

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

Present: Councillor Higgins in the Chair
Councillors Allman, Balding, 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 Stanley

Apologies: Councillors C. Bolton, Bowden and Spencer

Councillor Fitzsimons proposed, Councillor Allman seconded and it was RESOLVED THAT:

The Minutes of the September Meeting of the Council which took place on 23rd September 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.

437/2014 **RECESS**

(a) **Police Monthly Update**

PCSO Stanley reported on policing activities that had taken place in the area over the last few weeks.

PCSO Stanley informed Members that one of the main issues they had been dealing with recently was a suspicious male who had been seen in and around the vicinity of Locking Stumps Primary School. There have not yet been any reports of him speaking to, or approaching any children, or behaving in an unlawful manner. However concerns have been raised that he has been seen ‘hanging around’ occasionally when children are arriving at school and going home and during break times when they are in the play areas.

The Police are taking all reported sightings seriously and ask that people telephone 101 if they see anyone suspicious. The information will be sent straight through to the local PCSOs who will attend as soon as they are able. Even if they do not apprehend anyone at that time, reports will help to build up a possible pattern of behaviour that might be useful to the Police. The Police are continuing to monitor the area.

The Clerk stated that we have worked with the school regarding the thinning of landscaping and Birchwood Town Council has thinned out some of the self-seeded sapling trees and shrubbery around the school resulting in fewer places to 'hide'. The Head Teacher requested that some trees and shrubs be left so that there is not a completely clear view of the play areas, which would potentially make it easier for anyone to watch the children whilst they are in the playground.

PCSO Stanley also reported on some other Policing matters in the area, as detailed in the Police Newsletter.

Following multiple complaints over several months about anti social behaviour from a property on Redshank Lane, the Birchwood Beat Team, in partnership with the local housing authority and other partner agencies have targeted the culprits and stopped the behaviour. Despite many warnings and a after a breach of an Acceptable Behaviour Contract, agencies intervened and the tenant has now relinquished the property and moved out of the area.

Another resident of Redshank Lane was served with an Anti Social Behaviour Injunction Order due to a history of offending and demonstrating acts of aggressive and threatening behaviour in the locality. The order prevents the offender from entering Redshank Lane or committing any other acts of violence or threatening behaviour in the area. A breach of the injunction is an arrestable offence.

A positive drugs warrant has been executed at an address on Teal Grove. A quantity of cannabis and paraphernalia were found at the property. The offender responsible was identified, arrested and following investigations was charged by Police and stands to appear in court in November; he currently remains on bail.

In addition, PCSO Stanley stated that as Halloween and Bonfire night are approaching, they want to reassure residents that the Police have operations in place to target anti social behaviour. She said that leaflets have been distributed to vulnerable residents and local groups which people can put in their windows which indicate whether or not 'trick or treaters' are welcome.

Councillor Balding commented that there seems to be an increase in bin fires at this time of year. He asked if the Police were being pro-active about the matter.

PCSO Stanley stated that staff levels are always increased around Halloween and Bonfire Nights, including the Specials being brought in. She added that they do advise residents to store their bins securely, to only have them out on the day of collection and to take them back in as soon as possible after they have been emptied.

Councillor Balding suggested putting some information on our website. This was agreed by Members.

Action Clerk's office to put some advice regarding wheelie bins on the website.

The Chair thanked PCSO Stanley for attending.

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

The Twitter address is @WarrEastNPU.

(b) **Residents' Concerns Regarding Parking Near the Tennis Centre**

Two residents attended tonight's meeting to raise concerns regarding inconsiderate parking around Birchwood Leisure and Tennis Centre when big events are taking place.

They stated that 'once again' during a recent event; attendees had parked at the back of the centre, across the raised red area (which is a crossing point for pedestrians and people with disability scooters, etc.) all over the grass verges, across access points on Chatfield Drive and close to the sharp bend.

One resident stated that she had telephoned the gym and the member of staff she spoke to said they would ask for the vehicles to be moved; which they did. However, half an hour later there were more vehicles parked in exactly the same spaces, blocking sight lines and access points and making life difficult and unsafe for other drivers and pedestrians in the area.

The residents also added that during the week there are instances when school employees park on Chatfield Drive, blocking the access points across the road.

Councillor Higgins said that he does not think it is always teaching staff, he believes that there are some gym users who park on Chatfield Drive as well.

PCSO Stanley said that they will try to monitor the area, particularly when there is an event taking place. She advised the residents to call 101 if they experience these issues again and the PCSO on duty will attend to see if there is anything that they can do.

Councillor Nelson suggested writing to Birchwood Community High School to ask if they can assist when there are events on.

Action Clerk's office to contact the high school regarding the above.

Councillor Higgins said that we could contact the Highways Department at Warrington Borough Council to enquire if they can install some clear road signage as there is nothing in the area to advise people not to park across the raised section of red path/road. He added that if the double yellow lines could be extended then Traffic Enforcement Officers could issue tickets.

PCSO Stanley said that if the cars are parked on a pavement and causing an obstruction, then the Police can issue tickets.

Councillor Allman suggested that white 'H' markings could be painted by the Borough Council across crossing and access points as although they do not have any legal standing, they appear to act as a deterrent, perhaps alerting people to the fact that they should be more considerate in their choice of parking space.

Councillor T. Hearldon said that traffic parking on Chatfield Drive remains a hazard. It obstructs what is a busy bus route, blocks sight lines for drivers and pedestrians and has been known to cause a 'stand off' for vehicles who meet head on and neither will or can reverse to give way to the other.

Action Clerk's office to write to Warrington Borough Council regarding the above.

(c) **Resident's Concern Regarding Ivy in Birchwood**

A resident attended tonight's meeting to raise concerns he has over the spread of English Ivy throughout Birchwood. Prior to the meeting several emails and copies of documentation were exchanged regarding this topic between the resident, the Town Council and Warrington Borough Council (copied to Members in their papers).

The resident is unhappy with the response he received from the Borough Council which advised that:

“English Ivy (Hedera helix) is a native, non-parasitic climber which does not affect healthy tree stock. There is no evidence to suggest Ivy directly affects trees as it uses trees as a support only and does not directly tap into any food source of the tree. The only time Ivy “may” affect trees is when the density of upper crown spread within mature or declining trees causes an overbearing weight load and reduces the trees ability to photosynthesize. In these instances, severance of the stem of the plant at ground level will assure it is not able to spread any further.

Ivy is an important food source and form of shelter for wildlife all year round and it is not common practice to control it unless there is an imminent health and safety risk. The perception of Ivy as invasive species is a matter of personal opinion, with many areas benefiting from Ivy cover.

If you have specific concerns about individual trees, paths or structures please let me know and we will take the appropriate remedial action as required.

. . . Throughout the borough there are many locations where ivy has grown for decades if not centuries with minimal intervention and has remained in balance with both the built and natural environment.”

The resident asked for the Town Council’s support to progress this matter further. He read out a brief statement he had prepared for Members, outlining his point of view:

- 1. Some months ago, it was quite noticeable that ivy could be seen almost everywhere around Birchwood: - in borders, hedgerows, trees, on walls and fences, and on buildings. Ivy was planted as a ground covering plant by the then Local Authority / Development Corporation, some years ago.*
- 2. More recently, it has become apparent that the ivy is spreading out of control across Birchwood, and has been allowed to spread from public to private areas and is becoming more serious.*
- 3. Birchwood residents are now struggling to control ivy in order to protect their fences and walls, their gardens and trees, and their homes, from the damage ivy causes.*
- 4. Urgent attention is required to control and/or eradicate ivy around Birchwood to prevent further damage.*
- 5. Birchwood Town Council (BTC) and Warrington Borough Council (WBC) are aware of this (the above) since I have informed them and also provided them with background literature.*
- 6. I would appreciate BTC’s response to this in that Birchwood and its residents now have a serious problem.*

Members discussed the matter in some detail. Councillors and several other members of the public present at the meeting agreed that there does seem to be an increase in the amount of ivy in the area and when removed it does leave its mark on structures and buildings. The ivy has to be dug up by the roots to stop it growing again.

Councillor J. Bolton asked whether this matter has been discussed with Your Housing Group.

Councillor Fitzsimmons said that he is already arranging a walkabout with Your Housing and will look at the issue currently posed by ivy in public areas; although the issue needs addressing in areas controlled by the Borough Council as well.

A resident stated that they have ivy encroaching on their property from 'public' land (referring to Borough Council land) but wondered whether they could go on to the land to completely remove or kill the ivy, to stop it causing the same issue again. The resident said that people need to know the legal standing with regard to removing or killing ivy that is on public land and suggested that the Town Council publishes an open letter with information regarding these issues and details of how to destroy it. He added that this, however, will not address the problem in more remote and secluded areas.

Following further discussions, including the suggestion of forming a 'Friends Group' to tackle the issue, Councillor Higgins stated that he appreciated the resident bringing his concerns to the Town Council; however, the problem of ivy has to be addressed by the landowners and we will continue to liaise with them regarding this matter.

Action Clerk's office to arrange a walkabout for Councillor Fitzsimmons and Your Housing Group regarding this matter and to also invite a representative of Warrington Borough Council to join them if possible.

Action Clerk's office to continue to liaise with Warrington Borough Council regarding this matter and the request for an open letter to be published to residents about ivy.

(d) **Resident's Comments Regarding Maintenance Issues**

A resident attended tonight's meeting, having previously sent an email which had been circulated to Members, to raise his concerns about the decline of the quality of maintenance being undertaken in the Birchwood area of roads, footpaths, hedges and grass verges. He gave an example of the grass verges in Birchwood that are not being cut, with 'lack of funding or resources' being given as a reason. He believes the consequences of 'saving money' will simply cause additional problems, such as flytipped items and litter being hidden by uncut grass, which, he thinks, will take more to put right in the longer term and is a false economy.

Councillor Higgins stated that he agreed with the basics of what the resident was saying, but that it is easy to apportion blame when things are not being done.

Roads, footpaths and grass verges do not come within the Town Council's remit. These are dealt with by the landowner, who holds their relevant financial information and details as to why their resources have been cut and/or services reduced. These queries should be addressed by the relevant landowners, such as Warrington Borough Council.

The Town Council can deal with some of the hedges, but only with the permission of the landowners.

Councillor Higgins stated that the reality is that Warrington Borough Council has had to make significant cut backs to services and is still being tasked with cutting further in the next financial year. He reiterated to the residents present and Members that these are services that are ultimately the responsibility of the Borough Council or other landowner, not the Town Council.

Councillor Allman agreed, saying that the Town Council is, at present, in a position where we are 'fire fighting' as we are on the receiving end of the complaints from our residents.

In some cases the Town Council does not have the equipment, training or permission (as we are not the landowners) to deal with complaints. In these instances we can only act as liaison, trying to galvanise positive action regarding the concerns raised.

The resident said that he does not really know what the Town Council does.

This information is available on our website: www.birchwoodtowncouncil.org.uk

Councillor Fitzsimmons stated that we are a 'can do' Council and where we are able and can get permission we will act to resolve our residents' concerns. He said that we are currently in the process of discussing 'asset transfers' with regards to potentially taking on some of the services currently undertaken by Warrington Borough Council in order that we don't have to wait for the Borough to deal with an issue, such as grass cutting a stretch of verge.

Councillor Fitzsimmons added that the Town Council currently 'has the will but not the wherewithal' to deal with most issues in Birchwood. Any asset transfer would have to come with a pot of money from the Borough Council to enable us to deliver the services, but we believe we could do many environmental tasks if a financially prudent agreement could be reached. We could then ensure our staff had the necessary training and source equipment, possibly loaning some from the Borough Council.

One campaign we are currently running is to try to have the speed limit in Birchwood reduced to a maximum of 40mph. If this is successful it would allow the Town Council to recommence some maintenance work on some areas that are adjacent to 50mph roads, as we have been told by the Borough Council, for health and safety reasons, our teams cannot do any work on these areas without (expensive) traffic management in place. As it is their land, we have to abide by their instructions.

Councillor Fitzsimmons also commented that if the Town Council has to take on more environmental work then we may have to consider restructuring our budget on some of the larger costs, such as the part-funding of the PCSOs. Whilst we value the excellent work they do in our area, the Police are also a precepting body and if necessary they should raise their portion of the precept to pay for additional funding, rather than letting it fall to Local Councils to take the responsibility of part-paying for Policing when Local Council funds could be being used for other necessary services.

The Town Council held a meeting in June 2014 to bring up a number of maintenance issue with Warrington Borough Council and we are currently waiting for updates on some of the matters raised.

Councillor Higgins suggested arranging another meeting for the Council to be update by Officers from the Borough Council.

Action Clerk's office to arrange a meeting regarding the above.

Terry Hill and Sharon Walls from Warrington Borough Council will also be attending the 25th November 2014 Council Meeting to discuss some of the ways in which the Borough Council is arranging its services to try to deal with the budget cuts.

(e) **Resident's Concern Regarding Speeding on Locking Stumps Lane**

A resident attended tonight's meeting regarding the ongoing problem of vehicles speeding on Locking Stumps Lane. He said that this has been raised by himself and other residents over many years. The Police have undertaken many enforcement operations, but as soon as they leave the area vehicles are speeding again.

The resident stated that around 18 months ago, the Borough Council undertook a traffic survey along this stretch of road, which has a 30mph limit. The average speed was 47mph; the maximum recorded was 71mph.

The resident has also contacted Councillor Terry O' Neill, Leader of Warrington Borough Council and Helen Jones MP about the matter, with no positive outcome.

The resident is concerned that the current resurfacing work that is taking place to get rid of the pot holes on the road, whilst being a positive move in itself, might only encourage some drivers to speed even more.

Councillor Higgins stated that unfortunately this is beyond Birchwood Town Council to sort out and beyond the PCSOs. He suggested that it be brought up with Inspector Adkins and Warrington Borough Council again, with a view to the Borough Council putting some form of traffic calming in place.

Action Clerk's office to contact Warrington Borough Council and Inspector Adkins regarding the above.

438/2014 **RESIDENTS CONCERNS RE: A LOCAL MUSIC EVENT**

At the September meeting a resident had addressed the Town Council on behalf of several residents who live close to the Turf and Feather Public House in Locking Stumps, regarding a 'music festival' held at the pub on 30th August 2014. The residents had initially been told it would take place from 12 noon until 9pm, but it went on until 9.45pm.

The resident had said they had been told that the organisers had submitted a temporary event notice (TEN) to Warrington Borough Council (as required) and the Clerk's office was asked to write to the Borough Council and ask to be consulted if any other local events are to be put on under a TEN.

At tonight's meeting the Clerk reported that a reply has been received from the Borough Council stating that the only bodies who can object to a TEN are the Police and the Borough Council's Environmental Health department re: noise (no objections had been received in respect of the TEN for the music event at the Turf and Feather) - therefore Local Town and Parish Councils will not be consulted about any TENs in their areas.

However, the complaint has been forwarded to Environmental Health so that they are aware, should another application come in for a similar event at the venue in the future.

Councillor Nelson stated that if a complaint was received, it would be considered by a licencing sub-committee.

Councillor Higgins said that he believes it would be good practice for the Borough Council to advise Local Councils of any applications for TENS in their areas.

439/2014 **UPDATE ON MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

(i) **Footpath Sweeper**

The Clerk stated that the Town Council is still liaising with Warrington Borough Council regarding some technicalities of the insurance for the footpath sweepers. We have been informed that the Borough Council is now putting together a service level agreement (SLA) with the insurance element to be dealt with as part of the agreement.

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

(ii) **Roundabout near the Asda petrol station**

The Clerk stated that we have been informed that the Borough Council is currently considering a number of options in relation to this roundabout from pruning it to levelling it. They will let us know more when they have further information.

440/2014 **CARS PARKING ON GLOVER ROAD NEAR ARMSTRONG CLOSE BUS STOP**

This matter remains ongoing.

441/2014 **REQUEST FOR A CROSSING NEAR COPPERFIELD CLOSE, LOCKING STUMPS**

We are awaiting further information at this time about when a site visit might take place. It is likely to be sometime in the next financial year.

442/2014 **BROOK FOOTPATH – BINS AND BENCHES**

The Town Council has advised the Borough Council that it has three benches that the Borough Council can install on the Brook Footpath. Two of the benches will go into locations where the previous ones have deteriorated. We have asked that the additional bench be placed where our team feel that there is a need for one, which is not near houses (in consultation with WBC).

The benches have been painted and are ready to be installed.

The Clerk reported that we have been informed that the bins and benches will be installed within the next two weeks.

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

443/2014 **RESIDENT'S CONCERN RE: UNDERPASS – FIRE STATION TO POWELL AVENUE**

This was one of the items discussed at the meeting held between the Town Council 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. We have not received any update from them yet.

Action Clerk's office to chase this matter with Warrington Borough Council for an update.

444/2014 **ADMIRALS SQUARE**

We have not yet received any update regarding this matter.

Councillor T. Hearldon requested that we chase the matter again as it is almost a year since it was first raised. She is expecting additional complaints as soon as the ground gets icy again.

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

445/2014 **ENCOUNTER STATUE LIGHTING**

The Clerk reported that she is trying to set up a meeting with Borough Councillor Officers in order for Members to be updated on a number of issues raised with them in June 2014, this being one of them.

Councillor Higgins said that he had been informed that it would cost thousands for the statue to be re-illuminated.

Councillor Nelson said that as the statue was initially the idea of Birchwood Forum, although the Town Council did assist with funding the project, she thinks that the Forum should take responsibility for solving the lighting issue, not relinquish responsibility to the Town Council,

Councillor J. Bolton said that she understood that it was the colour changing system for the lighting that was so expensive. She said that we should ask for a plain white light to be installed to illuminate the statue and agreed with Councillor Nelson that Birchwood Forum should be charged with the task of dealing with this matter.

Councillor Higgins suggested looking for sponsors to fund the light. He suggested Bet Fred.

Councillor Fitzsimmons agreed that we should perhaps seek sponsors.

446/2014 **FOOTBRIDGE SURFACE CONCERNS**

At the June meeting, following ongoing concerns raised about the surface of two footbridges in Birchwood in icy weather, it was reported that Mr Boyer from the Borough Council said that any work on 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 would ask Colin Jenkins to respond as soon as possible.

At tonight's meeting the Clerk reported that we had now received a response from Colin Jenkins: *"We can't offer betterment in terms of extra grip to the existing coating system applied to these bridges but we will continue to inspect the bridge bi-annually, and if a product is available we will obviously consider it when we replace the coating system. The system for both bridges are currently in good condition with minor wear and weathering so replacement in the near future is unlikely. The efficiency of the drainage system and water management at these bridges are satisfactory and the design of these bridges with sufficient longitudinal fall should minimise the risk of standing water in my opinion.*

As was confirmed at the meeting dated June 2014, the use of a grit bin should be investigated, and I assume the gullies are cleaned out and proven to be working by others. I am happy that there are no inherent issues or defects to rectify but apologies for not being able to offer a solution at this time.

With regard to ice, during Winter months, all roads and footpaths will be susceptible to freezing. Unfortunately, it is not possible to remove snow, ice or frost from all footways including footbridges throughout the Borough, which will pose possible risks to pedestrians when walking on frozen surfaces during winter months.

. . . I will continue to monitor the footbridge situation for a reasonable period of time over the winter period to ensure the drainage system is operational. Meanwhile can I suggest that the Parish Council should discuss this matter with the highways inspector for the area, to see if a grit bin may assist pedestrians during winter. However, I am aware that there is a fairly strict assessment process involved and we need to comply with these requirements."

The Clerk stated that we do grit the footbridges when we can in icy weather. We will need to check with Warrington Borough Council about putting a grit bin near these bridges.

Action Clerk's office to enquire about grit bins near the footbridges.

447/2014 **DOG FOULING STENCIL**

The Clerk reported that we have still not received any updates from Warrington Borough Council regarding stencilling.

It was suggested that Violet Close in Locking Stumps might benefit from some stencilling.

448/2014 **YOUR HOUSING WALKABOUT**

There are no new walkabouts planned at this present time. Your Housing will advise us when they have any further walkabouts planned.

Matters raised on the last walkabout were directed to the organisations that are able to deal with the issues. Our teams worked to clean up the Spinal Path over a number of weeks. We have asked Warrington Borough Council to supply us with some weedkiller to treat some areas of this path.

At tonight's meeting, the Clerk stated that we have been told that the Borough Council will be able to supply us with a small amount of weedkiller.

449/2014 **DEFIBRILLATORS**

The Clerk's office has contacted Inspector Adkins and asked if there is any further update as to whether it might be possible to site a defibrillator in an external cabinet on the outside of the Police Station on Delenty Drive.

Inspector Adkins has indicated that, in principle, he would be happy for a defibrillator to be installed at Risley Police Station. He has asked where the funding would come from for the defibrillator. There would be initial purchase and installation costs as well as maintenance and resupply costs over following years.

Councillor Higgins said he thinks the Police may have funding available for a defibrillator.

Further discussion was moved to Finance – later in the meeting.

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

450/2014 **FLYTIPPING WITHIN OLIVER PLUNKETT SITE**

The Clerk reported that our Maintenance Team has advised that there are still flytipped items remaining within the site and more have since appeared.

Councillor J. Bolton said that if there is any evidence with the flytipped items as to where they may have come from the Borough Council has the power to take evidence and prosecute.

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

451/2014 **WALLED GARDEN - POTENTIAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

In July an email was received asking whether Warrington Borough Council will give Fujitsu permission to undertake some work in the Walled Garden (land owned by the Borough Council) and how the Borough may be able to assist.

Councillor T. Hearldon had spoken to Fujitsu, who were looking for a project to undertake as part of their corporate social responsibility.

At tonight's meeting it was reported that we have not yet received any update following an email sent to the Borough Council asking if any progress was ever made regarding the volunteers from Fujitsu and the Walled Garden and stating that, if so, the Town Council could programme in some time to help.

Councillor T. Hearldon stated that the Borough Council informed her that they would liaise with Fujitsu; however, she has spoken to Mr. Alan Wakefield, a representative of Fujitsu, who has not had any contact from the Borough Council either.

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

452/2014 **PARISH LIAISON MEETING**

The Deputy Clerk reported that she had attended the Parish Council Liaison meeting on 30th September 2014. Copies of the presentations were included in Members' papers.

Sharon Walls and Terry Hill have asked to be invited to Local Council meetings to explain some of the ways in which the Borough Council is managing the resource cuts. They will be attending our November meeting.

453/2014 **RESIDENTS CONCERNS RE: 50MPH ROADS IN BIRCHWOOD**

At the September meeting Members agreed that they would like the Borough Council to reconsider its stance on reducing the maximum speed limit throughout Birchwood, not just for the safety of all road users and pedestrians, but also as the speed limit is now being given as a reason by the Borough Council for environmental work not to be undertaken by the Town Council on roads of 50mph or over.

The Clerk's office was asked to write to the Borough Council regarding the above.

At tonight's meeting the Clerk reported that a letter had been sent regarding the above.

Action Clerk's office to copy the letter to Members.

454/2014 **RESIDENT QUERY – ROAD NAME PLATES**

At the September meeting it was reported that an email had been sent to Warrington Borough Council regarding old road names signs, following a complaint from a resident re: the Sandicroft Close nameplate sign. We are still awaiting a reply.

455/2014 **RESIDENTS' QUERIES REGARDING VARIOUS MATTERS**

At the September meeting it was reported that an email had been sent to Warrington Borough Council following an email from a resident re: (i) a 'dip' in the underpass at Roberts Fold and (ii) a request for an update re: a traffic survey on Glover Road. We are still awaiting a response from Warrington Borough Council to the emails.

In addition an email had been sent requesting an 'Admirals Road' sign at the junction with Ordnance Avenue, near the Keyes Close end. We are also awaiting a reply regarding this request.

456/2014 **QUERY REGARDING CHICANE ON A FOOTPATH NEAR DELENTY DRIVE**

At the September meeting it was reported that email correspondence had been exchanged with the Borough Council, the Town Council and some local employees re: the installation of a chicane on the footpath to the right of the Town Council offices. It has been installed to slow down some cyclists who have been travelling at very high speed into the path of vehicles exiting the Police Station and Town Council car parks.

At tonight's meeting the Clerk reported that the Borough Council's Road Safety and Traffic Management Team will be undertaking a Road Safety Audit on the chicane next week. We have asked to be updated with the results of the audit.

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

457/2014 **LOCKING STUMPS LANE SHRUB MAINTENANCE**

The Town Council took advantage of some resurfacing work on Locking Stumps Lane in order to trim back some shrubbery whilst the Borough Council had traffic management in place.

458/2014 **RESIDENTS CONCERNS RE: IVY IN BIRCHWOOD**

This was discussed earlier during recess (see Minute 437/2014 (c)).

459/2014 **REQUEST TO SUPPORT A PROPOSAL**

At the September meeting it was reported that a request had been received to support a proposal asking the Government to give all Parish and Town Councils the right to sell electricity that they generate from local schemes.

Members agreed that the Town Council would support the proposal. Although we do not have any electricity generating schemes, the Town Council believes that those local Councils that do should have the right to sell the electricity they generate if they so choose.

The Clerk's office sent a letter of support, as requested by Members.

460/2014 **TREES ENCROACHING ON FOOTPATH FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY**

At the September meeting it was reported that an email had been sent asking the Borough to write to two residents to ask if they will cut back their conifer trees that are encroaching on a local footpath.

We are still awaiting a reply.

461/2014 **FALLEN TREE ON VIOLET CLOSE**

At the September meeting it was reported that an email had been sent asking Your Housing Group regarding a tree that has come down on their land in Violet Close.

Councillor Fitzsimmons will be looking into this matter on his walkabout with Phil Hargreaves and a representative of the Borough Council (date subsequently confirmed as 12th November).

462/2014 **BIRCHWOOD SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

Members were reminded about the Birchwood Service of Remembrance 2014; Saturday 8th November 2014 at the Memorial outside the main entrance to Birchwood Shopping Centre, organised by Birchwood Lions

As requested, the Clerk's office sent the names of those Councillors who hope to be able to attend the event. The Clerk will also attend.

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

463/2014 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

(a) Received – Details of Phase 2 of the Birchwood Footway/Cycleway Improvements.

(b) Received – Invitation to the Annual Remembrance Day Service and Parade, Sunday 9th November at the War Memorial, Bridge Foot.

Councillor Higgins is unable to attend, therefore Councillor T. Hearldon, Vice Chair, will attend to represent Birchwood Town Council.

(c) Received – October Neighbourhoods Bulletin.

- (d) Sent – Correspondence asking if we could take advantage of an upcoming road closure to undertake some maintenance work on Locking Stumps Lane. The Borough Council advised we could. (See Minute 457/2014 above.)
- (e) Received – Details of some upcoming local road closures.
- (f) Received – Details of the next Warrington Rights of Way Forum meeting and minutes from the previous meeting.
- (g) Sent/received – Correspondence relating to two incidents of damaged grids/manhole covers.
- (h) Sent – Query regarding whether the grit bin at the underpass near Birchwood Fire Station can be secured to the floor prior to filling once we put it back in place (following ongoing anti social behaviour at the start of the year when it kept getting tipped over).

We are awaiting a reply from Warrington Borough Council.

- (i) Received – correspondence regarding Birchwood Area Ward Day, 21st October 2014.
- (j) Received/Sent – correspondence relating to unlit footpath alongside A574.

The Borough Council is to look into the possibility of carrying out some thinning works to open up the footpath area more.

- (k) Received – Letter and Policy – consultation - re: Pavement Cafes in Warrington.
Members did not wish to make any comments.
- (l) Received – Information re: East Community Meetings (tier one meetings).
- (m) Received – Details of some ‘employability’ courses. Posters were displayed on our boards.

464/2014 **BIRCHWOOD FORUM**

- (a) Received – Invitation and meeting agenda – ‘Insight into Business’ meeting (16/10/14).
- (b) Received – Details of September meeting (26/09/14).
- (c) Received – Invitation and meeting agenda - ‘Supply Chain Forum’ meeting (29/10/14).
- (d) Received – Warrington Business News – October 2014.

465/2014 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – Various updates, consultations and information emails from Warrington Voluntary Action.

These included details of the local bus strategy consultation currently being undertaken by the Borough Council – the deadline for commenting has been extended to Sunday 30th November. For details go to:

http://www.warrington.gov.uk/info/200352/consultation/1817/local_bus_strategy_consultation

- (b) Received – Birchwood Park – ‘Parklife’ and ‘The Centre at Birchwood Park’.
- (c) Received/sent – Emails re: Freedom of Information request regarding cars speeding along Ordnance Avenue.
- (d) Received/sent – correspondence re: tall weeds to the rear of a property in Oakwood.
- (e) Received – Notice of Cheshire Playing Fields Association AGM 23 October 2014.
- (f) Received – Healthwatch Warrington – introduction and notification of AGM 14th October; asking if Members wish the Town Council to be included on the Healthwatch Warrington weekly news email list.

Members do not wish the Town Council to be included on the weekly news email list at the present time. It was agreed that anyone who wished to receive the information could sign up individually.

Action Clerk’s office to reply to Healthwatch Warrington regarding the above.

- (g) Received – flyer from The Relationships Centre regarding their official launch day.
- (h) Received – Invitation to HS2 Warrington Update meeting.
- (i) Received – Correspondence from a resident regarding maintenance of roads, footpaths, hedges and grass verges in Birchwood.

This was discussed earlier in the meeting during recess (see Minute 437/2014 (d)).

466/2014 **ICAN ALERTS**

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

- (a) Warning about failures in car seat fittings undertaken by some stores. For advice on fitting a car seat securely visit www.which.co.uk/baby-and-child/baby-transport/guides/how-to-fit-a-child-car-seat/
- (b) Warning re: ‘Sky’ scam letter – stating that money was owed to a resident, requesting he call on a premium rate phone number to provide his details.
- (c) Details received of Healthwatch Warrington’s first AGM – 14/10/14.
- (d) Warning re: puppy for sale scam.
- (e) Warning re: doorstep sales of fish as there may be issues with the quality of the fish.

467/2014 **SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS**

- (a) Received – News Bulletins October 2014.
- (b) Received – Details of branch meeting – 7th November 2014.

468/2014 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received – Warrington East Newsletter – October 2014.
- (b) Received – Invitation from the Police and Crime Commissioner to a meeting with Parish Council representatives on 9th October 2014.
- (c) Received – Neighbourhood Policing Team Newsletter – November 2014.

- (d) Received – Alerts:
 - (a) Supporting people with mental health needs.
 - (b) Recruitment of Audit & Ethics Committee Members.
 - (c) Police and Crime Commissioner Blog 3/10/14.
 - (d) Reports of a suspicious vehicle seen in the Culcheth area.
 - (e) Advising van owners to be vigilant following increase in theft of vans.
 - (f) Reports of suspicious male in Locking Stumps area, near the school.
 - (g) Reminder to think about security now the dark nights are drawing in.
 - (h) Received – details of six thefts from vehicles that were left insecure.
- (e) Received – Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable’s newsletter September 2014.
- (f) Received – email ref the Power of Community Safety Partnerships.

469/2014 **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

- (a) Received – Details of workshop: Digital Mapping for Local Councils.
- (b) Received – Details of course ‘Building a Flood Resilient Society’ being held at the University of Chester on 8th November 2014.
- (c) Received – Details of Chairmanship 2 training session.
- (d) Received – Details of a Deputy Clerk vacancy to cover maternity leave in Knutsford and Clerk vacancies for Appleton Parish Council and Stockton Heath Parish Council.

470/2014 **PRESS ARTICLES**

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

471/2014 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

LGC Magazine – 25/09/14, 02/10/14, 09/10/14, 16/10/2014
Cheshire Fire Authority Annual Report 2013 - 2014

472/2014 **MEMBERS’ REFERRALS MADE VIA THE CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING**

A resident had contacted Councillor J. Bolton to raise the issue of parking around the Tennis Centre. This was discussed earlier in the meeting during recess (see Minute 237/2014 (b))

473/2014 **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 meeting on Wednesday 8th October 2014. There were no items of specific relevance to Birchwood on the agenda for discussion.
 - (ii) Received – Notification re: the Development Management Committee meetings on 9th October 2014. There were no items of specific relevance to Birchwood on the agenda for discussion.

474/2014 **ENFORCEMENT CASES**

- (a) Lists of enforcement cases recently opened/closed have been received.

475/2014 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

- (a) Application No. 2014/23582 Lovell House - proposed external roof alternations and elevations to facilitate improved working space. **Approved with conditions.**

476/2014 **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. 2014/24579 Birchwood Community High School. Discharge of conditions – application for approval of details reserved by conditions 11 (landscaping/habitat restoration scheme) and 12 (implementation of landscaping – 6 months) following previously approved application 2009/14529.
- (b) Application No. 2014/24525 Dewhurst Road, Birchwood. Deemed application for 14.7m streetworks tower swap out and associated works.
- (c) Application 2014/24488 Asda Stores Ltd, 1 Dewhurst Road, Birchwood. Full planning – proposed installation of air conditioning unit to serve existing concession unit.
- (d) Application 2014/24559 The Quadrant, 414 Faraday Street, Birchwood. Discharge of conditions – Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 (noise) following previously approved application 2014/23861.
- (e) Application 2014/24662 The Peacock, Dewhurst Road, Birchwood. Proposed 2 x internally illuminated signs.
- (f) Application 2014/24709 Land opposite Unit 2, Birchwood One Business Park, Dewhurst Road. Proposed installation of replacement monopole, replacement equipment cabinet and ancillary development. (resubmission of 2014/24313).

Members did not have any objections to the above applications.

477/2014 **PLANNING MISCELLANEOUS**

- (a) Correspondence relating to the fly posting of a banner on the bridge near BP petrol station. From now on, no banners are allowed to be hung on this bridge – including local charity and school events banners.
- (b) Warrington Local Planning Framework. Draft standards for car parking in new development supplementary planning document consultation.
Members did not make any comments.
- (c) Received, from a local developer, outline plans for a proposed development on Delenty Drive, to the rear of Risley Police Station. The developer has already spoken to the local residents who would live adjacent to the development if it went ahead, to ask for their opinions and comments on his proposals.

Members were interested to see the proposals, but the Town Council chooses not to comment on outline planning applications; Councillors prefer to wait until full and formal applications are submitted and consider the plans and local opinion at that stage prior to commenting.

Action Clerk's office to contact the developer regarding the above.

This part of the meeting concluded at 8.10 pm.