting.

No response has been received at this point in time.

174/22-23 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (WBC)**

(a) **Communication**

The Clerk advised Members that an email was sent to WBC's Director of Environment & Transport, Mr. Boyer, regarding ongoing lack of communication between BTC and WBC.

Mr. Boyer sent an email apologising for the current issues regarding communication. He stated that he will be meeting WBC's Operations and Commercial Services Manager - Environment and Transport, when he will address the issues raised and hopefully rectify the situation. He added that he greatly appreciates the partnership working with BTC.

The Clerk also received an apology from WBC's Operations and Commercial Services Manager. He has now arranged for a member of his team to send a monthly update to BTC regarding issues raised, in time for BTC's Council meetings.

Action Clerk's office to compile a list of outstanding issues and forward them to WBC.

(b) **Bus Shelters**

The Clerk advised that new bus shelters are currently being installed within the community.

(c) **Silver Lane - HGV Recovery Vehicles**

The Clerk informed Members that she has sent information, brought by a resident to September's Council meeting, regarding the issue of large recovery vehicles allegedly using Silver Lane and what appears to be the use of farming land as a depot for these vehicles to Planning Enforcement at WBC.

Planning Enforcement Officers asked for clarification as to the farm in question, which was sent to them by the Clerk.

This is now being investigated under Enforcement Reference ENF/22/09482. We are currently awaiting updates.

175/22-23 **OAKWOOD LOCAL CENTRE – MAINTENANCE**

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. This includes uneven paving, fallen bollards, and lighting not working or not being sufficient. These matters are creating potential health and safety risks. The Clerk noted that we are still waiting for any updates, or action from WBC regarding this matter.

176/22-23 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG) – UPDATE**

The Clerk advised that a walkabout took place on 7th October 2022 around Locking Stumps, concentrating on the area of Heather Close. The main concerns highlighted were the amount of fly tipping around Heather Close, and residents not moving their bins back to the storage area, which has been an ongoing issue for the past couple of years for YHG.

Members asked why the walkabout was changed to Locking Stumps.

The Clerk advised that the last two walkabouts in the Redshank Lane area did not raise any further issues. It was agreed with YHG that an additional walkabout should take place in Locking Stumps. The suggestion was made following an increase in complaints to the Town Council regarding the upkeep of the area around Heather Close.

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

177/22-23 **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 been in contact with the Cheshire and Warrington Traveller Team. They are currently working on some updates and will hopefully be able to share these with us within the next couple of weeks.

Action Clerk's office to continue to liaise with partner organisations on this matter.

178/22-23 **BIRCHWOOD SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

Members were reminded that the Birchwood Service of Remembrance will take place on Saturday 12th November 2022 meeting at 10.30am.

179/22-23 **PLANNING UPDATE**

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

The Clerk reported that we have received correspondence from the developer's agent earlier today, regarding correspondence with them last month when they contacted the Council to let us know that they would respond to the Town Council's feedback about their re-submitted plans for Trident Business Park and the site of the former Noggin Inn. This response was due to be received ahead of tonight's meeting.

Since then, the developers have been reviewing the feedback received from the public, stakeholders and the Town Council. In response to the feedback, they decided to make further changes and submit them to the Borough Council. As they have only recently completed updating their plans, they have not yet had the opportunity to draft a response to the Town Council. They will provide an update about their most recent changes in due course and update residents and the business occupiers on site.

The Chair commented that this could be seen as a positive sign that the developer is listening to the residents and is willing to make changes.

The Chair also advised Members that the developer wishes to hold a meeting between the Borough Council, Town Council and residents' representatives, to discuss their proposed amendments to the planned development.

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

180/22-23 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (WBC)**

Sent/received – various emails/online reports/telephone calls following queries/contact from residents.

181/22-23 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP**

Sent/received – various emails/reports following queries/contact from residents.

182/22-23 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – various emails from Warrington Voluntary Action (WVA).
- (b) Received – various LGC e-briefings.
- (c) Received – information regarding Manchester Airport Future Airspace Project
- (d) Received – Email from Councillor Ellis regarding a response to a resident relating to Warrington's Own Buses.

183/22-23 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

Various Neighbourhood Alerts.

184/22-23 **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (CHALC), NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC), SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS (SLCC)**

- (a) Received – ChALC weekly e-bulletins with various attachments, 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.

185/22-23 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

(a) **Planning Decisions**

- (i) Application **2022/41540** – 29, Woodhouse Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6OP – Proposed single storey side extension and separate single storey rear extension – **Granted**.
- (ii) Application **2022/42023** – 12 Warrington East Scout Hut, Warrington Old Road, Birchwood – Proposed variation to condition 3 (Hours of use) on application 2006/08185. **Granted**.
- (iii) Application **2022/42069** – Discharge condition 5 (contaminated land), 7 (CEMP) and 14 (Surface water) on application 2022/41953, (application to vary condition 9 (piling) on application 2019/35488 full planning (major) to erect a multi-storey car park. **Condition part discharged/ part condition not discharged**.
- (iv) Application **2022/42363** – Tenement Farm, Mill House Lane, Warrington WA3 7ET – Agricultural produce building – **Granted**.

(b) **Planning Applications**

All plans can be viewed via:

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 **2022/42190** – Unit 722 Birchwood Park – Advertisement consent for 3 totem poles and 1 fence sign, all non-illuminated.
- (ii) Application **2022/42191** – Unit 716 Birchwood Park – Advertisement consent for 1 totem pole and 2 fascia signs.
- (iii) Application **2022/41934** – Risley Sub Station near 687 Warrington Road, Risley, Warrington, WA3 6AY – Full planning for proposed mast and associated works.
- (iv) Application **2022/42391** – 10, Nelson Road, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6NF – Single Storey extension to extend 4.0m, maximum height 3.54m and Height to eaves 2.25m.

- (v) Application **2022/42447** – Land East of Kelvin Street, Birchwood Park – Discharge of Condition 9 (EV charging points) on Application 2021/40405.
- (vi) Application **2022/42355** – Land East of Kelvin Street, Birchwood Park – Discharge of condition 11 (bat and bird box) on Application 2021/40405.
- (vii) Application **2022/41934** – Risley Sub Station near 687 Warrington Road, Risley, Warrington, WA3 6AY – Full planning for proposed mast and associated works.
- (viii) Application **2022/42311** – Part 3 Prior Approval – Spencer House, Dewhurst Road, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 7PG – Change of use of part of the building to form 20 dwellings.
- (ix) Application **2022/41950** – Land East of Kelvin Street, Birchwood Park, Warrington – non-material amendment to 2021/40405 for amendments to the approved plans for gate added to yard (might include the other site plan revisions) 1 fire exit door added and relocation of 1 fire exit door. Rooflights omitted.
- (x) Application **2022/42051** – Mc Donalds 2a Birchwood Shopping Centre, Benson Rd, WA3 7QP – Minor reconfiguration of drive-thru lane, kerb lines and parking bays to introduce side by side ordering with introduction of island for signage and associated works to the site, the relocation of the existing goal post height restrictor with installation of 2 customer ordering displays, with overhead canopies. New and relocated signage.
- (xi) Application **2022/42329** – Unit 722 (Within development parcels 701 and 702) Daten Avenue, Birchwood Park – Discharge of condition 8 (cycle details) on application 2021/40399.
- (xii) Application **2022/42322** – Land East of Kelvin Street, Birchwood Park – Discharge of condition 19 (cycle parking details) on application 2021/40405.
- (xiii) Application **2022/42190** – Unit 722 Birchwood Park – Full planning permission for the siting of storage containers in the service yard.

Although Cllr Atkin was unable to attend tonight’s meeting he had circulated some comments that he would like the Town Council to consider submitting to the Planning Department to take into consideration regarding Unit 722, specifically relating to storage. These are comments for consideration, not an objection.

Members considered Cllr Atkin’s comments and **unanimously resolved** that they be submitted to the Planning Department.

Action Clerk’s office to send comments to the Planning Department.

This part of the meeting concluded at 6.50 pm.