

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL,**  
**HELD AT PARKERS FARM, DELENTY DRIVE**  
**ON TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025, 6PM**

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

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

1 Resident

**Apologies:** Councillor K. Dhillon (WBC meeting)  
Mrs. F. McDonald – The Clerk

**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*  
*Councillor Sheridan – Birchwood Acts*

275/25-26 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Police Monthly Update**

There were no Police present at this meeting, and no Police report was received.

(b) **Public Participation**

One resident was in attendance at the meeting. He had submitted an email prior to the meeting outlining the matter he wished to raise.

The resident read his email out to those present. The content related to some difficulties he had been having regarding correspondence with a local business and its head office

A discussion took place during which Councillors shared their own experiences of dealings with the company and agreed that the company could have demonstrated greater transparency in its communications with the resident.

The resident advised that the company has agreed to arrange a meeting with him in the new year.

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

276/25-26 **NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor Atkin **proposed**, Councillor Ellis **seconded** and it was **unanimously resolved** that: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

## **PROGRESS**

### 277/25-26 **ABANDONED TROLLEYS**

The RFO reported that the resident who attended the November meeting and raised concerns regarding abandoned trolleys in the area has remained in contact with BTC.

The resident has also forwarded a Freedom of Information response from WBC, in which WBC stated that it does not hold the necessary powers to undertake enforcement action.

The RFO wondered if the Council might wish to consider setting up some form of partnership Working Party Group in the new year comprising of Councillors and representatives from the Shopping Centre, WBC and YHG, if they are amenable to the suggestion.

A discussion took place regarding a number of potential approaches to deter the removal of trolleys from the Shopping Centre. Ultimately, the Chair proposed that 'Abandoned Shopping Trolleys' be included as a formal agenda item at the January 2026 Council meeting.

All Councillors agreed that this matter should be raised at the January 2026 meeting.

**Action** Officers to add issue as an agenda item for the January 2026 meeting of the Council.

### 278/25-26 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PROGRESS**

#### (a) **Meeting with CEO of WBC**

The RFO said that, at a meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025, WBC appointed Sarah Smith as the new Chief Executive of WBC. Mrs Smith is currently the Executive Director of Health and Social Care at Knowsley Council and it is expected that she will begin her appointment at WBC in early January. Officers will write to Mrs Smith when she commences her employment.

**Action** Officers to contact Sarah Smith in the new year to invite her to a meeting regarding communication and partnership working arrangements between BTC and the Borough Council.

#### (b) **Culcheth Access Improvement Scheme**

Councillor Price wrote to the Principal Transport Planner at WBC regarding the Access Improvement Scheme. He asked if there would be a new bridge built to enable safer access to the new motorway services from Birchwood.

The Transport Planner responded to Councillor Price that the current scheme would link into the motorway service development in the area via a Toucan Crossing. At present both financial and scheme delivery time constraints will not allow the installation of a bridge.

WBC has informed Councillor Price that they will include his feedback, and if future funding becomes available, they will ensure it is taken into consideration.

### 279/25-26 **MEMBERS REFERRAL UPDATES**

The RFO said that she is unaware of any response from WBC as of yet, regarding the Clerk's correspondence sent to Highways regarding both of Councillor Atkin's Members' Referrals from the September 2025 Meeting. She said that Officers will chase this matter in the new year.

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

### 280/25-26 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Sent/received – various emails/online reports/telephone calls following queries/contact from residents regarding a variety of local issues on WBC land.
- (b) Received – a list of Traffic Notices which include prohibition of driving orders for multiple streets in Warrington. Residents have been in contact with BTC asking for additional information.

Officers contacted WBC for clarification, and it was relayed to us that, although the temporary traffic regulation order covers a 9-week period, no individual road will be closed for that full duration. A single order has been issued to cover all planned works in the area. Once the schedule is finalised, the contractor will notify affected residents and businesses of specific dates and any access restrictions, and will agree safe access arrangements where needed.

### 281/25-26 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG)**

Sent/received – emails/reports following queries/contact from residents regarding various issues including landscaping and flytipping.

### 282/25-26 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received/sent – various emails regarding 'day-to-day' queries from residents.
- (b) Received – a poster advertising Birchwood Acts' pantomime, Cinderella, with ticketing information. These have been displayed on BTC noticeboards.

### 283/25-26 **CESHIRE POLICE**

Various Neighbourhood Alerts received (already circulated).

### 284/25-26 **CESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (CHALC), NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC) AND THE 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.

### 285/25-26 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

Various LGC and WVA e-mail correspondence/briefings have been received. Related emails have been circulated to Members.

## 286/25-26 MEMBERS' REFERRALS

The RFO said that no Members' Referrals have been received for consideration at tonight's meeting.

## 287/25-26 CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES

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

- (i) At the meeting of the DMC held on 11th November 2025, there was one item specific to Birchwood on the agenda: Application No. 2025/01026/FUL – Land at Dewhurst Road, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 7GB. Erection of 8 Units for either E(e), E(g)(i), E(g)(ii) or E(g)(iii) purposes, Solar Panels and Provision of Access and Associated Works including Landscaping

As BTC had made an objection on this application, Councillor Atkin attended the meeting to read a statement on behalf of the Town Council.

He reported that amendments had been made to the application prior to the DMC, which we were unaware about, and after speaking with the applicant at the meeting, it was apparent that a use class that BTC were objecting to, had only been added to the application upon the instruction of WBC so that the applicant may have more freedom for future uses of the units, however the applicant expressed no intention to use this class so was happy for this to be removed.

The application was granted.

The Chair thanked Councillor Atkin for attending the DMC on behalf of BTC.

- (ii) The next DMC is scheduled to take place on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. No documents were available for this meeting.
- (iii) Information regarding any enforcement cases specific to Birchwood have been circulated to Members.

### (b) **Planning Decisions**

- (i) **Application No. 2025/01353/DISCON** Land At Junction 11 Of The M62 Motorway, Warrington. Discharge of conditions 13 (Construction, Highways & Environmental Management Plan) and 18(Construction plan working method statement) attached to planning permission 2023/00333/VARC. **Condition Part Discharged/Part Not Discharged.**

### (c) **Planning Applications**

*All plans can be viewed via:*

[http://www.warrington.gov.uk/home/transport\\_planning\\_and\\_environment/Planning/Search\\_planning\\_applications/](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. 2025/01635/HPA** 22 Hamsterley Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6UF. Proposed single storey rear extension to extend beyond the rear wall by 5.20m, height of 4.00m and height of the eaves to be 2.60m
- (ii) **Application No. 2025/01425/FULM** The Enza Building (formerly Known As The Mercedes Benz - Roanza Truck & Van Dealership) Leacroft Road, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6NN. Demolition of existing buildings and construction of a 9,112sqm warehouse unit (Use Classes B2, B8, E(g)(iii), E(g)(ii) and E(g)(i)) with associated parking, service areas, landscaping and infrastructure works.
- (iii) **Application No. 2025/01536/FUL** Birchwood Retail Properties, Birchwood Shopping Centre Dewhurst Road, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 7PG. Proposed external alterations.
- (iv) **Application No. 2025/01666/TPO** Cedarwood Kelvin Close, Birchwood, Warrington. Remedial works to x10 trees and fell of x9 trees, remedial works to x3 groups of trees.
- (v) Proposed base station upgrade at **CTIL\_131695\_22/vf\_66138\_21** Grass verge adjacent to changing rooms, Birchwood Forest Park, Verge of Moss Gate, Gorse Covert, Birchwood, Warrington, wa3 6tx (NGR: e366270 n392418)

The RFO advised that this is not a planning application per se. However, information has been received regarding the proposed changes to this 'VodafoneThree' base station, in order to improve local mobile services.

Having reviewed the plans, the RFO confirmed that the streetpole does not appear to be increasing in height, remaining at 20m, although an additional five antennas are proposed.

**This part of the meeting concluded at 6.40 pm.**