

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT
PARKERS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE, DELENTY DRIVE, RISLEY
ON TUESDAY 26TH MARCH 2013**

PRESENT: Councillor M. Hearldon in the Chair

Councillors Allman, Balding, Evans, Fitzsimmons

Clerk – Mrs. F. McDonald

Deputy Clerk – Mrs. C. Caddock

Business and Finance Officer – Mr. G. Crowe

PCSO Gina Jones

Jane Kinnaird, Director of Enterprise, Birchwood Community High School

Apologies were received from: Councillors Bowden, L. Hearldon, Higgins,
Lines-Rowlands, Nelson and Spencer

Councillor Fitzsimmons proposed, Councillor Evans seconded and it was RESOLVED THAT:

**The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council which took place on Tuesday,
26th February 2013, be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.**

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.

101/2013 **RECESS**

(a) **Police Monthly Pledge Meeting and Update**

PCSO Jones gave Members a brief update on policing activity in the area since last month.

She reported that there had been instances of criminal damage to the green at Birchwood Golf Club. Lines of enquiry are being followed up relating to this matter.

Investigations into a burglary that took place at the Golf Club in December 2012 have resulted in a male being sentenced to 16 weeks in prison.

There has been ongoing anti social behaviour in Forbes Close and extra patrols are monitoring the situation. There was also a report of someone trying car door handles in Rawlings Close; the Police did attend, but the individual left before the Police arrived on scene; however the person had not managed to get into any vehicle.

In Gorse Covert there was a theft of some work equipment from a vehicle in The Poacher car park and there was an arrest of a drink driver.

There have been further complaints about inconsiderate parking around Gorse Covert Primary School at ‘dropping off’ and ‘picking up’ times. The Police are looking at undertaking a ‘Park Wise’ scheme in partnership with Warrington Borough Council which would involve issuing leaflets to parents and doing a presentation to the children in the school.

Parking on Ordnance Avenue and Redshank Lane continues to be monitored. The Borough Council has looked into the issues at this location and there are proposals to put some yellow lines on the first few metres of the access to Redshank Lane to keep the entrance/exit clear of vehicles.

The Police Constables and Special Constables were planning to undertake an operation over a weekend with regard to identifying vehicles being driven without car tax or insurance, people using mobiles phones whilst driving, not wearing seat belts, etc; and spot checks to ensure some commercial vehicles are carrying the relevant documentation, such as waste carrier licences.

PCSO Jones reported that PCSO Davies was currently in contact with Thorn Cross with regards to their Peer Mentor Programme. This involves young offenders talking to other young people about the potential consequences of anti social behaviour and criminal activities, including drug taking; in the hope that it may deter people from making the same mistakes.

Councillor Evans asked how effective recent bicycle marking events had been.

PCSO Jones said that there had been a good response at recent events. The Police have a limited number of bike marking kits available to them, which need to be shared around the various local policing areas. There have not been any recent reports of local bike thefts.

PCSO Jones informed Members that the new Inspector for Warrington East; Chris Adkins, who has been promoted from Stockton Heath, is now in post.

The BAFO stated that he is very welcome to come to our Council meetings.

It was agreed by those Members present that he should be formally invited to attend a Council meeting.

Action Clerk's office to invite Inspector Adkins to a future Town Council Meeting.

Members thanked PCSO Jones for attending.

The most recently available information regarding local Policing priorities can be found on the Cheshire Police Website: <http://www.cheshire.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/warrington-east/birchwood/priorities.aspx>

The Twitter address is @WarrEastNPU.

(b) **Proposed Art Installation for Birchwood Station**

Mrs. Jane Kinnaird, Director of Enterprise at Birchwood Community High School, attended the meeting to give a presentation to Councillors about an art installation project that is being undertaken by Learners at the high school.

Mrs. Kinnaird said that the original idea for the project evolved from an observation made by the Head Teacher, Ms. Anne Bright who had noted that in places like Manchester Airport there are posters advertising to visitors and people passing through, what the area has to offer; such as Tatton Park, the Trafford Centre, the city centre theatres, etc. She thought that Birchwood Station currently looks unremarkable, just like many other stations and that it would be nice to use the station to show people what Birchwood has to offer.

The basic proposal is for an art installation made up of tiles that have wording or letters on – to represent the different business/organisation sectors in Birchwood and tiles with pictures of children’s faces (painted by children from all Birchwood schools) to represent the residents of Birchwood. This will be displayed at Birchwood Station in a location to be agreed with First Group plc which manages the station. It was hoped that it would be placed so it could be seen not only by people on the platform, but also by passengers on the trains.

Mrs. Kinnaird presented some current financial figures and a ‘mock-up’ design of how it is currently envisaged the project will look and she handed around some of the tiles that have already been painted by children.

Mrs. Kinnaird stated that the Encounter statue features on the artwork as it represents business and community working together.

A detailed discussion took place regarding the proposals, including a debate about the colour of the tiles with the wording ‘This is Birchwood’ printed on them. Some Members felt they should be all one colour – possibly green. Others were happy with the different colours.

Members did agree that although they understand why there is a reluctance to put logos on the artwork, they believe the logo used by the Town Council and which was originally designed by a Birchwood High School learner, should feature, as it specifically represents all the different communities of Birchwood joining to create Birchwood as a whole.

It was also suggested by Members that the names of the main residential local centres ‘Oakwood’, ‘Locking Stumps’ and ‘Gorse Covert’ be added. This may however have to then be extended to include ‘Risley Village’ and possibly other sub-locales like ‘Chatfield’.

Councillor Balding suggested that Risley Moss should be featured on a tile, as it is such an important Site of Special Scientific Interest, recognised Europe-wide.

Mrs. Kinnaird said that some consultation has already been done to try to establish the sorts of sectors that the local communities; business, residential, voluntary and other organisations would like to see represented on the artwork, but it has been limited. She added that additional consultation exercises will be taking place and that she would be grateful for any suggestions which could then be considered by the Learners who are involved in the project.

Following further discussion those Members present said that they would consider a pledge in principle of up to £500 maximum, with certain provisos. This was moved to Finance for formal consideration later in the evening.

Whilst Councillors agreed that they are supportive of the project, they would like to be certain that the residential communities of Birchwood and other sectors currently not mentioned – such as the NHS and public sector - are properly represented.

Members stated that ideally they would also like the Birchwood logo to be included – they would accept the lettering ‘Birchwood Town Council’ being removed so that it does not look like an advertisement for the Town Council.

Once there is another draft of the proposed design available, Councillors would like to review it again before formally approving any grant, which would be awarded on condition that they are happy that Birchwood has been fully represented, rather than mainly the business sectors.

Mrs. Kinnaird said that she would take the Councillors’ suggestions back to the Learners.

Members thanked Mrs. Kinnaird for attending the meeting.

102/2013 **NOTICE OF ELECTION**

The Clerk stated that following the publication of the Notice of Casual Vacancy which was displayed as required within the area, we have been notified by the Borough Council that a request has been made to hold an election.

The Clerk added that the Borough has asked if the Town Council wants to have poll cards delivered to residents eligible to vote in this election, at a cost of around £180.

Members discussed the matter briefly and agreed that if the poll cards were not delivered, to act as a reminder to residents of their right to vote, then there might be a very low turn out.

Action Clerk's office to inform the Borough Council that the Town Council would like poll cards to be delivered.

103/2013 **PARKING ISSUES**

(a) **Ordnance Avenue and Redshank Lane**

This was also discussed briefly earlier in the meeting (see Minute 101/2013(a)).

The Clerk confirmed that there are proposals to put some yellow lines on the first few metres of the access to Redshank Lane to keep the entrance/exit clear of vehicles. Warrington Borough Council will be undertaking the publication of the necessary legal notices in April.

Councillor Evans stated that some residents are worried that double yellow lines will just force the drivers to park their vehicles further in the estate, in front of people's properties.

The Borough Council has no plans to put any traffic markings on Ordnance Avenue at present.

(b) **Cross Lane South and Warrington Road**

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council has undertaken a survey in this area. The only vehicles they saw parking on Cross Lane South were three vehicles near the cemetery, which were not causing any obstructions. It is the opinion of the Borough Council that this does not currently warrant any action being taken.

In addition, the Borough does not believe that a residents' only parking scheme is justified in the service area in front of the properties on Warrington Road in Risley Village as the residents have driveways. However, they will continue to monitor the area. It was suggested that perhaps making the service road 'access only' might be the best solution at this location. The Borough Council will be putting a report together regarding this matter.

The Clerk informed Members that with regard to the Spar Shop on Warrington Road, the Borough has said that a limited waiting time scheme will be implemented in April to deter local employees from using the car park, meant for customers to the Spar, as an all day free parking area.

(c) **Leacroft Road**

The Clerk stated that Borough Council is proposing to put in double yellow lines in this area. However, prior to being able to do this, there is a licensed 'butty wagon' that is located on Leacroft Road and it has to be agreed how best to progress the matter with regard to this food business.

104/2013 **LOCAL MATTERS RAISED BY A RESIDENT**

The Clerk updated Members on matters previously raised by a local resident. She stated that she has emailed the resident to update her with the information we have been given and the resident has acknowledged receipt of the correspondence.

(a) **Powell Avenue Underpass**

The Clerk stated that she had contacted Colin Jenkins to request an update, but had not received anything back at the time of the meeting.

Councillor Evans reported that work has been carried out in the underpass within the last day or so and that it appeared that a small ditch akin to a soakaway had been installed.

(b) **Picket Fence on Powell Avenue**

The Clerk informed Members that the fence was still on site but had been pushed back off the road and taped off.

(c) **305 Birchwood Park**

The Clerk stated that following a further enquiry from a local resident, we have contacted MEPC again regarding the lights in this new office building in order to establish if the problems with the over-sensitive sensor system will be resolved prior to any future occupation of the building.

In addition we have asked whether there will be blinds on the office windows to prevent light pollution when the office building is occupied and to possibly alleviate concerns from the residents about a potential loss of privacy.

We have received a reply from Melanie Cusick-Jones, Park Facilities Manager at MEPC stating that the Building Manager for 305 has been asked for an update on improvements that have been requested from the contractor regarding this building and she will respond to us further once she has any information.

105/2013 **SILVER LANE**

Stopping up of Silver Lane

This matter is ongoing; there is currently no update available.

106/2013 **ADOPTION OF NEW CODE OF CONDUCT/REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

The Clerk reported that the Register of Interest forms have been delivered to the Monitoring Officer at Warrington Borough Council.

107/2013 **JOINT POLICE/TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY**

These surgeries currently take place, the third Saturday of each month (except August) in the Community Corner in the Encounter Café, from 10.30am to 12 noon.

Councillors Fitzsimmons attended the Surgery held on 16th March 2013. He reported that issues raised with him had included parking outside Gorse Covert Primary school and speeding.

The next surgery will be held on 20th April 2013.

108/2013 **UPDATE ON PLANNING MATTERS**

Application No. 2011/18954 Land adjacent to Carrington Close, Birchwood. Application to establish land as Village Green.

Councillors Fitzsimmons declared an interest

An email had been circulated in Members papers from the resident who is currently the main contact for The Friends of Carrington Close, advising the Council that the Public Inquiry held in relation to the Village Green application submitted by The Friends of Carrington Close Community Area came to a close earlier on 21st March 2013. It was held at the Orford Jubilee Park Centre.

Members were surprised at the venue chosen for the inquiry. They asked that a formal complaint be made that it had not been held in a location that was more readily accessible to residents from Birchwood.

In addition, it was noted that some residents who had been involved in the initial process regarding the implementation of the application to establish the land as Village Green, had not been notified when and where the enquiry was taking place and invited to attend.

The Clerk stated that we had not received any notification to the office of the time and place of the enquiry.

Action Clerk's office to write to interim Chief Executive, Professor Steve Broomhead regarding the comments above.

109/2013 **LITTER BINS BEING SPONSORED BY THE LOCAL MCDONALD'S RESTAURANT**

The Clerk stated that this matter is ongoing. The litter bins are on order via the Borough Council and we are liaising with them with regard to the installation of the bins.

Action Clerk's office to continue to liaise with the franchisee and the Borough Council regarding this matter.

110/2013 **GIVE WAY ROAD MARKING REQUEST**

The Clerk reported that the Town Council did write to the Borough Council again to ask them to reconsider their stance on this issue.

We have recently received a reply which indicates that, unfortunately, they will not be changing their minds. They directed us back to the reasons given in their previous correspondence.

The resident who initially raised this matter with us has been informed of this decision. He has decided to contact the Borough Council himself regarding this decision and has been advised to write to the Head of Highways.

111/2013 **BIRCHWOOD STATION ACCESS FOR ALL PROJECT**

The Clerk stated that there is currently no further update available regarding this matter.

112/2013 **DEFENDER BOLLARDS – KINSALE DRIVE**

The Clerk stated that we have been informed that the Borough Council is currently looking into potential alternatives to the temporary defender bollards on Kinsale Drive.

Action Clerk's office to update the resident who asked for an update regarding the bollards.

113/2013 **WOODLAND TRUST AND WBC PONDS**

The Clerk reported that the Woodland Trust has been doing some remedial work on the wall near the fire station to try to stop the seepage through that had been flooding the footpath recently.

Action Clerk's office to continue to liaise with WBC/ Woodland Trust regarding the pond(s).

114/2013 **DOG FOULING**

The Clerk reported that Warrington Borough Council has said that it will be happy to work with Birchwood Town Council to run a campaign regarding dog fouling. The dates for the campaign will be 6th – 31st May 2013. She asked Members if they would like to get involved with a campaign and if so, whether they had any suggestions for areas to concentrate on.

Councillor Balding stated that he could find out which areas in Gorse Covert could benefit from a campaign and would forward the locations to the office.

Members agreed that they would like to accept the Borough Council's invitation to work in partnership with them on a dog fouling campaign.

Action Clerk's office to continue to liaise with the Borough Council regarding this matter.

Action Councillor Balding to forward suggested locations to the office.

115/2013 **ADMIRALS SQUARE**

The Clerk confirmed that, following the March meeting, the bollards have been reinstated and the area improved.

Councillor Evans stated that the block paving has also been repaired.

116/2013 **DAMAGED VERGES LORDS LANE/LOCKING STUMPS LANE**

At the March meeting the Clerk reported that we had received correspondence from a resident regarding damage to grass verges (and previously the resident's water meter) on Locking Stumps Lane from vehicles, particularly buses and heavy wagons 'cutting the corners'. Craig Bailey from Highways at Warrington Borough Council has advised us that this has been passed to Traffic at Warrington Borough Council to investigate.

The Clerk stated that we have since received further correspondence from the resident, who also wondered whether the bus route could be changed to prevent the amount of damage that is being done.

The Clerk said that we had been informed by the Borough Council that some chippings has been put down, but these had been driven over practically as soon as they had been laid. The problem has been acknowledged but we have not yet received any further proposals or suggestions from the Borough Council about how this matter could be resolved or improved.

Members discussed the matter, but it was suggested that we wait until we have received any proposals from Traffic at the Borough Council before deciding how best to try to progress the matter further.

Action Clerk's office to chase this matter again with Warrington Borough Council.

117/2013 **FOOTPATH FLOODING NEAR LOCKING STUMPS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

This issue had been discussed in some detail at the February meeting.

At tonight's meeting the Clerk reported that we have been informed that the gullies have been cleaned and should be running freely again.

Councillor Evans stated that there appears to be a similar problem at the back of Whinchat Drive near Oakwood Common. He said that he would check if there is a drain there that might be blocked, or if it is just the land that is water-logged.

118/2013 **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

The Clerk reported that she had responded to the Environmental Protection Supplementary Planning Document consultation as requested by Members at the February meeting. She has asked if internal office lighting could be added as a consideration within the document.

119/2013 **HS2**

The Clerk reported that we had received further documentation relating to the HS2 proposals (copied to Members in their papers).

120/2013 **RECENT PLANNING APPLICATION RELATING TO FORBES CLOSE**

At the February meeting, the Clerk had reported that Application No. 2012/20923 Forbes Close, Birchwood; proposed change of use from soft landscaped verges into new parking bays had been refused.

Members had been surprised at the refusal and wondered whether Frontis might re-submit another similar application for Forbes Close in the future.

At tonight's meeting, the Clerk reported that she had spoken to Bernadette Bell regarding Members' comments on this matter.

121/2013 **BIG COMMUNITY SWITCH**

The Clerk reported that we have been copied in to additional information regarding the 'Big Community Switch' in an email from Ian Johnson at Poulton with Fearnhead Parish Council. This was circulated to Councillors.

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

122/2013 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Received – Neighbourhoods Monthly Bulletin – March 2013.
- (b) Received – East Area Neighbourhood Board funding panel report.
- (c) Received – Details re: upgrade of Brava Reader Software for Parish Council laptops and supply of 3G dongles to give internet access on a 24 month contract with Vodafone.

The Clerk stated that the laptop will have to be taken into the Borough Council for the upgrade at some time in the future.

Councillor Fitzsimmons asked if the cost of the laptop dongles could be raised with the Borough Council.

Action Clerk's Office to make enquiries with the Borough Council.

- (d) Following the needles and sharps training undertaken by the Maintenance Team we have contacted the Borough Council regarding the disposal of used sharps boxes.

The Clerk stated that we have been advised that the Borough Council has a system whereby they make a record of any needles/sharps that have been found and then dispose of them. The Borough has agreed to properly dispose of any used sharps boxes we have.

- (e) Received – Correspondence regarding upcoming Parish Liaison Meetings, requesting notification of unsuitable dates.
- (f) Received – Notification that the next Parish Liaison Meeting will be taking place at 6.30pm on Wednesday 15th May at the Town Hall. Agenda to follow.
- (g) Received – Link to Golden Gates Housing Trust Spring 2013 magazine.
- (h) Received – Details of a job vacancy with St Loyes.
- (i) Received – Schedule of Transport, Highway and Statutory Utility Operations for March 2013 to May 2013.

The Clerk stated that the two level crossings to be put in on Dewhurst Road and the proposed new footpath and cycleway scheme in Birchwood were mentioned on this schedule.

Councillor Fitzsimmons commented that the traffic on Dewhurst Road now appears to be travelling very quickly.

- (j) Received – photographs of some work completed on the roundabout near the Spar shop on Warrington Road, Risley – to improve sight lines.
- (k) Sent – Email regarding sight lines at the traffic island near Asda petrol station. This has been forwarded by Mark Tune at Warrington Borough Council to Jamie Fisher at the Borough to investigate the concerns and to feedback to Kevin McCready with a combined response.

The Clerk reported that concerns have been raised with the Borough Council for years regarding this island.

- (l) Received – Link to 'The Wire' e-magazine – March 2013.
- (m) Received – Notification that the East Area Neighbourhood team is currently based altogether at the Greenwood Community Centre in Orford. Once the IT infrastructure is upgraded at Fearnhead Community Centre, the team will all move there.
- (n) Received – Information via Diane White regarding a respite care fund that has been set up in memory of Marjorie Griffiths MBE. It can be used to provide respite care for carers or the people they care for. The fund is not means tested and people can apply for between £1 and £300. The fund is open to people of all ages and a funding panel will decide which applications will receive funds. Unpaid carers (including those receiving carers allowance) and people being cared for can apply for a grant but they must live in Warrington. Applications for equipment or from professional carers will not be considered.

Forms are available from; Marjorie Griffiths Respite Care fund, c/o Warrington Disability Partnership, Centre for Independent Living, Beaufort Street, Warrington, WA5 1BA

123/2013 **BIRCHWOOD FORUM**

- (a) Received – Invitation to ‘The Business Network Meeting’ (19th March).

124/2013 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – Various updates and information emails from Warrington Voluntary Action.
- (b) Received – Update re: Risley Green project; this will not be going ahead as the prison has found out that they cannot use the land for this purpose.
- (c) Received – ‘Parklife’ – March 2013 e-newsletters 7th, 15th and 22nd March.
- (d) Received – Request for assistance in removing litter collected during two litter picks organised by the Friends of Gorse Covert Mounds. Our team disposed of the litter collected.
- (e) Received – Details from ukpower.co.uk advising how charities and non-profit organisations can obtain an energy tax rebate.
- (f) Received – Two Freedom of Information requests; from one person. Replies were sent and a note of thanks has since been received from the correspondent.
- (g) A note was sent to Councillors giving notification that we have been informed by Trolleywise that they will no longer be operating the same level of trolley collection service that they have been doing, from the end of February 2013.

The Clerk stated that since Trolleywise has been told that they can only collect trolleys for a couple of hours on one day a week, Birchwood is once again becoming awash with abandoned trolleys. There are dozens of trolleys littering the area.

Members discussed this matter in some detail. They noted that not only do the trolleys make the area look untidy, they also pose a health and safety risk. There have been reported instances in Birchwood in the past of trolleys being pushed in front of moving vehicles.

Previous arrangements that had been in place and methods that had been adopted over many years to try to alleviate the ongoing trolley problem were discussed.

The Clerk stated that we have been led to understand that an improved Cartronics system is to be installed.

Members wondered if the Town Council should start to collect the trolleys and hold them in the barn.

The Clerk reminded Members that transporting the trolleys caused damage to our old ‘red vans’, despite best efforts to secure them and we now have relatively new vehicles. We cannot put them in the tipper truck as the back is too high to lift them in and out safely.

The BAFO added that when we previously had an arrangement with Asda to do the trolley collections it was very time consuming. Asda then told us to stop collecting the trolleys as they were no longer willing to pay for their collection.

The legal aspect of people removing trolleys from the shopping centre was queried by some Members.

Councillor Fitzsimmons said that we have raised the matter of people taking the trolleys away from the shopping centre with the Police in the past, but that they have been reluctant to do anything as ‘intent’ had to be proved.

The Clerk suggested that as we have a new Police Inspector, it might be worth raising the matter again to see if he has different views on how the matter could be tackled.

Action Clerk's office to raise the matter with Inspector Adkins and/or invite him to the next Council meeting at which the matter can be raised with him.

Following further discussions, it was agreed, as a starting point, to write a strongly worded letter to Asda again, with a copy to go to their head office.

Action Clerk's office to send a letter to Asda regarding this matter.

Councillor Fitzsimmons added that another issue causing concern about making areas look unsightly is flyposting of advertisements by some businesses. This was discussed at a recent meeting at Warrington Borough Council.

The Clerk confirmed that it is the Town Council's policy to take down any such signs and to hold them in our barn from where they can be collected by the person or company that put them up. When the signs are collected, the person is reminded that they can be fined for putting them up.

Councillor Fitzsimmons stated that the Borough Council is looking to start prosecuting companies or individuals who have been advertising in this manner.

- (h) Sent/received – Email correspondence with Frontis relating to a car and van being driven along and parking on a footpath in one of their areas.
- (i) Received/sent – correspondence relating to visibility being restricted by advertising on a bus shelter on Warrington Road, Risley.
- (j) Received – Details of some events taking place in Cinnamon Brow.
- (k) Received – Details of the 2013 Warrington Literature Festival 12th-25th April. These have been placed on our notice boards.
- (l) Received – 'Budget Overview' from Birchwood Park.

125/2013 **iCAN ALERTS**

Full details regarding the iCAN alerts below and details of free membership to the service can be found at <http://www.tsarrington.co.uk/ican>

- (a) Residents are reminded to be vigilant after several local incidents recently. All were regarding men claiming to be from the water board; they were targeting elderly residents. One of the incidents resulted in cash being stolen from the property.
- (b) Notification that 'Which?' has launched a new, free to use, consumer rights website: www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/
- (c) Trading Standards has been made aware by Cheshire Police that a number of residents have received unsolicited visits a company offering to carry out insulation work as well as boiler safety checks.

Residents are reminded to stay vigilant when dealing with unexpected callers. Before you commit to buying or signing up for anything, be sure that you have enough information about the seller or the service.

It is worth checking the following points, particularly if you have not heard of the company before: Do you have a contact number and does it work? Be wary if the only number you have is for a mobile phone. Do you have a postal address for the company? Be cautious if it uses only a PO Box number. Remember it is easy to have stationery and websites made up. Do not judge by appearances alone. Don't let yourself be rushed, maybe discuss with family and friends before making a decision. Do as much research as you can.

126/2013 **SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS**

- (a) Received – E-news bulletin – 7th March 2013.
- (b) Received – Notification that the review of the Quality Town and Parish Council Scheme is now open to consultation (until 1st April 2013).

127/2013 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received – Notification that our details will be migrated onto the new Community Contacts system on 6th March 2013. As part of this system a new community messaging system is being launched called Cheshire Police Alert.

Further information can be found at www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk

- (b) Received - Information relating to a change of Inspector for Warrington East NPU. Inspector Kate Tomlinson will be leaving Warrington East NPU and moving into the Central Services post in the Northern Area.

Her post will be filled by Chris Adkins, who has recently been successful in the promotion boards. He will be promoted from the South NPU to the East NPU Inspector role.

128/2013 **CHESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

- (a) Received – Integrated Risk Management Plan 2013/2014.
- (b) Received – Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service newsletter ‘The Link’ – March 2013.

129/2013 **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

- (a) Received – E-Bulletin from NALC; which includes a link to ‘Legal Topic Note LTN 1’ – ‘Councils’ Powers to Discharge Their Functions’.
- (b) Received – Notification of a consultation ‘Community Learning in Rural Areas’.
- (c) Received – NALC briefing and update to LTN09 ‘Handling Complaints’. Also Legal Briefing L01-13 – ‘Section 137 Expenditure: Limit for 2013-2014’.
- (d) Received – LCR Opinion question – resend.

130/2013 **PRESS ARTICLES**

Copies of various articles from local publications of relevance/interest to Birchwood.

The Clerk stated that one of these articles had reported that the Nelson’s Quarterdeck Public House in Oakwood has been listed as a ‘super recycling site’.

Councillor Balding suggested that this information should be put on the website.

131/2013 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

LCR – Spring 2013
Clerks & Councils Direct – March 2013
The Clerk – March 2013

132/2013 **MEMBERS' REFERRALS MADE VIA THE CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING**

There were no Members' referrals made prior to this meeting.

133/2013 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

(a) **Warrington Borough Council**

- (i) Received – Notification re: the Planning Application Sub-Committee meetings on 6th and 27th March 2013. There were no items of specific relevance to Birchwood on the agendas for discussion.
- (ii) Received – Notification re: the Development Management Committee meetings on Thursday 7th and 28th March 2013. There were no items of specific relevance to Birchwood on the agenda for discussion.
- (iii) Received – Validation Checklists for Planning and Other Applications and related consultation letter; comments can be made until 15th April 2013.
- (iv) Received – Details of WBC Planning Enforcement Training (18th March).
- (v) Received – Handouts from the Planning Enforcement/Localism Act briefing held at WBC and given by Trevor Roberts Associates.
- (vi) Received – Email from Richard Evans stating that from 3rd April 2013 he intends to set up a 'Planning Enforcement Surgery' where he will be available every Wednesday from 12 noon to 1pm. He asks that people give him advance warning if they plan to 'pop in' so he can avoid a queue.

134/2013 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

- (a) Application No. 2013/21182 96 Rockingham Close, WA3 6XA. Proposed single storey extension. **Approved with conditions**

135/2013 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

All plans can be viewed via the Borough Council's website:

http://www.warrington.gov.uk/home/transport_planning_and_environment/Planning/Search_planning_applications/

- (a) Application No. 2013/21379 Land adjacent to Stanford House, Garrett Field, WA3 7BH. Application to extend time limit for implementation of permission 2012/15826 (proposed four storey office building, with 150 associated car parking spaces on an existing car park and a new decked a surface car park on the site adjacent to Stanford House to relocate displaced car parking spaces (revision of application 2009/15157)).

- (b) Application No. 2013/21405 714 Warrington Road, WA3 6AU Advertisement Consent – proposed retention 2 x illuminated fascia signs related to Automated Teller Machine.
- (c) Application No. 2013/21404 714 Warrington Road, WA3 6AU Proposed retention of an Automated Teller Machine.
- (d) Application No. 2013/21446 39 Havisham Close, WA3 7NB Proposed removal of existing conservatory and construction of a two storey side extension and single storey front and rear extensions.
- (e) Land at Aston Avenue, Birchwood Park. Application for approval of details reserved by condition as per previously approved application 2012/20927 – condition 4 (energy statement) to be discharged.
- (f) Land at Aston Avenue, Birchwood Park. Application for approval of details reserved by condition as per previously approved application 2012/19696.

Councillor Balding raised his concern over the expansion of the business area on the business park, specifically with regard to traffic management.

Members discussed the issues surrounding traffic management with regard to the business area as a whole.

Councillor Fitzsimmons stated that planning matters relating to Birchwood Business Park were pre-approved many years ago. There have been many attempts to reduce the amount of traffic coming into the area, with suggestions including car sharing and park and ride schemes. Improved cycle routes and facilities for cyclists have been provided (including bike storage and shower facilities) and shuttle buses to the railway station have been put on, but ultimately the majority of employees like to drive to work for convenience. Councillor Fitzsimmons believes there should be enough parking spaces allowed during planning for this inevitability. At the moment the Government will only allow a certain percentage of parking spaces relating to the number of proposed employees in a given building.

Councillor Fitzsimmons added that from April 2013 Government policy will change so that the Borough Council will collect some of the business rates for redistribution back into the local economy, rather than it all currently going to central Government. As this is the case, we need to try to do all we can to encourage businesses to locate in Birchwood, rather than at nearby alternative competing locations, such as the Omega site.

Councillor Balding commented that if the traffic management is sorted out, then Birchwood would be more attractive for businesses. Councillor Balding added that he had been unable to find any information regarding this application and had not had his telephone calls to the Borough Council relating to the matter returned.

Action Clerk's office to locate the original plans for this building and check if there was a traffic survey/statement prepared at the time.

- (g) 205 Cavendish Place, Birchwood, WA3 6WU. Application for a non-material amendment following previously approved application 2012/20893 – insertion of additional window at ground floor in north elevation.

136/2013 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Councillor Fitzsimmons proposed that the Payment of Accounts be approved and Councillor Evans seconded the proposal.

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm.