

**MINUTES OF THE PART I FINANCE, AUDIT AND PERSONNEL MEETING OF
BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT
PARKERS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE, DELENTY DRIVE, RISLEY
ON TUESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

Present: Councillor Bowden in the Chair
Councillors Allman, Atkin, Breslin, Ellis, Evans, Fitzsimmons, T. Hearldon,
Linney and Nelson

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

Apologies: Councillors M. Hearldon and Reeves

Councillor Evans proposed, Councillor Fitzsimmons seconded and it was resolved that:

The Minutes of the Part I Finance, Audit and Personnel Meeting of the Town Council which took place on Tuesday, 26th July 2016 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.

216/16-17 **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Members were asked to consider and approve the payment of accounts schedule (see pages 143 to 145 below).

The BAFO highlighted that we recently received an invoice from the PCC for the part funding of one PCSO for 2016/2017. He explained for the benefit of new Councillors that following the end of the first three year contract to part fund a PCSO, the Town Council had agreed to continue the funding for one further year whilst the Police put their new strategies in place. At the time it had not been confirmed what the funding amount would be.

The invoice is for £11,918, a 1% rise. The BAFO said that as the funding had previously been agreed, this payment has been authorised.

Councillor Evans **proposed** the Payment of Accounts be approved; Councillor Atkin **seconded** the proposal. This was **resolved** by those Members present.

The BAFO added that we have not yet received any information or request regarding future funding; which is something that will need to be included in any upcoming budget and precept considerations.

Councillor Evans stated that we cannot commit to anything until we have received further details from the PCC.

Councillor Bowden commented that it seems that the PCSOs are rarely in Birchwood these days. He added that whilst Birchwood Town Council has supported the PCSOs over previous years, if we are no longer getting value for money then this needs to be reviewed when the budget is being set. The Town Council has no operational control over where and what the PCSOs do and Councillor Bowden does not believe that the residents of Birchwood should be subsidising Cheshire Police if the PCSOs are being sent on duty in other areas of Warrington, leaving Birchwood uncovered.

PROGRESS REPORTS ON CURRENT ISSUES

217/16-17 **BIRCHWOOD YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Councillors Bowden and Nelson declared an interest

Councillor Nelson stated that there are currently no issues to report regarding the Youth and Community Centre.

218/16-17 **BIRCHWOOD BROOK FOOTPATH REGENERATION**

The BAFO reported that the Borough Council will undertake the work to clear the cathedral effect of the tree canopy and some side shrubbery in early October.

The scraping off work will be undertaken by our nominated contractor once the tree works are completed. Work will continue over the winter, but will be weather dependent. The length of path that can be done will depend on how far the available funds will allow. There is no need for wooden edging, which will reduce the costs; therefore it might be possible to improve an additional length of the path.

219/16-17 **BIRCHWOOD FOREST PARK – MULTI USE GAMES AREA**

The BAFO circulated some photographs on the progress made to date at the new Forest Park MUGA. He stated that the new scheme furniture and fencing posts are being installed at the same time and the six new lighting columns are in place and will be connected to the electricity supply from the Rangers' Centre by the end of the week.

Sometime during next week the old surface should be swept clean if there are a couple of dry days and the slurry surface should be applied. Once that has been done the new lines will be marked on the court. It is hoped that the whole project will be completed within two to three weeks, weather permitting.

The BAFO reminded Members that the original quote for the work had been around £90,000 for a bespoke MUGA. By organising for the work to be done as a 'refurbishment' project, with costs expected to be around £55,000 when completed, the Town Council has some monies which could potentially be put towards the Brook Footpath or additional resources.

Action Clerk's office to continue to liaise with the contractor and Borough Council.

220/16-17 **EXTERNAL AUDIT**

The BAFO informed Members that we had received the audit report from the external auditor; which shows a clearance of the year end accounts to the end of March 2016 with no matters requiring attention. The audit clearance documentation was circulated to Councillors.

The Notice of Conclusion of Audit for the year ended 31st March 2016 has been placed on the main noticeboard and been posted on our website.