

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT
PARKERS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE, DELENTY DRIVE, RISLEY
ON TUESDAY 24TH JUNE 2014

Present: Councillor Higgins in the Chair
Councillors Allman, Balding, C. Bolton, J. Bolton, Evans, Fitzsimmons,
M. Hearldon, T. Hearldon and Nelson

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

7 residents

PCSO Wendy Stanley

Apologies: Councillors Bowden and Spencer

Councillor Evans proposed, Councillor M. Hearldon seconded and it was RESOLVED THAT:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Town Meeting which took place on Tuesday, 27th May 2014, be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

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

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Council Meeting which took place on Tuesday, 27th May 2014, 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.

271/2014 **RECESS**

(a) **Police Monthly Update**

PCSO Stanley introduced herself as the new additional PCSO for Birchwood and reported on policing activities that had taken place in the area over the last few weeks.

There have been reports of mini-motos in the area of Gorse Covert, Birchwood Forest Park and Trefoil Close. Two mini-motos were seized in Trefoil Close. The PCSOs have not yet been able to apprehend anyone in Gorse Covert or on the Forest Park as the riders have gone before they reach the scene.

On two occasions there were reports of youths stealing golf balls whilst people were trying to play golf at Birchwood Golf Club. The offenders ran off before the PCSOs could apprehend them. There have not been any further incidents recently.

Two people were arrested on 23rd June for stealing a trolley load of goods worth around £250 from Asda at the shopping centre. They were not local to the area.

There have been some complaints about parking on Cross Lane South. The PCSOs think they may belong to employees of local businesses who park up and then go into work.

There have also been issues on Mansfield Close and Fisherfield Drive relating to parking on pavements, which can be dealt with as an obstruction when people are unable to pass, for example someone using a mobility scooter or with a pushchair.

PCSO Stanley said that there had not been many anti social behaviour issues reported recently and that it had been very quiet when the Year 11s left Birchwood Community High School. There had been one incident reported regarding noise outside the Turf and Feather Public House in the early hours of one morning.

There have been two incidents that the Police had dealt with in the business areas.

Councillor Evans stated that he still objects to the PCSOs, who Birchwood residents fund, attending to incidents in business areas, when the local businesses had refused to put any money towards employing them in the area.

Councillor Nelson stated that we could possibly complain if it was the PCSO who is specifically designated to Birchwood and funded by our residents.

PCSO Stanley explained that the PCSOs don't undertake investigations; they are usually asked to do other related tasks, such as collecting CCTV evidence.

Members thanked PCSO Stanley for attending 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) **Issues Raised by Local Residents**

A number of local residents attended tonight's meeting and raised a variety of issues:

- (i) Bird mess near Bet Fred – a resident states that there is a lot of mess which can carry disease and that the bird prevention measures in place there are not adequate.

Action Clerk's office to contact Birchwood Shopping Centre about this matter.

- (ii) Bushes overgrowing path near Hamnett Court – a resident stated that no one seems to be prepared to take responsibility for cutting these back.

Action Clerk's office to try to find out who owns the shrubbery with a view to asking them to cut them back (or obtaining permission for us to do it).

- (iii) Path at the rear of Bet Fred – a resident stated that because cars are parked there it never gets cleaned. It is full of debris and is slippery when wet; people have to walk in the road.

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

- (iv) Roundabout near the Asda petrol station – a resident said the height of the island and overgrown shrubbery make this dangerous for drivers and pedestrians alike.

The Clerk stated that Town Council has raised this matter with the Borough Council on a number of previous occasions. In the past we have been told that the cost of removing the soil and shrubbery on the roundabout is prohibitive.

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

- (v) Lack of roadsweepers to keep the area clean – a resident said that she thinks the Borough Council should purchase a roadsweeper for the Town Council and train a member of Town Council staff to use it or loan one to the Town Council and train a Member of staff as the footpaths do not get swept often enough. She has seen two roadsweepers operating in an area outside of Birchwood that she believes do not require as much attention.

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

- (vi) Planters – a resident stated that she believes these are a waste of money and don't make a significant enough impact on the area to warrant having them. The money should be spent on cleaning up the area instead. She said a lot of other residents agree.

The Chair said that this is really a matter of opinion, but he accepts her point of view.

We have had many compliments about the planters over the years.

Councillor J. Bolton said that the reason the Town Council started to put the planters in place was that we were stopped by the Borough Council from installing hanging baskets; it was going to cost thousands of pounds to have the lighting columns stress tested.

Councillor Higgins stated that the new street lights due to be installed in Birchwood during 2016/17 will be able to take the weight of baskets; we might be able to reconsider having baskets at that point in time.

- (vii) Debris around some of the local pathways – a resident raised a concern about pathways having old debris from leaves, etc. on them, specifically in and around Noble Close and the Spinal path area.

Councillor T. Hearldon stated that there is a walkabout taking place on 16th July which she will be going on and Noble Close is included in the route. She will pay attention to the Closes. Shrub cutting work (which is Your Housing Group's responsibility in that area) has, however, only just started.

Councillor Nelson stated that Members of the Town Council share residents' frustrations about the area starting to look a bit unkempt, but the Borough Council has suffered significant budget cuts once again from Central Government. She added that a lot of the concerns about the declining maintenance of the area were raised at a meeting that the Town Council had with Warrington Borough Council Officers on Friday 20th June. Councillor Nelson also added that the Town Council is trying to play 'catch up' and instead of being an 'add on' service, we are finding ourselves undertaking more and more of the work that should be undertaken by other organisations.

Action Councillor T. Hearldon to take notes on the walkabout regarding areas that need a clean-up.

- (viii) Overhanging shrubs from private house – a resident asked if the Town Council could assist in getting a resident to cut overgrown shrubbery back that is causing issues by narrowing a footpath. She said that a local resident who has sight issues is finding it difficult and dangerous to negotiate the path because of the overgrowth. Speaking to the owner of the shrubbery has so far proved unsuccessful.

Action Clerk's office to ask the Borough Council to contact the resident regarding his shrubbery (the Borough has enforcement powers that the Town Council does not).

- (ix) A resident said he believes the planters should be kept; he thinks that efforts to make the place look nice should not be curtailed. He noted local press reports that some areas of Birchwood, those that might be seen by people attending the Hillsborough Inquests, seem to be getting more attention than others.
- (x) 20mph signs – a resident commented that a number of the 20mph signs recently installed throughout the area are still obscured by shrubbery. They also had concerns that the posts could be potential collision hazards. They believed that red tarmac with 20mph painted on it would be better.

Councillor Fitzsimmons re-iterated that this is a Government initiative, the funding for which came from Central Government and could not be used for anything else. Private contractors have been installing the sign posts.

Councillor Nelson stated that this matter was raised at the recent meeting with Borough Council Officers. For any additional posts that are installed, the contractors will be asked to cut back any shrubbery that is impeding the signs.

The Town Council has programmed in the cutting back of shrubbery currently obscuring the posts into its work programme over the next couple of weeks.

- (xi) Zebra Crossings – a resident stated that she believes zebra crossings are necessary to assist people cross Ordnance Avenue near the fire station and Admirals Road near to Linnet Grove to allow children to cross safely.

Councillor Nelson said that we have only recently been told that we cannot have a crossing on Admirals Road due to a lack of available funding; but that we could try asking again.

The resident asked if a petition would help.

Councillor J. Bolton stated that a petition would show that some level of public consultation had taken place.

Councillor Fitzsimmons said that many residents would have to cross Admirals Road in order to be able to vote at election times. It could be argued that the route to polling stations should be made as safe as possible.

Action Resident to organise a petition and present it to the Town Council.

Action Clerk's office to write to Warrington Borough Council about the requests for crossings.

- (xii) Disabled resident unable to cut bushes – a resident stated that a neighbour is struggling to get out of her property as the shrubbery is very overgrown and she is in a wheelchair. The area is on the Your Housing Schedule for shrub cutting on the public footpath areas for July.

Action Clerk's office to try to ascertain if the resident is a tenant or whether they own the property. We may be able to assist as a 'one-off' job.

- (xiii) Request for feedback from the May meeting – a resident asked whether we had received any information from Warrington Borough Council regarding their scheduling of grass cutting and other work.

Councillor Higgins stated that this was discussed at the meeting with Warrington Borough Council on 20th June. The Borough is still restructuring and re-shaping services and the process of drafting schedules is currently ongoing.

Mrs Sharon Walls, Public Realm Service Manager from the Borough Council reported that grass cutting is usually on a 6-8 week programme, although some slippages can occur. Birchwood will be programmed for 6 cuts under the current regime, whereas it used to be 12. One grass cutting pass is currently underway.

With regard to weed spraying, this used to be undertaken by contractors for the Borough Council, but Mrs Walls reported that the service has been brought back in-house. There used to be four sprays a year in Birchwood, now there are two. Spraying should start in Birchwood in early July. She also reported that gully cleaners are on a reduced frequency.

The resident asked if this meant it would be another 6-8 weeks before the grass is cut again. This was confirmed.

The resident asked how this compares to other schedules and how does the Town Council's schedules fit in with this and how are we to move forward?

Councillor Higgins replied that he understands residents' frustrations. The Borough Council has its hands tied due to the severe cuts in budgets from Government. The Town Council tries to take on any additional work that it can.

The resident said that the grass cutting is a health and safety issue when it gets so long. He has struggled with sight lines and on occasion he has not been able to see the indicator lights on other vehicles.

Councillor J. Bolton commented that she has heard of a lot of people struggling with hayfever, even those who don't usually suffer and grass pollen is the main culprit at this time of the year.

Councillor Nelson said that she would ask the doctors at Birchwood Medical Centre if they had seen increased incidents of hayfever this year.

The resident stated that the grass when it is cut looks a mess. Clumps are left on the verges and piles of grass are left in the gutters; it is not attractive.

Action Councillor Nelson to ask the Medical Centre if there are increased reports of hayfever this year.

The resident asked if Councillor Fitzsimmons had been able to get an answer to his question that he posed at the May meeting, i.e. what portion of £40 million pounds of funding that the Borough Council has been given to deal with resurfacing works throughout Warrington will be allocated to Birchwood?

Councillor Fitzsimmons stated that he had asked the question but the Borough is as yet unable to give a definite figure. Once the Highways Department has undertaken additional surveys and it has been formally agreed what works need undertaking and where, there should be more information available.

The resident asked about challenging the Borough Council regarding the reduction in services.

Councillor Fitzsimmons stated that at the recent meeting with Borough Council Officers it had been made quite clear that, although mindful of the funding cuts the Borough Council has suffered, the Town Council is unhappy with the current situation and we were expressing complaints we have received (and continue to receive) from residents. The Borough has been reminded that the Town Council is supposed to supplement the services provided by the Borough Council, not replace them. We are, however, trying to find further ways of working together to try to overcome some of the issues.

Councillor Fitzsimmons added that as Birchwood is seen as one of the gateways to Warrington, the Borough has said that it may be possible that the 'entrance' to Birchwood from the motorway could be looked at under a Gateway Improvement Programme that the Borough Council has in place.

Councillor Balding asked whether the information we have received from Warrington Borough Council about the grass cutting could be put on our website.

Councillor Nelson stated that it is already on the Borough Council's website.

Action Clerk's office to put a link on our website to the Borough Council's website re: grass cutting.

272/2014 **STANDING ORDERS 2014/2015**

At the May meeting Members agreed to formally adopting the Standing Orders once one point had been amended. It was proposed that 15 (a) should be changed to read:

"To allow recess for the presentation, by a resident, of any items they wish to bring as an issue to the Council (a time limit of 10 minutes will apply to each resident's issue). There will be a maximum time of 30 minutes allowed for recess."

This change has been made, therefore the Standing Orders have been formally adopted.

273/2014 **NEW 20MPH SIGNAGE**

At the May meeting, a resident commented that many of the signs are obscured by shrubbery.

The Clerk reported that this was one of the items discussed at a meeting held between Town Councillors and Officers and Officers of Warrington Borough Council on 20th June 2014.

Sharon Walls (WBC) had asked if the Town Council could attend to the signs that are currently in place and are covered by shrubbery, but said that the contractors will be instructed to remove shrubbery from around any new signs that are installed as they install them.

This was also discussed earlier in the meeting (see Minute 271/2014 (b)(x)).

Action Clerk's office to ask our Maintenance Team to remove shrubbery from obscured signs.

274/2014 **LANDSCAPING/INFRASTRUCTURE CONCERNS**

The Clerk reported that the meeting requested by the Town Council Members at the May meeting had taken place on 20th June 2014 where matters of concern were discussed between Town Councillors and Officers and Officers of Warrington Borough Council.

The Clerk gave copies of the draft Minutes of the meeting to Members. These were only completed earlier in the day and so must remain in draft form until approved by the Officers of the Borough Council who were present. Several of the items were also discussed earlier in the meeting (see Minute 271/2014 (b) (i – xiii)).

The Clerk stated that with regard to weedkilling, two of our staff are trained to spray weeds and the Borough Council has said it will supply the Town Council with weedkiller if we need it for the small areas we have agreed responsibility for (e.g. the fire station roundabout).

The Clerk stated that we have been advised that the boardwalk by the ponds near the Walled Garden has been replaced by the contractor, but the Borough Council has not yet been out to inspect the work. We have advised them that we will take this area off our daily checking list.

Councillor Allman asked if the Borough inspect it regularly. He suggested that our team should check it perhaps monthly.

The Clerk said that the Borough Council checks the play equipment in the area regularly, but she will have to ask about the boardwalks.

Councillor C. Bolton said that it would not be a statutory duty for us to check the boardwalks, it is more a duty of care, but that it should really be the responsibility of the owner.

Councillor Fitzsimmons reported that it is hoped that the monthly meetings that used to be held between the Town and Borough Council will be reinstated within the next few months.

275/2014 **SALE OF THE SCIENCE PARK**

The Clerk reported that we had received confirmation from Mr Jonathon Walsh that the science park is being sold. There has been a strong level of interest and it seems likely that it will be sold in the next 3 to 4 months. Mr Walsh is optimistic that the estate will remain largely unchanged will all of the positive attributes it currently offers to the broader community.

276/2014 **CARS PARKING ON GLOVER ROAD NEAR ARMSTRONG CLOSE BUS STOP**

At the May meeting, the Clerk stated that, as requested, she has asked the Borough about the possibility of installing double yellow lines and is awaiting a reply.

At tonight's meeting, the Clerk reported that this was one of several items were discussed at a meeting held between Town Councillors and Officers and Officers of Warrington Borough Council on 20th June 2014.

Councillor Fitzsimmons stated that the Borough Council would not put yellow lines down in order to deter just one or two people who continue to park in an anti social manner.

The Borough Council has advised that additional planters can be installed or large boulders.

Members decided that planters would probably be a better option and would offer a bigger visual impact on that corner.

Action Clerk's office to look further into the purchase of planters for Glover Road.

277/2014 **DROPPED KERB REQUESTED IN STONECROP CLOSE**

Councillor Fitzsimmons confirmed that this matter has been dealt with.

278/2014 **REQUEST FOR A CROSSING NEAR COPPERFIELD CLOSE, LOCKING STUMPS**

The Clerk stated that this matter remains ongoing – we have not heard anything further yet about when a site visit might take place.

279/2014 **SILVER LANE**

Councillor Balding declared an interest

The Clerk stated that two armchairs that have been flytipped on the recently cleansed section of Silver Lane will be collected tomorrow by our team.

280/2014 **RESIDENT'S CONCERN REGARDING PART OF THE BROOK FOOTPATH**

The Clerk reported that this was one of several items were discussed at a meeting held between Town Councillors and Officers and Officers of Warrington Borough Council on 20th June 2014.

The Borough Council is looking into whether improvements to the path could be considered under the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) scheme.

The Business and Finance Officer had suggested that the Town Council might be able to make a small contribution towards some improvement works, even though the path is owned by the Borough Council.

With regards to missing benches, the Town Council has two or three benches that it can donate which will be repainted by the Town Council, but will need to be installed by the Borough Council.

The matter of the need for additional/replacement bins was also raised at the meeting with the Borough. The Borough Council is agreeable to supplying the bins, but does not have the resources to empty them. It was agreed that the Town Council would empty them.

Action Town Council to paint the benches as agreed.

Action To continue to liaise with the Borough Council regarding bins and improvements to the path.

281/2014 **RESIDENT'S CONCERN RE: UNDERPASS – FIRE STATION TO POWELL AVENUE**

The Clerk reported that this was one of the items discussed at the meeting held between Town Councillors and Officers and Officers of Warrington Borough Council on 20th June 2014.

There is an ongoing issue with flooding in the area during prolonged periods of rain.

The Borough Council is looking into the current frequency of cleaning the gully and will also look at whether an alternative gully pot would solve the problem.

282/2014 **LITTER ON THE GRASS VERGES OF BIRCHWOOD WAY**

This item ties in with a number of matters already discussed earlier in the meeting (above). At the meeting on 20th June, Mrs Sharon Walls from Warrington Borough Council stated that there is a Gateway Improvement Programme and the entrance to Birchwood will be looked at under that scheme.

283/2014 **JOINT POLICE/TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY**

Councillor M. Hearldon attended the surgery on 7th June 2014. She said just one resident came in order to complain about the apparent decline of maintenance in the area.

Councillor J. Bolton will attend the meeting on 5th July.

284/2014 **ADMIRALS SQUARE**

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council has written to the landlord and sent photographs of the area. The landlord has been informed that any claims for damages will be made against them and if the Borough has to do any work in the area, it will be recharged to the landlord.

285/2014 **EMERGENCY PLANNING**

Councillor J. Bolton presented her report that had been copied to Members in their papers.

The Town Council has already received a presentation from Sue Sylvester who gave us general documents to work through to 'customise' and produce our own plan; although some of it relates to Disaster and Business Resilience, which are separate issues and are being dealt with by the Business and Finance Officer and the Clerk.

Following a discussion on how the Town Council sees its role and responsibilities (if any) with regards to emergency planning, Councillor Fitzsimmons stated that as Chair of Governance for Warrington Borough Council, this comes under his remit. He will take it back to the Borough Council and determine if there is anything further to roll out to local Councils.

Warrington has seen a number of emergency situations arise over the years from bombings to floods and the Borough Council appears to have all the necessary systems in place to deal with such events.

The Town Council has already put a link on its website to the Borough Council's webpage where there is comprehensive information for residents relating to emergency planning.

Councillor J. Bolton suggested we could encourage the take-up of Homewatch schemes.

Councillor Higgins said that the Town Council has tried to do this on a number of occasions, but there has been no interest.

Members agreed to wait until the Governance Committee has met and we receive further information from Councillor Fitzsimmons before deciding whether to become further involved on a local level, or whether it would simply be duplicating what is already in place.

286/2014 **ENCOUNTER STATUE LIGHTING**

The Clerk stated that this matter remains ongoing. It was one of the items discussed at the meeting held between Town Councillors and Officers and Officers of Warrington Borough Council on 20th June 2014.

The Borough Council is going to make enquiries to see if a cost effective solution can be found to enable the statue to be lit again; even if it is just a plain light, rather than the original rotating colour system that proved too costly to maintain.

287/2014 **BIRCHWOOD RAIL STATION – ACCESS FOR ALL**

There is nothing further to report at present. We have requested an update from Warrington Borough Council.

288/2014 **BIRCHWOOD PINCH POINT**

There is nothing further to report at present. We have requested an update from Warrington Borough Council.

289/2014 **FOOTBRIDGE SURFACE CONCERNS**

This was one of the items discussed at the meeting held between Town Councillors and Officers and Officers of Warrington Borough Council on 20th June 2014.

Mr Boyer from the Borough Council said that any work on the footbridges comes out of a limited budget which also covers the whole of bridge structures, including stanchions. Based on the information provided, he did not see the surfaces as being a top priority. He will ask Colin Jenkins to respond as soon as possible.

290/2014 **DOG FOULING STENCIL**

The Clerk reported that she contacted Louis Banks at the Borough Council and given him a list of areas that we would like to have the stencilling done. He has now asked for the Clerk to plot the points on a map.

We have been informed that the PCSOs are currently being trained to issue tickets for dog fouling. The administration of any fines will be undertaken by the Borough Council.

Councillor J. Bolton asked for the path alongside the line of Hawthorne trees on Powell Avenue to be added to the map.

Action To continue to liaise with WBC to arrange for some stencilling to be done.

291/2014 **YOUR HOUSING WALKABOUT**

The Clerk stated that the recent walkabout, which she and Councillor Fitzsimmons attended, took place on 18th June.

The next walkabout is taking place on 16th July; starting at 10am, meeting at the Your Housing office. Councillors Fitzsimmons and T. Hearldon hope to be able to attend this walkabout. The Clerk will not be available, but a member of the Maintenance Team should be able to attend.

292/2014 **WASTE BINS**

This was one of the items discussed at the meeting held between Town Councillors and Officers and Officers of Warrington Borough Council on 20th June 2014.

The Borough Council are going to arrange for a replacement waste bin on Ordnance Avenue that was damaged during the LSTF footpath and cycleway improvement works.

Also, as mentioned earlier in the meeting (see Minute 280/2014) it has been agreed that the Borough Council will provide replacement bins for the Brook Footpath, which the Town Council will take responsibility for emptying.

293/2014 **DEFIBRILLATORS**

There is no further update on this matter at the present time.

294/2014 **FLYTIPPING WITHIN OLIVER PLUNKETT SITE**

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council has been into the site and cleaned up some of the items flytipped on it; however, there are still items that can be seen from outside the perimeter fence that may not have been visible whilst on the site as they are hidden within shrubbery. The Borough Council have been informed about the items still there.

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

295/2014 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Received – Information from Tony Gartside, Building Control Manager at Warrington Borough Council explaining the services of the Local authority Building Control Team.
- (b) Received - Link to questionnaire re: the public's experience of pharmacy services.

- (c) Received – June Neighbourhoods Bulletin.

The Clerk reported that Oakwood fun Day will be taking place on the Village Green on 19th July 2014.

- (d) Received – East Neighbourhood Area Board Papers (meeting 11th June).
- (e) Received – East Area Plan 2014 – request for comments to be made by 20th June 2014.
- (f) Received – Presentation pdfs from the last Parish Liaison Meeting in March re: Street Lighting Capital Project and Warrington Permit Scheme. Date of next meeting is 30th September 2014, 6.30pm. Agenda items are requested for the next meeting.

Members did not have any particular suggestions for agenda items at this point in time.

- (g) Received – Details of a consultation on the proposed Children Centres redesign in Warrington; running from 16th June to 22nd August 2014.
- (h) Received/sent – Various emails re: landscaping queries (this topic was also covered earlier in the meeting – see Minute 274/2014 above).
- (i) Received – Details of an HS2 briefing, 11th July 2014 at the Town Hall.
- (j) Received – Email from Diane White stating that there is a vacancy on the East Neighbourhood Area Board funding appraisal panel; asking if anyone is interested in joining.

296/2014 **BIRCHWOOD FORUM**

- (a) Received – Invitation to the June meeting (19th June) and programme for the meeting.
- (b) Received – Bulletin from Warrington & Co.

297/2014 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received - Various updates and information emails from Warrington Voluntary Action.
- (b) Received – Various issues of the ‘Parklife’ e-newsletter from Birchwood Park.
- (c) Received/sent – Correspondence relating to access for the postmen to properties on Heather Close and the lack of response to email from the Your Housing Group email address.

Cllr Fitzsimmons reported that apparently there had not been enough fobs supplied for the postmen. Your Housing is now dealing with this matter.

- (d) Received/sent – Emails following a complaint from a resident re: changes to bus services 17, 24 and 25. This was passed to Councillor Nelson who has spoken to the resident.
- (e) Received – Details of the Your Housing walkabout (18th June) – Heather Close, Strawberry Close, Campion Close, Trefoil Close, Violet Close, Fern Close and Bracken Close.

- (f) Received – Invitation for the Chair to attend the Civic Service and Parade, 22nd June. The Chair was unable to attend.
- (g) Received – Invitation for the Chair to attend the Penketh Parish Council Civic Service, 6th July. The Chair is unable to attend; however, the Vice Chair will attend in his place.
- (h) Received – Poster for an Athlefit fitness programme, Birchwood Youth and Community Centre, from 9th June for 6 weeks. Posters are displayed on our boards.
- (i) Received – Posters for Locking Stumps Tea Party (14th June). These were displayed on our boards.
- (j) Sent/Received - Correspondence with the Woodland Trust, trying to establish land ownership for an area that was in need of cutting back in order to get permission to work on the shrubbery.

The Maintenance Team has undertaken the work, with permission.

- (k) Received – Flyer from Riders for the Disabled asking for volunteers for Monday and Wednesday evening rides at Milverton Farm, Dam Lane, Rixton. Displayed on our boards.
- (l) Received – Email from Tony Allman, Operations Manager, Hillsborough Inquests re: decision not to produce an update newsletter relating to the Inquests as had initially been envisaged.
- (m) Received - Details of Bike 2 Work Week – 13th – 20th June 2014.
- (n) Received – Details of the Cheshire Village Quiz – open to all villages within Cheshire.
- (o) Sent/received – Emails re: a resident’s concern that the Pill Box on Delenty Drive may have been damaged during building work. The developer has stated he does not believe it has been damaged but that he will check and update us.
- (p) Received – Poster re: Friends of Gorse Covert Mounds Guided Walk; 2nd July 2014. Posters will be displayed on our boards once meeting papers have come down.
- (q) Received – Email from Local Works asking local Councils to submit a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act asking for the Government to give all Parish and Town Councils the right to sell electricity they generate from local schemes.

Birchwood Town Council does not have any schemes to generate electricity.

- (r) Received/sent – Email from resident who complained that the team was working on the flower bed to the rear of the barn as they assumed it was our property and they thought we should not be concentrating on our premises.

A reply has been sent explaining that it is a community flower bed that was last maintained about 10 months ago; but stating that, like any other business, we like to keep our lawned area and hedges, etc. maintained as it would not look good if we did not keep the public facing area of the Town Council tidy. This work is usually scheduled in between other jobs or at the end of a day before the equipment is put away.

298/2014 **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) Scam court email – tricking people into downloading malware. (b) Stop loan sharks email. (c) Scam Paypal email – not sent by Paypal – phishing for personal information. (d) Scam O2 email – claiming your bill is ready to be viewed – not sent by O2. (e) Request for volunteers for the Warrington Moneybox shop.

299/2014 **SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS**

- (a) Received – E-News Bulletins – 29th May and 20th June. The June bulletin included a link to the 2014 Practitioner’s Guide and a consultation on a draft transparency code for other smaller bodies, both of which we have downloaded and copied out.
- (b) Received – SLCC Membership survey.
- (c) Received – Details of vacancies for Branch Rep and Reserve Branch Rep for the Cheshire Branch of the SLCC.

300/2014 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received – Alerts: (i) Shed security and keeping garden furniture etc. secure. (ii) Notice of thefts from motor vehicles in car parks.
- (b) Received – Link to survey re: contribution made by PCSOs since their introduction 10 years ago.
- (c) Received – Warrington East NPT Neighbourhood Policing Team Newsletter – June 2014.

301/2014 **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

- (a) Received – Details of an auditor vacancy at Bunbury.
- (b) Received – Details of a Clerk vacancy at Plumley with Toft and Bexton Parish Council.
- (c) Received – Details of a Chairmanship 2 training session.

302/2014 **PRESS ARTICLES**

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

303/2014 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

LGC – 29/05/14, 05/06/14, 12/06/14
LCR – Summer 2014

304/2014 **MEMBERS’ REFERRALS MADE VIA THE CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING**

(a) **Councillor Balding – Bins and benches Brook Footpath**

Councillor Balding presented Members with some photographs and information regarding the condition of parts of the Brook Footpath and missing bins and benches.

This was also discussed earlier in the meeting (see Minute 280/2014).

It has been agreed with the Borough that they will supply additional/replacement bins which the Town Council will empty. The Town Council has some benches which can be installed by the Borough Council on the Brook Footpath, which we will paint prior to them being installed.

The matter of the condition of sections of the footpath and options on how they can be improved is still under discussion with the Borough Council.

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

Councillor Balding also highlighted an old gate that requires tidying up.

It was agreed that our team could clear up 'loose' items in this area that can be removed without cutting/grinding.

Action Team to be asked to clear up this item as much as possible.

(b) **Councillor Allman – Landscaping issues**

Councillor Allman stated that there are a number of areas where there are sight line issues with regard to hedges/shrubbery overgrowth.

Councillor Nelson stated that many of the complaints received are from Your Housing areas and it should be their contractors that are dealing with these matters.

The Town Council has had to obtain permission from Your Housing to cut back several areas on health and safety grounds.

305/2014 **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 5th and 25th June 2014. There were no items of specific relevance to Birchwood on the agendas for discussion.
- (ii) Received – Notification re: the Development Management Committee meeting on 5th and 26th June 2014. There were no items of specific relevance to Birchwood on the agendas for discussion.
- (iii) Received/sent – Correspondence relating to a complaint received from a resident about a large container in the car park of The Poacher public house. The landlord is working with WBC to try to resolve the matter. (ENF/14/04361)
- (iv) Sent/received – Emails relating to a query as to whether we would need planning permission to install CCTV on Parkers Farm office building/barn complex (following an incident of criminal damage). We would need Listed Building Consent and possibly planning permission.
- (v) Received – Email link to an online consultation re: planning services.

The Clerk said that this includes information stating that any pre-application discussions with the Borough Council regarding planning applications are now chargeable.

- (vi) Received – Email links to the Inspector’s Report and other documents relating to the Warrington Local Plan Core Strategy (LPCS).

306/2014 **UPDATE ON PLANNING APPEAL**

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).

The appeal has been allowed.

307/2014 **ENFORCEMENT CASES**

- (a) Sent/received – complaint re: an advertising trailer parked in a layby on the BP petrol station roundabout. Planning Enforcement passed it on to Highways. The trailer is no longer on the site.

Councillor C. Bolton said that a similar trailer is now parked across the central reservation on Birchwood Way near the junction with Farrell Street (and the sculpture known locally as the ‘Big C’).

- (b) Lists of enforcement cases recently opened/closed have been received including ENF/14/04361 (see 5.1 (c) above).

308/2014 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

- (a) Application No. 2014/23537 7 Dunley Close, Birchwood. Proposed extension to front creating a new kitchen and cloakroom off the new hallway. **Approved with conditions.**

309/2014 **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. 2014/23821 Thompson House, Faraday Street, WA3 6GA. Application for a non-material amendment for the refenestration of part of elevation following grant of previously approved application 2013/21226.
- (b) Application No. 2014/23743 Birchwood CE Primary School, Admirals Road, WA3 6QG. Proposed new 2400mm security fence and gates to front of school.
- (c) Application No. 2014/23802 Haulage Yard, Unit 2, Clayton Road, Risley, WA3 6PH. Proposed extension to create additional HGV workshop.
- (d) Application No. 2014/23891 Grass verge adjacent to changing rooms, Birchwood Forest Park, WA3 6QX. Proposed removal of existing 14.8m high slimline streetworks column supporting 3 antennas and the installation of a 15m slimline streetworks column supporting 3 antennas and ancillary development.

- (e) Application No. 2014/23890 Land adjacent to pedestrian subway, Birchwood Way, WA3 6AH. Proposed removal of existing 17.5 high slimline streetworks column supporting 3 antennas and 1 equipment cabinet and the installation of a replacement 17.5m slimline streetworks column supporting 6 antennas and 1 equipment cabinet.
- (f) Application No. 2014/23858 Birchwood Business Park, WA3 6BU. Application for approval of details reserved by condition 22 (car park management strategy) following planning approval 2012/19696.
- (g) Application No. 2014/23857 Birchwood Business Park, WA3 6BU. Application for approval of details reserved by condition 25 (car park management) following planning approval 2006/07641.
- (h) Application No. 2014/23861 The Quadrant, 414 Faraday Street, Birchwood. Proposed formation of an area of hardstanding, installation of air handling units and erection of fencing.

Those Members present did not have any objections to make at this present time regarding the applications above.

310/2014 **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Councillor Fitzsimmons proposed the Payment of Accounts be approved; Councillor Evans seconded the proposal. This was agreed by those Members present.

This part of the meeting concluded at 8.40pm.