

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT
PARKERS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE, DELENTY DRIVE, RISLEY
ON TUESDAY 28TH JANUARY 2014

Present: Councillor Nelson in the Chair
Councillors Allman, Balding, Bolton, Bowden, Evans, Fitzsimmons,
T. Hearldon, M.Hearldon and Spencer

Clerk – Mrs. F. McDonald
Deputy Clerk – Mrs. C Caddock
Business and Finance Officer - Mr. G. Crowe

PCSO Robinson (formerly Shacklock)

2 residents

Apologies: Councillor Higgins

Councillor Fitzsimmons proposed, Councillor M. Hearldon seconded and it was resolved that:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council which took place on Tuesday, 26th November 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.

001/2014 **RECESS**

(a) **Police Monthly Update**

PCSO Robinson reported on policing activities that had taken place over the last few weeks in Birchwood. Priorities for the upcoming month are:

- (i) Burglaries; due to an overall increase in burglaries throughout the Warrington East area. However, there have been more burglaries/break-ins in Birchwood recently, including Risley Moss which has been targeted again. Residents in areas affected will be leafleted with advice, particularly as they appear to be targeted crimes when people are known to be out at work.
- (ii) Drugs; the PCSOs continue to receive good intelligence from the community and a number of cannabis farms in the area have been found and put out of action. PCSO Robinson stated that if residents have the slightest suspicion that something is not 'quite right', they should report it, as it may be significant.
- (iii) Parking on Glover Road – Police are monitoring the situation and have spoken to a local business asking them to contact its employees regarding this matter. Cars will be ticketed if they are parking dangerously; advisory notices will be issued to those parking inconsiderately.

Councillor Nelson offered a note of thanks to Mr. C. Bolton for the contact information he was able to help with.

Another issue raised is that of blue bins going missing in Oakwood. Several blue bins have been found burnt out on part of the Brook Footpath. PCSO Robinson stated that people need to ensure they secure their bins as soon as possible after they have been emptied and not put them out until necessary.

Councillor Balding suggested that a 'no fires' sign within the area the bins are being taken to to be set alight may make people think twice.

A resident said that there is a bench near Lyster Close on the Brook Footpath and there are often indications that things are being set on fire by this bench.

PCSO Robinson stated that it is only recently that the Police have received formal reports about this matter and they will be monitoring the area more closely, particularly in the evenings.

PCSO Robinson reported on some incidents of anti social behaviour that had occurred within Birchwood.

Councillor Evans asked whether there was a Home Watch Coordinator who could set up schemes in Birchwood.

PCSO Robinson stated that the Police have packs that they can offer to volunteers who are interested in setting up a scheme, but they cannot coordinate the scheme.

Councillor Bolton confirmed that Home Watch is a separate organisation from the Police.

Councillor Nelson asked if Members wished for this to be put on the agenda for the February meeting; which was agreed.

Action Home Watch to be put on the agenda for the February meeting.

The issue of the joint Police/Town Council surgeries was raised with PCSO Robinson; these are still rarely attended by any residents.

It was proposed asking Inspector Adkins whether he would approve trying a one hour session in the afternoon of the first Saturday of every month for three months, and if this did not achieve a better attendance, to cancel the surgeries, so that the PCSOs can continue on their patrols, where they have more contact with the local community.

Councillor M. Hearldon asked if a table in the mall might attract more people.

Councillor Nelson stated that the issue with that is that it could attract people from outside Birchwood and would then not be serving its intended purpose.

PCSO Robinson added that the Inspector would probably not sanction that either, as it could be interpreted that a PCSO is not doing their job.

Action PCSO Robinson to speak to Inspector Adkins about the proposed new surgery date/time.

Members thanked PCSO Robinson for attending.

PCSO Robinson left the meeting.

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) **Resident's concern regarding parts of the Brook Footpath**

A local resident attended tonight's meeting to ask for the Town Council's assistance in putting pressure on Warrington Borough Council to undertake some maintenance on part of the Brook Footpath that is in a very poor state of repair.

Photographs were circulated to Members to show how muddy a significant section of the path is.

Prior to the meeting, following initial email correspondence with the resident, the Clerk's office had contacted the Borough Council regarding this matter. The resident received the following response from the Borough Council: ". . . *Unfortunately funding is not available for the path. All local authorities are going through a difficult period. I will record your request and add it to the outstanding tasks. At this moment I am unable to advise you what year the path may be tackled.*"

The resident stated that this is an important link footpath, properly signposted, from Dewhurst Road to the Forest Park. It is very well used by cyclists and pedestrians. He is concerned that if it is neglected it will practically disappear. He said that in a time when people are being encouraged to walk and cycle, with new footpaths and cycleways being heralded as much needed improvements in the area, he cannot understand why this significant route is being disregarded. He added that at present, if anyone was to want to walk that way to work, they would need two pairs of shoes as they would not be able to get through the mud unscathed.

Councillor Nelson agreed that given the fuss being made of the new cycleways, she finds it difficult to comprehend how such a vital route can be overlooked.

The resident stated that it is over 15 to 20 years since the section up to McCarthy Close was asphalted; apart from some grass cutting, there has been no regular maintenance of the muddy part of the Brook Footpath that he is aware of.

Councillor Nelson acknowledged that the Borough Council would need to be able to find some funding from somewhere.

Councillor Bolton suggested that if there is a future suitable planning application that a Section 106 could be attached to to obtain the funding for the path, we should flag it up to the Borough Council.

Members agreed with the resident that something needs to be done about the path and that the Town Council will try to negotiate with the Borough Council to see if there is some way it can be dealt with sooner rather than later.

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

(c) **Resident's Concern re: Underpass Birchwood Fire Station to Powell Avenue**

During the week preceding tonight's meeting the Clerk's office had been in contact with Warrington Borough Council regarding flooding of the underpass that runs between Birchwood Fire Station and Powell Avenue.

We had received complaints from local businesses as well as residents. When the Clerk went to investigate, the water was nearly three inches deep at its lowest point and over six inches deep at its highest; making it impassable for most people without getting wet feet, unless they had wellington boots on.

We had reports of people scrambling up the muddy embankment and crossing the busy road to avoid the flood and of children getting soaked feet on their way to and from school.

This is a very well used route and there is no easy or quick alternative way round.

Two years ago, the resident who came to speak about this matter again tonight had raised concerns when water running diagonally across the path had frozen and her husband had sustained a head injury from a slip and fall.

Subsequent negotiations between the Town Council and the Borough Council had eventually led to new drains being installed and some landscaping work being undertaken by the Borough Council in order to try to create a natural soak-away for water running down the embankment. We were also led to believe that the gulleys would be regularly cleaned to prevent them silting up and overflowing.

At tonight's meeting, the resident stated that her husband had, last week, witnessed business men trying to get to work, schoolchildren trying to get to school and parents trying to get to the two local nurseries on Delenty Drive, unable to get through the underpass.

She stated that the actions taken have clearly not worked and even with a relatively small amount of rain, the underpass has flooded. The resident added that she believes pressure needs to be put on the Borough Council to fix this problem properly once and for all. She is worried that it remains unsafe as water still runs diagonally despite the new grids due to the way the grass verges are growing. In freezing weather this has the potential to cause a dangerous icy surface again.

The resident asked whether the underpass is still scheduled to be dealt with as part of the improvement scheme for the footpaths and cycleways, which we had been led to believe, during the consultation stages, that it would be. Previous minutes of the November Council meeting had recorded information from Warrington Borough Council stating that due to a lack of sufficient funding, some of the proposed improvements would no longer be taking place.

Members had previously thought that the drainage issues would be properly addressed as the underpass was part of the scheme.

Action Clerk's office to clarify if the underpass is still included in the scheme or not.

Councillor Bolton asked what the arrangements for gritting are, if it freezes.

The Clerk stated that the Maintenance Team will go out as soon as possible to grit on icy mornings once the schools and play areas have been checked. If the weather forecast has predicted ice, they will often grit the day before. There is a grit bin at the entrance to the underpass that can be used by the general public to spread some grit if the team is not available (early mornings/evenings/weekends etc.).

(d) **Resident's Query Re: Litter on Verges of Birchwood Way**

A resident commented that sections of Birchwood Way from Junction 11 of the M62, all the way to the traffic lights opposite Ryfields on the way into Warrington are an eyesore due to the amount of litter on the grass verges. She added that it is not a very good advertisement for people coming into Birchwood who might be thinking of investing or bringing their business to the area.

Councillor Nelson informed the resident that Birchwood Town Council's boundary is the motorway bridge before College Place Roundabout.

Councillor Bowden stated that maintenance on roads that have a 40mph speed limit or above require a rolling road block or other traffic management measures to protect the workers. This would have to be done by Warrington Borough Council and they are costly to arrange.

The resident stated that the teams used to pick these verges in previous years.

The Clerk responded that we can no longer pick these stretches of road for the health and safety reasons as stated previously by Councillor Bowden.

These are very fast stretches of road 50mph/60mph. There have been several accidents over the last few years along Birchwood Way where vehicles have mounted the grass verges. It is not safe for the operatives. The team occasionally picks some of the very wide stretches, but cannot do the rest safely without a rolling road block.

002/2014 **SILVER LANE – ISSUES RE: FLYTIPPING AND TRAVELLERS/GYPSIES**

At the November 2013 meeting, a local resident had attended to express his concerns about the ongoing issues regarding the Croft side of Silver Lane (not technically within our Parish); specifically regarding ongoing flytipping and the lane being used by travellers/gypsies and the mess they leave behind.

Following discussions it was suggested that the Clerk's office could arrange for Biffa to receive feedback from the residents.

At tonight's meeting the Clerk reported that she was still awaiting further correspondence from Biffa regarding liaising with additional residents.

Regarding the opposite end of Silver Lane, near Junction 11, the Clerk stated that Louis Banks from Warrington Borough Council has informed us that the Woodland Trust has recently updated the maps on their website showing their boundaries and it appears that they own the land where the flytipping has taken place and would therefore be responsible for cleaning it up.

Councillor Balding declared an interest as he is a volunteer with the Woodland Trust on a number of local schemes.

Councillor Balding queried the area of responsibility as he believes that some of the flytipping is on the track which the farmer owns. He stated that until the farmer sorts out the issue of access to the lane there is not much the Woodland Trust can do.

The Clerk confirmed that the Borough Council is working on information supplied by the Woodland Trust and is liaising with them regarding this matter at present.

003/2014 **POTENTIAL PARKING ISSUES NEAR BIRCHWOOD STATION**

At the November meeting it was reported that a concern had been raised that the owners of the shopping centre want to remove the pay and display car park and keep it solely for users of the shopping centre, with a three hour time limit for parking.

The Clerk's office was asked to establish whether this is rumour or fact.

At tonight's meeting the Clerk reported that the Shopping Centre Manager had informed her that the pay and display car park is being retained.

Information received relating to a planning application for additional parking at the rear of Spencer House has confirmed this is the case.

004/2014 **JOINT POLICE/TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY**

This was discussed earlier in the meeting (see Minute 001/2014 (a)) when the issue of the joint Police/Town Council surgeries was raised with PCSO Robinson.

PCSO Robinson will ask Inspector Adkins whether he would approve trying to improve attendance by changing the time and dates of the surgery to a one hour session in the afternoon of the first Saturday of every month, for three months.

If this does not achieve a better attendance Members propose to cancel the surgeries, so that the PCSOs can continue on their patrols, where they have more contact with the local community.

Members believe that as there are already many ways that residents raise their concerns with the Town Council that the surgery is not really required from our perspective.

Action Clerk's office to liaise with the Police regarding arrangements for the surgeries.

005/2014 **ADMIRALS SQUARE**

At the November 2013 meeting, Councillor T. Hearldon reported the complaints she has received about the poor and potentially dangerous condition of the paving between the shops in Admirals Square and the school gates of Birchwood Primary School in Oakwood.

The Clerk's office was asked to contact the Borough Council regarding this matter.

At tonight's meeting the Clerk reported that she sent photographs of the state of the paving and the area to the Borough Council. They responded by stating it was not their land. The Clerk said that she replied that we know this, but are asking for the Borough Council's help in putting pressure on the landlord to rectify the matter.

This remains ongoing.

006/2014 **EMERGENCY PLANNING**

The Clerk asked Members for dates that they may be available to visit Warrington Borough Council's emergency centre which operates in the event of an emergency in the borough.

Members asked if the Clerk's office could request the Borough Council to suggest some dates and times that would be convenient for them.

Action Clerk's office to contact the Borough Council regarding this matter.

007/2014 **UPDATE ON PLANNING MATTERS**

Planning Appeals

Planning Appeal References: APP/MO655/A/13/2196226 (Full Planning) and APP/MO655/C/219229 (Enforcement). Prospect Farm, Prospect Lane, Rixton-with-Glazebrook, WA3 6EH - Proposed change of use to provide a clay pigeon shooting club, clubhouse and associated parking.

We are awaiting the result of this appeal.

Planning Applications

- (a) Application 2013/21632 Overflow Car Park to the rear of Spencer House, Birchwood.

This application has been **approved with conditions**.

We have been informed by the Borough Council that: *"The submitted car park management plan now effectively limits the parking that is available to businesses using the existing and proposed car park to a level of provision which accords with the adopted Council's adopted maximum standards – this has now been confirmed by the highways section of the Council. It also ensures that the use of Birchwood Centre car park is available for users of the railway station. The plan also sets out an action plan to promote the use of sustainable transport."*

- (b) Application No. 2013/22530 Risley Primary Substation, Warrington Road, Risley, WA3 7AQ. Lawful Development Certificate (Section 192) – Proposed installation of 13m high telecommunication tower with panel antenna and ancillary equipment, cabling and fixings in existing primary substation.

This application has been **approved**. The siting of the mast has been moved slightly so that it is not situated directly behind a property on Cross Lane South.

- (d) Application No. 2013/22569 Bridgewater Place, 305 Birchwood Park. Proposed change of use from use class B1(a) (Offices) to use class D1 (Law Courts) for a temporary period of up to 3 years (to cover the Hillsborough Inquiry).

This application has been **approved with conditions**.

008/2014 **ENCOUNTER STATUE LIGHTING**

The Clerk reported that Dave Vasey at Warrington Borough Council will contact Warrington 2000 to try to progress this matter.

009/2014 **BIRCHWOOD RAIL STATION –ACCESS FOR ALL**

The Clerk reported that we are awaiting a further update from Warrington Borough Council regarding this matter.

The Clerk added that we have received several complaints about the state of the footpath that runs from the opposite side of the tracks (trains to Liverpool side) down to Longbarn. The Borough Council informed us that this is the responsibility of Network Rail to keep clean and maintained.

The Clerk reported that she has tried to contact Network Rail and is currently awaiting a response from them.

010/2014 **LOCAL PINCH POINT FUND BID – BIRCHWOOD TRAFFIC RELIEF PACKAGE**

The Clerk reported that we have been informed by the Borough Council that the bid was unsuccessful.

011/2014 **PARISH LIAISON GROUP MEETING**

The Clerk reported that the date for the next Parish Liaison Group Meeting is Monday, 31st March 2014 at 6.30pm, in the Town Hall.

The main topic of discussion from the Borough Council will be Street Lighting Capital Investment Project. Officers from the department will be on hand to deliver a short presentation and to show images or examples of the replacement lights.

The Clerk hopes to be able to attend this meeting.

012/2014 **FOOTBRIDGE SURFACE CONCERNS**

At the November 2013 meeting, the Clerk reported that an email had been sent to the Borough Council regarding the surface of the footbridge adjacent to the Town Council offices. This surface gets very slippery if it is frosty and or icy before our team has a chance to grit it. We have asked if there is anything that can be done to improve the surface, as it seems to hold standing water.

We have still not yet received a reply.

013/2014 **'REMEMBRANCE BEDZZ SCHEME'**

At the November 2013 meeting the Clerk reported on details received of a 'Remembrance Bedzz' scheme – designed to honour those passed from 1914 – 2014 and at the same time encourage pollination for the future.

Members agreed they would like the 'dog bone' island to be sown with poppy seeds as part of this scheme. As this land belongs to the Borough Council, they would have to be consulted about this proposal.

At tonight's meeting, the Clerk reported that the Borough Council has agreed to sow red poppies on the 'dog bone' island; without registering to be part of the formal scheme.

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

014/2014 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Received – December 2013 Neighbourhoods Bulletin.
- (b) Received – LifeTime timetable of activities. See www.lifetimegateway.org.uk for more details.
- (c) Sent/received – Emails re: leaves/road and footpath sweepers; asking for a schedule from Warrington Borough Council.
- (d) Sent – Confirmation that our Chair will be attending the Rixton with Glazebrook Civic Service.
- (e) Sent – Correspondence relating to lighting issues on the ‘Spinal Path’.
- (f) Sent – Correspondence re: missing grid covers in a subway near Heather Close – now replaced.
- (g) Received – Notification that the East Neighbourhood Team will be moving to Fearnhead Community Centre on 13th January 2014.
- (h) Received – Final Consultation Correspondence re: Polling District and Places Review 2013/2014; the Town Council’s and Councillor Bowden’s comments are already included.
- (i) Received – Documents relating to the Public Rights of Way Forum Meeting (15/01/14).
- (j) Received – Email regarding damage to swing on Oakwood Local Park, done by a dog.
- (k) Received – January Neighbourhoods Bulletin.
- (l) Received/sent – emails re: maintenance of parts of the Brook Footpath.
This was discussed earlier in the meeting during Recess (see Minute 001/2014 (b)).
- (m) Received – link to WBC’s budget proposals for the financial year 2014/2015
http://www.warrington.gov.uk/downloads/file/5197/2014-15_budget_consultation
- (n) Received- Details of a Member training event, ‘The Role of Councillors in Planning’.
Councillor Bowden confirmed that he would be attending in his capacity as a Borough Councillor.
- (o) Received – Notification that the Borough Council has set up a working group to mark Warrington’s commemoration of WW1; enquiring about plans any local groups or organisations may already be proposing.

The Clerk reported that we had received information about some WW1 themed workshops and events which we had passed on to Dave Hazelhurst, thinking it might be possible to incorporate some into the carnival.

The Clerk added that the carnival will be taking place on 1st June this year and that Dave Hazelhurst will be calling a meeting of the Carnival Committee soon.

- (p) Received – East Area Board meeting papers for 22nd January.
- (q) Sent/received – Correspondence relating to the recent flooding of the underpass near Birchwood Fire Station (discussed earlier in the meeting see Minute 001/2014 (c)).
- (r) Received – East Area Plan Draft Priorities document.
- (s) Received – Request for preferred dates for the late summer Warrington Rights of Way Forum meeting.
- (t) Received – Reminder that the deadline for the HS2 Consultation is 31st January 2014.

015/2014 **BIRCHWOOD FORUM**

- (a) Received – Details of roadworks on M602 starting 9/12/13 running to 13/4/14.
- (b) Received – Details of next Forum meeting.

016/2014 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received - Various updates and information emails from Warrington Voluntary Action.
- (b) Received – Update re: Consultation of Future Plans for Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service.
- (c) Received – E-bulletin from Big Lottery Fund – December 2013.
- (d) Received/sent – correspondence re: amending details for the Town Council on the Warrington Family Services Directory.
- (e) Received – Consultation re: changes to Oakwood Post Office. Details have been put on our website. Changes will be similar to those implemented at Gorse Covert Post Office.
- (f) Received – ‘Parklife’ – January 2014.
- (g) Received – Invitation for the Chair to attend Walton Parish Council’s Civic Service. A reply has been sent.
- (h) Received/sent – Correspondence relating to Your Housing’s proposals to develop a community garden at Birchwood Fire Station.

The Clerk stated that residents who have previously contacted us regarding this matter have been written to at their last known address/email address asking for permission to pass their details on to Bernadette Bell if they are interested in the proposed scheme.

- (i) Received – Annual Report 2013 from Cheshire County Playing Fields Association.
- (j) Received – From Cheshire Community Action: Details of a Neighbourhood Planning Seminar, information re: Community Led Planning, information re: Community Land Trusts, ‘Supporting Our Rural Communities’ Annual Review 2012 – 2013 and new address details.

- (k) Received – Correspondence from a resident relating to the change to the number 17 bus service which no longer runs to Gorse Covert; its route terminates at Birchwood Station.

Councillor Bowden stated that negotiations were held with Network Warrington when the changes to the frequency and route were first proposed. Network Warrington is an entirely separate company from the Borough Council. The number 17 service had initially been set up with money from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, but it has not been ‘paying its way’. It had been expected that there would have been a much greater passenger take up than there actually was.

The change in service is a commercial decision by Network Warrington, which, despite the representations made, will not alter the decision on the matter.

- (l) Received – Details of a ‘Dragon’s Den’ type event that Your Housing is running for its tenants.
- (m) Received – Poster for the Friends of Gorse Covert Mounds Group Meeting – 5th February. These were placed on our notice boards.

017/2014 **iCAN ALERTS**

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

- (a) Possible boiler warranty scam
- (b) Possible Fed-ex phishing email
- (c) BMW phishing email
- (d) Warning – pushy doorstep callers offering carpet cleaning
- (e) Survey about the iCAN service
- (f) Scam telephone cold calls re: mobility aids.

018/2014 **SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS**

- (a) Received – E-news bulletins (4/12/2013, 18/12/2013, 07/01/2014, 17/01/2014).
- (b) Received – Survey relating to the Institute of Local Council Management.

019/2014 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received – Police & Crime Commissioner Update – Issue 3.
- (b) Received – Alerts re: increase in burglaries in various areas of Warrington East and ‘Cat Flap’ burglaries (do not leave keys in locks of doors that have cat flaps in them).
- (c) Received – National Neighbourhood and Homewatch Evaluation Survey.
- (d) Sent/received – Emails asking if the PCSOs could speak to a local business re: an uncovered skip as items were being blown off, making it difficult to keep the area clean; we have received complaints. PCSO Davies said she would speak to the company. The skip has since been removed.
- (e) Sent/received – Emails re: car licence plates found down a grid in Locking Stumps.

- (f) Received – Invitation for Parish Council representatives to meet the Police & Crime Commissioner on 4th February 2014 in Culcheth and a copy of issues raised at the last meeting.

Councillor Balding asked if the Chair would be attending and if not, he offered to attend as a representative from the Town Council.

Councillor Nelson stated that Councillor Higgins (not present at tonight's meeting) already holds regular meetings with the Police and Crime Commissioner in his role as a Borough Councillor.

Councillor Bowden stated that the role puts immense pressure on public finances and that just the election for the Police and Crime Commissioner in Cheshire had cost in the region of £1 million.

Councillor Fitzsimmons **proposed a vote** that the Town Council declines the invitation on the grounds that the Town Council would prefer the post(s) to be abolished because of the enormous expense and inefficiency of Police and Crime Commissioners' offices, particularly in times of austerity.

Ten Members voted in favour of this proposal. Councillor Balding voted against.

The Town Council will not be sending a representative to the meeting.

- (g) Received – Details of 12 volunteering opportunities with the Commissioner; for further information visit the Police & Crime Commissioner's website.
- (h) Received – Alert re: credit card scam with victims being cold called from someone pretending to be a Police Officer stating their credit cards have been used in a crime and are required as evidence, they then arrange for the victim to hand over their cards to a 'taxi driver' they send to collect them.

020/2014 **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

- (a) Received – Details of January 2014 training sessions.
- (b) Received – Letter to all Local Councils asking for items to be raised at ChALC's December meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- (c) Received – Details of Clerk vacancy for Daresbury Parish Council.
- (d) Received – Questionnaire re: arrangements for 2014 AGM.
- (e) Received – Request for nominations re: Royal Garden Party.
- (f) Received – ChALC News and Rural Opportunities Bulletin – January 2014.
- (g) Received – Details of a Planning Seminar – 8th April 2014.
- (h) Received – Details of a seminar 'Working in Partnership Rural Services Network'.

021/2014 **PRESS ARTICLES**

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

022/2014 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

LGC – 28/11/13, 05/12/13, 12/12/13, 16/01/14
LCR – Winter 2013
Clerks & Councils Direct – January 2014

023/2014 **MEMBERS' REFERRALS MADE VIA THE CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING**

There were no Members' referrals made prior to the issue of the Clerk's report.

024/2014 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

(a) **Warrington Borough Council**

- (i) Received – Correspondence re: Determination of Planning Applications and Parish Council Consultations.
- (ii) Received - Consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement and Hot Food Takeaway SPD. Hard copy available to view in the office.
- (iii) Received – Draft Statement of Community Involvement. Hard copy available to view in the office.
- (iv) Received – Notification re: the Planning Application Sub-Committee meeting on 4/12/13 and 8/01/14. There were no items of specific relevance to Birchwood on the agenda for discussion.
- (v) Received – Notification re: the Development Management Committee meetings on 5/12/13, 9/1/14 and 23/1/14. There were no items of specific relevance to Birchwood on the agendas for discussion.
- (vi) Received – Additional Consultation on Post submission Proposed Modifications to the Local Plan Core Strategy and announcement of additional Examination Hearing Session.

Correspondence has been sent to the Borough Council requesting confirmation that inaccuracies noticed by Councillor Bolton had been amended since the 2012 consultation. i.e. that:

(a) **Statutory Listed Buildings**

“Croft Parish Council Community House, Delenty Drive, Birchwood and Barn adjoining Croft Parish Council Community House, Delenty Drive, Birchwood” need updating to “Birchwood Town Council Premises, Delenty Drive, Birchwood”

(b) **Locally Listed Buildings**

“Rowe Farmhouse, Warrington Road, Birchwood” - this is north of Silver Lane, so presumably it should be in Croft?

Heathfield House has now been re-instated and should be back on the list.

The Gun Nest / Pillbox is actually a Police Sentry Post, for the Ordnance Factory. It was on the Local List in 2006, but shown as Burtonwood, not Birchwood. Christine Carruthers assured Councillor Bolton (in her role at that time as WBC councillor) that this administrative error would be corrected.

025/2014 **PLANNING APPEAL**

- (a) APP/M0655/A/13/2209344 Heathfield House, Delenty Drive, WA3 6AP. Proposed single storey extension to rear of building to replace outbuilding and provide additional nursery accommodation to provide an additional 6 childcare spaces (resubmission 2012/20645).

026/2014 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

- (a) Application No. 2013/22569 Bridgewater Place, 305 Birchwood Park. Proposed change of use from class B1 (a) (offices) to class D1 (Law Courts) for a period of up to 3 years. **Approved with conditions**

The conditions relating to this application seek to address traffic management concerns; however, the Clerk stated that the local Police still have concerns over potential traffic management issues.

- (b) Application No. 2013/22848 2 Benson Road, Birchwood. Proposed internally illuminated sign. **Withdrawn**
- (c) Application No. 2013/22787 1000 Birchwood Boulevard, Birchwood. Proposed 3m high secure fence to existing rear open car park and construction of a 16.3m x 7.68m x 3.15m high garage compound, inc. fixing a proposed new radio antenna to the outside of the existing building. **Approved with conditions**
- (d) Application No. 2013/22723 49 Mansfield Close, Birchwood. Proposed single storey rear extension and two storey side extension. **Approved with conditions**
- (e) Application No. 2013/22652 177 Gorse Covert Road, Birchwood. Proposed two storey side extension comprising new extended kitchen, reception room, toilet, 2 bedrooms and bathroom. **Withdrawn**
- (f) Application No. 2013/22530 Risley Primary Substation, WA3 7AQ. Lawful Development Certificate. Proposed installation of 13m high telecommunication tower with panel antenna and ancillary equipment, cabling and fixings in existing primary substation. **Approved**
- (g) Application No. 2013/22899 204 Cavendish Place, Birchwood. Proposed external concrete slab. **Approved with conditions**
- (h) Application No. 2013/22577 Former Crazy Hog Catering, 24 Trinity Court, Birchwood. Retrospective change of use to a community fitness and boxing gym. **Approved with conditions**

027/2014 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/

Certain applications are not Planning Applications and therefore there is no statutory opportunity to allow 21 days for comments. Such applications are: Non material amendment applications, Lawful development certificates (S192) and 28 day prior approval/determination applications. In respect of any of these types of applications, they would be received on an information basis only.

- (a) Application No. 2013/22903 5 Havisham Close, Birchwood. Proposed single storey kitchen, sitting room, utility room extension to side and rear elevations.
- (b) Application No. 2013/22946 Gorse Covert Day Centre, Adlington Court, Birchwood, WA3 6PL. Proposed internal alterations to Day Centre to refurbish main entrance with automatic doors and counter. Forming new activity rooms with accessible WC/changing and shower facilities directly off the room. New link glazed corridor to rear of building.
- (c) Application No. 2013/22964 305 Bridgewater Place, Birchwood Park. Proposed external doors (2 new public entrance, 1 new jury entrance, 3 new fire escapes) various external screens, plant machinery (air handling unit) and minor landscape, design changes.
- (d) Application No. 2013/22976 Asda Stores, Birchwood. Lawful Development Certificate (section 192) proposed A2 concession (to remain ancillary to the main supermarket function).
- (e) Application No. 2014/23051 4 Patterson Close, WA3 6QR. Single storey side and rear extension with associated landscaping and drainage works.
- (f) Application No. 2013/22938 Thompson House, Faraday Street, WA3 6GA. Proposed alterations to external area including hard and soft landscaping.
- (g) Application No. 2014/23031 Land at Aston Ave, Birchwood Park. Non-material amendment (changes to number of external doors and changes to the bulk head to the front of the building) following previously approved application 2012/20927.

Those Members present did not make any objections to the above applications.

028/2014 CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Received – Department for Communities and Local Government Neighbourhood Planning Response to the National Association of Local Councils' request for clarification on the position of neighbourhood plans, where a local authority's Local Plan is emerging.

029/2014 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Councillor Fitzsimmons **proposed** the Payment of Accounts be approved and Councillor M. Hearldon **seconded** the proposal. This was agreed by those Members present.

This part of the meeting concluded at 8.25pm