

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2022 COUNCIL MEETING
OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL,
HELD AT PARKERS FARM, DELENTY DRIVE, WA3 6AN,
ON TUESDAY 22ND MARCH 2022, 6PM

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

Clerk – Mrs. F. McDonald
RFO / Deputy Clerk – Mrs. C. Caddock

Sgt Nathan Gulam
Beat Manager Danielle Goodwin

Apologies: Councillor Scott (away) and Councillor Ball (health)
Admin Assistant – Mrs. H. Vout (health), PCSO Titans (health)

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

533/21-22 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Police Monthly Update**

PCSO Titans was unable to attend tonight's meeting, which was instead attended by Sgt Nathan Gulam and Beat Manager Danielle Goodwin.

Sgt Gulam informed Members that PCSO Titans will be leaving his role as Birchwood's PCSO, to join the Police Force. A new PCSO for Birchwood will be in place soon.

Members expressed their appreciation for the work that PCSO Titans has undertaken during his time working in Birchwood and wish him all the best for his future career.

The Police Officers gave Members a brief update on recent Police issues arising in Birchwood during the last month.

Beat Manager Goodwin emphasised that they would encourage people to report any issues of concern to the Police on 101, rather than posting comments on social media, which the Police do not routinely monitor.

If reports are made to the Police, they can build a picture, especially if there is a pattern becoming apparent; then their resources can be allocated appropriately.

Sgt Gulam added that, if people do not want to wait on the phone for 101 call handlers to answer, that issues can also be reported online at www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/

Members raised several queries with the Police Officers, which will be followed up.

Councillors advised Sgt Gulam and Beat Manager Goodwin that some of the main issues that residents are likely to raise during the spring and summer months relate to traveller encampments.

This was discussed in some detail.

Public Meeting:

Sgt Gulam said that he had spoken to the Clerk about a multi-agency public meeting that the Town Council is trying to facilitate.

The purpose of the meeting is to present to the public, in a transparent way, the legal checks, legislation, processes, etc. that must be followed by various agencies and landowners, when an unauthorised traveller encampment is set up in an area.

‘School Streets’:

Sgt Gulam said that he had picked up from previous minutes that a proposal regarding ‘School Streets’ had been raised with PCSO Titans. He added that he had looked into this and it appears that this initiative needs to be school-led. Schools are required to show what they have done before to discourage poor parking practices, especially around school drop-off and pick-up times.

Care also has to be taken that any parking is not simply displaced into other neighbouring residential streets.

Mobile Speed Sign:

Sgt Gulam said that he has asked for costings for a new tripod and battery for the Town Council’s mobile speed sign (which have somehow become separated from the sign and cannot be located). These will be purchased by the Police to replace the ones that are missing.

Youth Engagement:

Councillor Dempsey said that PCSO Titans had been hoping to introduce some youth activities to Birchwood and wondered if he had been able to make any progress in this regard.

Councillor Ellis said that he had spoken to PCSO Titans, and he had not started any projects.

Sgt Gulam stated that the PCSO who he believes will be coming into Birchwood is very keen on engagement with youth. He has run a football-based activity in another area that he worked in, and will be asked to introduce this to Birchwood.

Members thanked Sgt Gulam and Beat Manager Goodwin for attending and they left the meeting.

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

534/21-22 **FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

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

535/21-22 **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.

There is no update currently available.

536/21-22 **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, and the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison group.

537/21-22 **BIRCHWOOD CARNIVAL COMMITTEE**

The Clerk reported that the next meeting of the Birchwood Carnival Committee is scheduled to take place on 29th March 2022.

538/21-22 **ACCESS ISSUES – BIRCHWOOD RAILWAY STATION**

The Clerk reported that this remains ongoing and is one of several items that will be raised at an upcoming partnership meeting with WBC.

539/21-22 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG)**

The Clerk stated that the next walkabout will cover Whinchat Drive, Whitethroat walk and the surrounding areas. A date is to be confirmed.

540/21-22 **FLOODING ON ROBERTS FOLD**

Councillor Ellis reported that it appears that this issue has been resolved – although Torus has not contacted him either to respond to any correspondence he sent them, or to confirm that the work has been completed.

541/21-22 **HS2 HIGH SPEED RAIL (CREWE – MANCHESTER)**

To report, again, that no one has yet made an appointment to view the HS2 documents that we have available in our offices. We have a laptop, on which the documents can be viewed (in digital format). Residents can make an appointment to view the documents during office hours.

542/21-22 **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Clerk reported that although it was agreed at our February meeting that Members would prefer meetings to move back from the barn room, to inside Parkers Farm, two members of staff have since contracted Covid. The March 2022 meeting was therefore held in the barn.

543/21-22 **ORDNANCE AVENUE – PUFFIN CROSSING**

Work on the installation of a new puffin crossing on Ordnance Avenue at the junction with Redshank Lane, has commenced.

544/21-22 **GRASS CUTTING**

The Clerk stated that Warrington Borough Council (WBC) will be undertaking the first grass cut of the season in Birchwood. It is hoped, weather permitting, that this will happen during the first week of April.

It was confirmed, that for those areas of verge that will be allowed to 'rewild', that an initial grass cut needs to take place, and an end of season cut. In both cases any grass cuttings need to be removed, so that nutrients do not leach down into the soil, as wild flowers prefer poor soil conditions.

545/21-22 **YOUTH ENDOWMENT BID**

A query has been sent to PCSO Titans regarding this fund. No further information has been received yet.

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

546/21-22 **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) We have notified the Warrington and Cheshire Traveller team, WBC's Rangers, etc. regarding a traveller encampment on the Forest Park.

547/21-22 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG)**

Sent/received – various emails / reports following contact from residents re: fallen trees, overgrown shrubs, flytipping, etc.

548/21-22 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – various emails from Warrington Voluntary Action (WVA).
- (b) Received – Email re: proposed The Bread and Butter Thing – Oakwood; project redistributing surplus food.

Councillor Ellis stated that this is run in various locations throughout Warrington. He added that he would contact Helen Bennett to find out more information.

Councillor Brereton suggested that Oakwood Community Centre might be a good place to site the scheme.

- (c) The Clerk drew Members' attention to a recent article published in the Warrington Guardian, noting that Birchwood had several winners in the Warrington Guardian Education Awards 2022.

549/21-22 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Various Neighbourhood Alerts.
- (b) Stakeholder bulletin for February 2022.

- (c) Safety of Women in Public – Cheshire Police Commissioner has set up a survey to get a greater understanding of what people’s experiences are in different areas of Cheshire.

The survey will help to create a bid for funding, to help support working being done to help improve public safety.

550/21-22 **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. 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.

551/21-22 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

- (a) Various LGC e-mail correspondence/briefings.
- (b) The Clerk – March 2022. A full page article was included in this magazine relating to the purchase of BTC’s electric vans. We have since received a phone call from another local Council in Essex asking for guidance on the processes we went through to reach this point.

552/21-22 **YOUR HOUSING – BIRCHWOOD PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOOD**

Correspondence has been exchanged between YHG and BTC regarding YHG’s proposals relating to making Birchwood a priority neighbourhood.

553/21-22 **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 10th March 2022. There were no items specific to Birchwood on the main agenda for discussion. The next DMC is scheduled for 6th April 2022 – there were no documents available for this meeting at the time of writing.

- (b) **Planning Decisions**

- (i) Application No. 2021/40399 Unit 722 (with Development parcels 701 and 702), Daten Avenue, Birchwood park – **Approved**
- (ii) Application No. 2021/40405 Land East of Kelvin Street, Birchwood Park – **Approved**
- (iii) Application No. 2021/40502 Land East of Kelvin Street, Birchwood Park - Widening of road – **Approved**

- (iv) Application No. 2021/39617- 1 Bickerton Close, Birchwood, WA3 6LS. Householder - Erection of single-storey rear/side extension and side projecting – **Approved**
 - (v) Application No. 2021/40355 - 32, Keyes Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6RU- Retention of Wooden Gazebo in the back garden. – **Refused**
 - (vi) Application No. 2021/40663 - 47, Harcourt Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6PU - Change of use of land to residential garden area – **Approved**
 - (vii) Application No. 2021/20073 - 21, Killingworth Lane, Birchwood, WA3 6TA Proposed single storey extension - **Refused**
- (c) **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 No. 2022/10949 – Birchwood Children’s services, Ainscough Road, Birchwood, WA3 7PW. Retention of change of use to school for special education needs.
 - (ii) Application No. 2022/40982 - 9 Westhay Crescent, Birchwood, WA3 6UZ. Proposed single storey extension.
 - (iii) Application No. 2022/40985 – 43, Havisham Close, Birchwood, WA3 7NB. Application for lawful development Certificate for proposed double extension.
- (d) **Planning Appeal/Public Enquiry - Appeal ref: APP/M0655/W/21/3288180**

Re: Application No. 2019/35726 – Land North of Junction 11 of M62, Warrington. Environmental Assessment Application, Outline Planning permission (major) including details of access- Proposed Erection of Motorway Services including Facilities building, up to 100-bedroom hotel, service yard, fuelling station, Electric charging station, Parking facilities, landscaping and amenity areas and associated infrastructure, all other details (Appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale) reserved for subsequent application.

To note that a public inquiry will be held virtually. The inquiry is due to start on Wednesday 23rd March.

This part of the meeting concluded at 6.45 pm.