

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING
OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL,
HELD AT PARKERS FARM, DELENTY DRIVE
ON TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 6PM

Present: Councillor Ellis in the Chair
Councillors Allman, Atkin, Ball, Brereton, B. Dhillon, K. Dhillon, Evans, Price, Reeves, and Simcock

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

PC Shevlin – Birchwood Police

1 Resident

Apologies: Councillor Sheridan (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 Reeves – One Community Trust (spouse)

213/24-25 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Police Monthly Update**

There was no written Police report available for this meeting. However, following the November meeting, Birchwood Police clarified that ‘NFD’ on the Police Report stands for ‘no further details’.

PC Shevlin provided a brief verbal summary of events in Birchwood between November and December. He mentioned that overall, it has been a positive month, with the trends currently spiking across Warrington not being observed in Birchwood.

He stated that the primary source of Police callouts are isolated domestic incidents.

PC Shevlin informed us that the Police had recently executed a warrant at a house suspected of housing a dangerous dog. He explained that the operation resulted in a positive outcome, as the Police were able to seize significant quantities of Class A and B drugs, leading to two arrests. He mentioned that while a large breed dog was found at the premises, it was not the one they were searching for and was exempt under recent laws. PC Shevlin also noted that the dog they were looking for may be linked to several dog attacks in Birchwood.

PC Shevlin explained that new Housing Officers have been assigned to the area and are working closely with Birchwood Police to implement ‘closure orders’ where necessary.

PC Shevlin stated that additional patrols will be conducted over the festive period, including increased visibility around retail stores, and an operation focused on tackling delivery theft.

The Chair thanked PC Shevlin for attending, and he left the meeting.

(b) **Public Participation**

There was one resident present at tonight's meeting, who raised concerns about the persistent flooding to the Fire Station underpass at the end of Powell Avenue.

The resident stated that many years ago, her husband endured a nasty accident at the location due to consequences which arose from the flooding during icy weather. She added that on 25th November 2024, they attempted to walk to their home via the underpass, but it was completely impassable.

Councillor Allman added that he also cycles this way and recently rode through the flood, resulting in wet clothes.

The resident pointed out that the underpass is a main thoroughfare for the local business park, nurseries and schools, so the flooding is not only inconvenient but also dangerous. She alleged that this has been an ongoing issue for over 20 years.

Councillor Ellis explained that the specialist team at WBC had attended the site last week and managed to remove the floodwater and clear out the drains, which has resulted in it draining properly over the weekend during the recent storm which brought significant rainfall.

Councillor Ellis added that when the drains were originally laid out, some pipes fitted appear to be right-angled bends. This does not seem to work for the amount of rainfall being experienced more recently, and is currently being investigated by WBC as it will require specialist intervention.

The Clerk stated that when the team from WBC came out, they told Officers that it was the worse they had seen the underpass, and that they would inform their supervisors accordingly. She said that she had also been informed that WBC had confirmed, '*work allocated to officer to be programmed*'.

The resident also stated that after the flood was cleared, a large amount of wet leaves and debris remained at the location, which still created a fall risk.

Councillor Allman reported that the BTC team had been to the location yesterday and cleared the leaves and mud to make it safe for residents.

Councillor Ellis said that it is now better than it was but agrees that it does need a longer-term solution.

Councillors queried if a grid on the opposite side of the subway would address the issue.

Action Clerk's office to communicate with WBC regarding the potential for updating the layout of drainage at the underpass.

The Chair thanked the resident for attending, and the resident left the meeting.

214/24-25 **NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor Atkin **proposed**, Councillor Ball **seconded** and it was **unanimously resolved** that: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th November 2024 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

PROGRESS

215/24-25 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

A copy of the WBC/BTC report was copied in Member's papers. Prior to tonight's meeting, the Clerk received WBC's updated response.

(a) **Locking Stumps MUGA Joint Use Agreement**

The Clerk stated that BTC have chased this up with One Community Trust, however, we have still not received a copy of the draft updated lease from them.

(b) **Benches**

The Clerk reported that Angus Lord from WBC will contact the RFO regarding new benches being installed at the agreed locations.

(c) **Speed Indicator Device (SID)**

WBC have advised that they cannot prioritise the resource for moving the SID from Admirals Road to a different location at present and have offered to revisit the request in February 2025.

216/24-25 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG) - UPDATES**

The Clerk reported that a copy of the most recent YHG meeting notes were included in Member's papers.

During the meeting, YHG made us aware of the upcoming dates for YHG Tenant Surgeries which are as follows:

- 5th December 2024 between 1pm and 3pm at Thomas Risley Church, Locking Stumps.
- 26th February 2025 between 1pm and 3pm at the Encounter Centre, Birchwood.
- 29th May 2025 between 1pm and 3pm at Thomas Risley Church, Locking Stumps.
- 24th September 2025 between 1pm and 3pm at the Encounter Centre Birchwood.

These dates have been shared on our Facebook page for residents, and we have reached out to YHG to ask if they could offer an evening or weekend session for those unable to attend the daytime surgeries.

217/24-25 **TROLLEYS IN THE AREA**

The Clerk informed the Council that the Aldi trolleys over the bridge near Birchwood High School have now been collected by the appropriate collection agency. However, the Asda trolleys still remain as the collection agency has stated that it is too dangerous for them to be retrieved. The Clerk's office will continue to monitor this situation.

218/24-25 **BIRCHWOOD CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

The Clerk reported that she and the Administrative Assistant attended the Christmas Tree Festival at Birchwood High School, where they were joined throughout the day by Councillors Brereton, Ellis, and Price. The Clerk noted that the event provided an opportunity for visibility in the community, and we received a positive response from residents.

BTC's tree came third in the 'Best Dressed Tree' competition.

219/24-25 PLANNING UPDATES FROM NOVEMBER MEETING

- (a) As agreed at the November meeting, the plan and a link to the documentation we received from the Planning Inspectorate regarding the proposed 'Intermodal Logistics Park North', was posted on our Facebook page.
- (b) Following the November meeting, the Clerk submitted the comments made by Councillors regarding Planning Application 2024/01388/VARC, Aldi, Birchwood Shopping Centre, about parking layouts, including the placement of EV chargers, to WBC's Planning department.

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

220/24-25 WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

- (a) Sent/Received - Various emails/online reports/telephone calls following queries/contact from residents regarding flytipping, tree/shrubbery issues, grass cutting, etc.
- (b) Received – multiple reports of flooded underpasses, via email, phone calls and in person, particularly regarding the underpass near the fire station.
- (c) Received – an update to an enquiry made regarding Birchwood Park Avenue, confirming that the 40 mph limit was based on speed data and road design. A further reduction to 30 mph would require significant changes and external funding, which is unlikely due to the relatively low number of collisions and limited funding available.

221/24-25 YOUR HOUSING GROUP

- (a) Sent/received – Various emails/reports following queries/contact from residents including issues with flytipping, shrubbery maintenance, fallen trees, some damaged bollards, etc.
- (b) Sent – email with attached photos regarding work that needs to be completed on the 'Spinal Path', to make it look more presentable.
- (c) Sent – an email enquiring about multiple caravans outside properties on the Redshank estate.
- (c) Received – the pruning and hedge cutting programme for shrubs located on communal land owned by YHG in Birchwood.

222/24-25 MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Received – various emails from Warrington Voluntary Action (WVA).
- (b) Received – an email from Locking Stumps Primary School's PTA requesting the use of BTC's sleigh and reindeer for some upcoming festive events at the school. The sleigh was inspected by our team for any potential safety issues and has been refurbished accordingly.

The Clerk confirmed that it has been loaned out to the school and is currently in situ there.

223/24-25 CHESHIRE POLICE

Received – Various Neighbourhood Alerts.

224/24-25 **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.

225/24-25 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

Various LGC e-mail correspondence/briefings.

226/24-25 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

- (a) **Warrington Borough Council – Development Management Committee (DMC)**
 - (i) The next DMC meeting will take place on 12th December 2024. There were no items of specific interest to Birchwood on the agenda.
 - (ii) Information re: enforcement cases specific to Birchwood have been circulated to Members.
- (b) **Planning Decisions**
 - (i) **Application No. 2024/01308/DISCON** Unit 722 Birchwood Park, Warrington. Discharge of Condition 16 (Vibration) on previously approved application 2015/26044. **Discharged.**
 - (ii) **Application No. 2024/00937/NMA** Land at Junction 11 of the M62 Motorway, Birchwood. Proposed amendment to condition 5 (approved drawings) on previously approved application 2023/00333 (motorway service area) to replace the Combined Parameter Plan. **Granted.**
 - (iii) **Application No. 2024/00673/FULH** 12 Daniel Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6QL. Proposed single storey rear extension to form bedroom and an en-suite bathroom. **Withdrawn.**
- (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 No. 2024/01430/ADV** The Turf And Feather Glover Road, Birchwood, WA3 7PH. Replacement signage to include double sided panel to existing single post completed with 2 x corex holders fitted below, lantern, welcome panel, fascia sign, 1 set of sign written house name and logo, and 1 single sided post mounted corex sign.

- (ii) **Application No. 2024/00963/REMM** Land At Junction 11 Of the M62 Motorway, Warrington. Proposed approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout, scale) pursuant to ref. 2023/00333/VARC for Phases 1 (Enabling Works) and 2 (Hotel and Facilities Buildings) comprising creation of development platforms, earthworks including diversion of Silver Lane Brook, creation of Peat Habitat Zone, strategic landscaping, internal site circulation, vehicle parking including Electric Vehicle Hub, foul and surface water drainage feature; Facilities Building including commercial units, seating areas, associated amenities and management suite; 100-bed Hotel and associated facilities; landscaped external areas including outdoor seating areas and play equipment; internal and external plant areas; associated infrastructure including service yard, external bin store areas, photovoltaic panels, LV panels and substations, lighting, and fencing.

- (iii) **Application No. 2024/01494/PA14J** Birchwood Warrington, Car Park, Genesis Centre Garrett Field, Birchwood, Warrington. The proposed works is for the installation of a roof mounted solar PV system generating 331.8 kWp, comprising of 568 x Astro N5 585W panels or similar.

This part of the meeting concluded at 7.00 pm.