

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT
PARKERS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE, DELENTY DRIVE, RISLEY
ON TUESDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2017

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

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

PC Gareth Frith

Apologies: Councillors Bowden, M. Hearldon, and Linney

Councillor Atkin proposed, Councillor Nelson seconded and it was resolved that:

The Minutes of the September Meeting of the Town Council which took place on Tuesday, 26th September 2017 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.

Councillors Breslin, Ellis and Nelson – the Youth & Community Centre Committee

Councillors Atkin, Breslin, Ellis, T. Hearldon and Nelson – Birchwood Carnival Committee

242/17-18 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Police Monthly Update**

PC Frith updated Members on policing activity that has taken place in the area over the last few weeks.

PC Frith reported that there had been a few thefts from motor vehicles during the last month (some from insecure vehicles) however there had been no incidents in the last couple of weeks.

An arrest has been made in relation to a distraction burglary. The victim is being given ongoing reassurance support.

There are still ongoing reports of anti-social behaviour relating to children on bikes, some playing ‘chicken’ with traffic and doing wheelies on pavements.

Members were extremely concerned that some is going to get hurt or even killed if this behaviour continues. There have been many anecdotal reports on local social media of very near misses regarding this behaviour.

PC Frith said that this seems to be a trend across Warrington at present. The Police are doing what they can to try to catch the children responsible; however as soon as they arrive in a Police car, the children all scatter very quickly.

Residents are reminded to report these incidents to the Police on 101 in order to help them allocate resources whenever possible to try to resolve the issue.

PC Frith stated that, regarding off-road vehicles, reports of anti-social behaviour had dropped off, but this usually happened during the darker nights.

PC Frith informed Members that with Halloween and Bonfire Night coming up, ongoing operations have been put in place. Designated Officers will be monitoring hotspots. They have/will be visiting shops, asking them not to sell flour or eggs to children around Halloween. Visits have been made to schools to encourage learners to think how their behaviour affects the local community.

In addition, Officers have given safety talks in schools relating to fireworks, particularly their misuse and some 'hard hitting' videos have been shown to learners, illustrating the consequences of such behaviour.

PC Frith said over two nights in Birchwood seven vehicles had their tyres slashed. This happened across the ward. There does not seem to be any relationship or link between the people involved or reason why they might have been targeted. It has not happened since. Anyone with any information is asked to call the Police on 101.

Councillor Nelson asked whether a recent incident at the Spar Shop on Warrington Road, which has caused the store to be closed for a while, was a malicious act.

PC Frith stated the act was intentional, with the intent appearing to be to get the cash machine.

Councillor Reeves enquired whether any further progress had been made regarding the arson attack on the Risley Moss Observation Tower.

PC Frith replied that four people of interest had been interviewed, they were not all local. Although there is not currently enough evidence to charge anyone, the Police are not looking for anyone else in connection with the incident. These people now have a 'raised profile' with the Police.

Councillor Atkin asked whether PC Frith was able to update the Council with speed enforcement information.

PC Frith said that he did not have any figures with him, but that he would ask PCSO Bingham to email the most recent figures to us.

Councillor Ellis asked if PC Frith could offer any update regarding an issue of large work vehicles parking on Woodhouse Close; he had been communicating with PCSO Stanley about this matter,

PC Frith stated that he would ask PCSO Stanley to supply an update.

PC Frith informed Members that enquiries are still ongoing regarding previously reported incidents of a man exposing himself on a number of occasions to children in Birchwood. There have not been any recent additional reports,

The Police have identified several persons of interest and are now in the process of re-interviewing witnesses. The case remains ongoing.

There were no additional questions/comments for the Police.

Members thanked PC Frith for attending the meeting.

The Police Twitter address is @PoliceWarr.

As there were no residents in attendance at tonight's meeting the Chair declared Public Participation over.

243/17-18 **PLANNING UPDATE – NEW HALL FARM**

Planning Application No. 2017/31147 New Hall Farm, WA3 6LH. *Full planning – proposed re-use and extension of agricultural barn to accommodate a facility for the generation of electricity from gas and the storage of electricity in batteries comprising 4 containerised gas generators and radiators; 2 transformers; 2 substations in an electrical container; 2 oil tanks, 1 gas kiosk; a battery energy storage system; gated entrance and acoustic fencing. Demolition of exiting agricultural building and replacement with new agricultural building.*

The Clerk reported that, as requested, she had written to the Planning Department, objecting to the above application.

Subsequently a response to the Town Council's objection was received from the developer's agent; following that a further email was received from them; which was circulated to Members. The email included a paragraph which Members and Officers thought was highly inappropriate.

The Clerk said that she had spoken to the Planning Officer dealing with this application who indicated that there were a number of unresolved issues relating to the application and therefore Borough Council Officers currently had no specific recommendation to make. The Clerk said that she had informed the Planning Officer that Councillors and Officers of the Town Council had taken offence to an element of the email.

The proposed development is to be considered at a future Development Management Committee, date tbc.

Councillor Atkin stated that he was prepared to speak against the development as a Town Council representative and that he believes that Councillor Bowden (although unable to attend tonight's meeting) is prepared to speak against the proposal in his capacity as a Borough Councillor.

Action Councillors Atkin and Bowden to speak against the proposed development when it goes to committee.

244/17-18 **QUERY RE: RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOME DRIVES AND ACCESS PATHS IN AN AREA OF OAKWOOD**

At the September meeting a resident asked whether the Town Council could assist in finding out who has the maintenance responsibility for communal drives and access pathways (not footpaths) in an area of Oakwood where there is private housing. They wondered whether, as leaseholders, it would be Warrington Borough Council.

At tonight's meeting, the Clerk reported that this has been chased again for a definitive response from the Borough Council. The initial reply indicated that the Borough does not appear to have responsibility for these areas, but this was being double checked.

245/17-18 **UPDATE RE: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE YOUTH, LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING**

(a) **Leisure**

Recommendation: To make an enquiry with the Wolves Foundation ref. an event to provide an activity and raise awareness of the new MUGA.

The Clerk reported that she has written to James Howes to enquire about putting on an event at the Forest Park MUGA.

As a matter to note – the Clerk stated that the MUGA on Brock Road, installed by Your Housing Group and which they have the responsibility to maintain, is currently covered in leaf debris. Nobody appears to be looking after it.

The Clerk said that normally our team keeps the main play areas clean and tidy, including the MUGA at the Forest Park. However, before the MUGA on Brock Road was installed by Your Housing Group, the Town Council was reassured by Your Housing that there would be no requirement for our team to do anything regarding litter picking or keeping the area clean and safe to play on, that it would not create additional work for them as Your Housing would undertake all that responsibility.

The Clerk stated that she has told our team not to clear the leaves in order to illustrate to Your Housing that there is an issue and regular maintenance work that was promised and is required, is not being done.

(b) **Forest Park – Skateboard/BMX area**

Recommendation: To survey young people regarding the skateboard park/BMX track and obtain some feedback from that demographic about the area and local facilities.

The Clerk stated that an Officer from Warrington Borough Council has confirmed that an offer of funding has been received from WREN for the installation of a new pump track and a refurbishment of the skateboard facilities.

(c) **Youth and Community Centre**

Recommendation: BAFO to make enquiries regarding the status of the Youth and Community Centre.

The BAFO stated that the Town Council has never formally held any documents relating to the Youth and Community Centre; we cannot find any paperwork at all regarding its ownership, etc. He added that when enquiries were made several years ago, we were informed that the Town Council cannot take ownership of the building; there is a certain period of time, during which the Lottery Commission is still entitled to take back the ownership if necessary. It is unknown how long there is left on that period of time.

The BAFO said that he may need to obtain permission from the centre's committee to telephone the Lottery and make further enquiries regarding this matter.

Councillor Nelson said that she would ask the centre's Caretaker if she held any documents.

The BAFO said he would continue to try to find further information.

Action BAFO and Councillor Nelson to continue to make enquiries regarding the above.

246/17-18 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG)**

(a) **Walkabout**

The Clerk stated that Councillor Evans, the Senior Maintenance Operative and herself had been on the walkabout that took place on 17th October 2017 in Locking Stumps. No one from YHG attended, however, an apology has since been received – there was an emergency that had to be dealt with by the YHG representative and no one else was available to stand in.

Several issues were noted on the walkabout which have been reported to the Borough Council, including silted drains and ongoing lighting issues in the underpasses.

The Clerk stated that, in relation to the underpass lights, orders have been put in for more robust lighting which should be better suited to the rigours of the underpasses. This is the case for all the underpasses within Warrington. In the meantime, interim repairs have been undertaken - not all lights are working but those that could be repaired have been. As soon as the new units have been received they will be installed as soon as possible.

Councillor Ellis said that with regard to YHG, there has been a first Tenants' Association meeting, during which time the constitution was formed. Subsequently he had a conversation with the YHG Manager for Cheshire and Staffordshire and he spoke to her about the Tenants' Association.

The Manager said that she will organise for someone to be the central point of contact for the Association, who will go to the meetings.

Councillor Ellis said that he hopes that it will be the start of an improved relationship with YHG.

247/17-18 **FLOODING AT THE JUNCTION OF LORDS LANE/LOCKING STUMPS LANE**

The Clerk stated that following recent heavy rain, we received a further email from a local resident regarding flooding at this site.

Councillor Nelson has contacted senior Borough Council Officers regarding this matter and approval has been given to purchase the necessary piece of equipment required to deal with the problem causing the flooding.

Councillor Nelson that that she expects to be updated once the equipment has arrived.

Action Clerk's office to liaise with Cllr Nelson, WBC and resident regarding this matter.

248/17-18 **SPINAL PATH**

The Clerk stated that she has spoken to a Borough Council Officer to ask if a street sweeper could be sent out more regularly to sweep the Spinal Path, maybe three or four times a year. Unfortunately the big sweeper (owned by Highways) is too big to fit on the path, it would have to be a smaller sweeper (owned by Street Services) that could sweep the path.

249/17-18 **MEETING WITH DAVID KEANE, POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC) FOR CHESHIRE**

The Clerk reported that Councillor Ellis had attended the meeting with David Keane, the PCC for Cheshire, on 12th October 2017.

Councillor Ellis stated that he had expected to get clarity from the Police at this meeting regarding their proposals re: PCSOs, in order to be able to take specific information forward to our budgeting meeting; however, the meeting was not about PCSO resources. The meeting is one that will be held regularly to discuss all sorts of different issues.

Councillor Ellis said that it had been well attended and that he had found it to be quite useful.

Councillor Ellis had asked if there were any results from the trialling of Smartwater in an area of Culcheth.

PCC Keane will try to obtain the results and bring them back to a future meeting. The Police are currently looking into whether kits could be bought for every home in Cheshire – this could reduce the cost of the kits to around £1 per household.

250/17-18 **BIRCHWOOD TENNIS & LEISURE CENTRE; PARKING ISSUES DURING EVENTS.**

At the September meeting, the Clerk reported that letters have been sent to the Tennis and Leisure Centre, the Headteacher at the High School, the Head of the College, the Strategic Director Facilities Health & Safety of Birchwood Community High School & Birchwood College and the Shopping Centre Manager regarding this matter, to ask if we could work with them to try to find a solution.

At tonight's meeting, the Clerk reported that we have followed up the letter sent to various representatives of the high school, college, Tennis and Leisure Centre and shopping centre regarding this matter, with an email.

A comprehensive reply has been received from Mr. Jones, the Shopping Centre Manager. He remains concerned that the shopping centre has been seen as being uncooperative in the past in relation to the reliance of other people who are not using the shops, using the Shopping Centre's car park, to the detriment of their customers.

Mr. Jones would be happy to attend any meeting arranged to discuss this matter further.

We are still awaiting replies from the other organisations.

Councillor Reeves said that during evening events there should not be any conflict of interest as the car parks are not full.

The Clerk confirmed it was events held during the day and especially at weekends that seem to be creating most of the issues.

251/17-18 **PARISH LIAISON GROUP**

The Clerk will be attending the next Parish Liaison Group which is meeting on 9th November.

252/17-18 **BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL – PROCEDURES**

The Clerk asked if Members wished to amend or approve the draft copy of the revised Complaints Procedure which had been circulated to them at the September meeting to read at their leisure, prior to formal consideration at tonight's meeting.

Council Fitzsimmons **proposed**, Councillor Evans **seconded** and it was unanimously **resolved** that the Complaints Procedure be approved.

Action Clerk's office to publish the Complaints Procedure on the Town Council's website.

253/17-18 **BIRCHWOOD SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

The Clerk reminded Members that the annual Birchwood Service of Remembrance, organised by Birchwood Lions, will be taking place on Saturday 11th November, meeting at 10.30am at the Memorial, Birchwood Shopping Centre.

254/17-18 **BLOCKED DRAIN IN PARKING AREA**

The Clerk reported that Mike Anders from YHG will be meeting contractors on site on Thursday, 26th October regarding a blocked drain in a parking area between Goldfinch Lane and Kestrel Lane, first reported over ten months ago. This is an issue which Councillor Atkin has been trying to resolve for many months, with no organisation apparently prepared to take responsibility.

255/17-18 **AIR QUALITY IN BIRCHWOOD**

At the September meeting, Councillor Reeves raised concerns regarding air quality in Birchwood.

The Clerk had contacted the Borough Council regarding the above; to request the most recent statistics.

In addition, as requested, the Clerk has drafted a letter to the Borough Council, raising the Town Council's concerns and including a request for fresh monitoring to be undertaken.

At tonight's meeting the Clerk reported that a number of emails have been exchanged and information has been received regarding road surfacing, monitoring of air quality and noise levels in Birchwood and statistics relating to health; in relation to this matter.

The Clerk asked whether Members wished the draft letter to be sent yet.

Members said that they think the letter is very well worded. They were hopeful that more specific information would have been received in response to the Clerk's enquiries, regarding health issues in particular.

Councillor Ellis said that perhaps a bit of additional information be added to the draft letter, if possible, in relation to health incidents. He has been trying to obtain general figures from the medical centre.

Information received from a public health analyst at Warrington Borough Council has shown information related to 'respiratory-related' health issues – but these also include figures related to smoking rates and areas where there may be a care home, where there may be a concentration of older people who are more likely to have a respiratory disease.

Councillor Reeves said that he is surprised that there does not seem to be any impact statements available to support some of the larger developments proposed in Birchwood. There is no baseline available to compare air quality against and there appears that there is no intention to undertake air quality assessments in Birchwood. He added that air quality is measured at Bridgefoot in Warrington; therefore he does not see any reason why it could not be measured in Birchwood.

The Clerk informed Members that there is an article published in this week's Warrington Guardian with the headline, "*Two of Warrington's most congested areas set for multi-million pound road improvements*". One of these areas is Omega, the other is Birchwood. It is widely understood that congestion is a main contributor to air pollution.

The Clerk added that in May 2016, www.Warrington-Worldwide published an article that stated, "*Warrington has been named and shamed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as the second worst place in the North West for breaching safety levels for air pollution.*"

Action Clerk's office to try to find further relevant information regarding the above to include in the letter currently being drafted.

256/17-18 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG) TENANTS' ASSOCIATION**

See Minute 246/17-18 (a) above, reporting that there has been a first Tenants' Association meeting, during which time the constitution was formed. Subsequently Councillor Ellis had a conversation with the YHG Manager for Cheshire and Staffordshire and he spoke to her about the Tenants' Association. She indicated that she will organise for someone to be the central point of contact for the Association.

The next Tenants' Association meeting is on 25th October 2017.

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

257/17-18 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Received – Flyer re: the East Area Neighbourhood Team and what they do - posted on our notice boards and Facebook page.
- (b) Received/sent – various emails following a query from Councillor Reeves asking who has the responsibility for setting the speed limits on Birchwood Business Park. The reply received from the Borough Council stated that: '*We have recently had these speed limits brought to our attention. It was understood at the time of the speed limit changes several years ago that all side roads that were adopted highway were correctly signed. In reverse, signs are not provisioned on private roads that lead onto the highway but repeater speed limit signs are/should be located close to that type of junction on the main highway for driver information.*

I am to undertake an assessment of the adopted highway speed limit signage in that area shortly and if there are any signs missing they will be replaced at the earliest opportunity.'

Councillor Reeves will follow up with Birchwood Park re: the minor roads within the business park.

- (c) Received – Information regarding ground investigation surveys taking place (6th, 9th and 10th Oct.) relating to the design of the Warrington East Phase 2 project.

- (d) To note that a meeting took place on 6th October which was attended by the Clerk, a Borough Council Officer who deals with environmental crime and a representative of Your Housing Group. The meeting was arranged to discuss, in particular, ongoing flytipping issues and associated nuisances.

The Clerk stated that the Borough Council believes the statistics for Birchwood are ‘not too bad’ – but this is possibly because of the way incidents has been reported to them (and that our team does pick up some flytipped items, which are then not reported to the Borough).

We have been advised to ask all residents, if they can, to use the online form on the Borough Council’s website to report any incidents of flytipping. This will then be investigated and once that has been done, the landowner should remove the items.

If a resident cannot access the internet, we can make the report for them.

Residents need to give as much specific information as possible, particularly with regard to location; and especially in the instance of ‘green waste’ as it sometimes appears to mingle with the general landscaping.

- (e) Sent, as requested by WBC – a number on online forms reporting flytipped items in the Birchwood area.
- (f) The Clerk reported that we have chased up WBC for the return of our tractor which had to remain in for repair as the flail was not working correctly once it was refitted by them following other repairs done off-site.
- (g) The Clerk said that an email has been sent to the Borough Council requesting advice on whether a sign can be put on several public litter bins in Locking Stumps which are being filled regularly with recyclables and household waste, leaving no space for the general public to throw their litter away when passing, so it gets left on the floor.

We have, again, been advised to report any such incidents via the Contact Centre in order that they are properly logged and do not become ‘hidden work’.

Councillor T. Hearldon commented that she has noticed an increase over the last eight or nine months of white goods not being collected, seemingly for months at a time.

The Clerk said that this might be due to an increase in the waiting time for residents that have requested collections from them – which is, at present, around five weeks. The Borough is currently considering ways to try to improve the waiting time.

258/17-18 **BIRCHWOOD FORUM**

- (a) Received – Information re: this year’s Brainwave fundraising event ‘Santa Dash’.
- (b) Received – Details of a free to use, digital ‘quiet space’.
- (c) Received – Reminder of the Bishop’s Lunch (10th October).

259/17-18 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – Various update/information emails from Warrington Voluntary Action.
- (b) Received - Various LGC briefing emails.
- (c) Received – Flyer from Active Cheshire

- (d) Received – Email received from Lancashire Wildlife Trust giving details of a funding application being submitted on behalf of the Friends of Gorse Covert Mounds, requesting a letter of support from the Town Council which would accompany the application.

Members unanimously agreed that a letter of support could be sent.

Action Clerk's office to send a letter of support.

- (e) Received from The Mersey Forest Team details of a training and networking session focussing on community woodlands and wood allotments, taking place at Risley Moss on 11th November 2017. This event is now 'fully booked' but we have requested to be kept informed of any further events.
- (f) Received - Freedom of Information request re: all emails sent and received relating to parking issues on Birchwood Boulevard. These have been provided, with personal details redacted where appropriate and the reason for the redactions stated to the person making the request.
- (g) Received – Details of Mencap's Big Tea Party autumn fundraising. Information can be found at community.fundraising@mencap.org.uk
- (h) Received – letter from a resident concerned about 'overgrowth of hedges' in Mansfield Close, allegedly impeding visibility for drivers. Our team has investigated the complaint, but cannot see any significant issues at present. The team is scheduled to trim some shrubbery on footpaths in Mansfield Close.
- (i) Received/sent – correspondence relating to storage of cardboard waste in roll cages at the rear of a local shop. Councillor Nelson was contacted by a local resident about the cardboard and other items to the rear of the shop. The Borough Council has contacted the shop regarding the matter and Councillor Nelson has asked the Borough Council to continue to monitor the situation.

Councillor Nelson said that she has been informed that the area will be monitored.

- (j) Sent – email informing Councillors that Councillor Linney has reported the very large tree near the dentist has been cut down. Enquiries point to it being cut down by contractors working for the shopping centre, which owns the land. We do not know why it has been cut down, but will make further enquiries.
- (k) Received – emails from Knutsford Town Council stating there are a limited number of spaces available on a social media training session (in January 2018) – cost £50pp and places on a planning training course (10th & 11th January) – cost £40pp.

Councillor Ellis asked if anyone would be interested in attending the planning training as he thought it could improve the knowledge base of the Council.

Several Councillors expressed an interest in attending this planning event, although the journey from Birchwood and back was a consideration; particularly as the event is to be held over two evenings.

Councillor Fitzsimmons suggested enquiring whether it might be possible for ChALC to arrange the same training course, to take place somewhere local to Warrington, maybe Warrington Town Hall, depending on numbers.

It was felt that there might be more attendees from local Warrington Parish Councils if it was not as far to travel.

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

- (l) Sent/received – Various emails between a resident, the Town Council, Your Housing Group and Warrington Borough Council; regarding a specific incident of flytipping.

Emails have also been exchanged regarding ongoing flytipping outside a bin store on Layton Close.

The Borough Council has advised that once crime tape has been added to an incident, it means they have finished with their investigation into the waste, which can then be removed by the landowner (this may mean the waste has to stay in situ for a while).

260/17-18 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG)**

- (a) Sent – query regarding tree maintenance required near a property on Redpoll Lane. Overhanging branches were previously reported to YHG by a resident in early August and a reference number was received. Damage has now allegedly been caused to the resident's mobility vehicle due to the branches, as well as them continuing to hit other vehicles and refuse wagons.
- (b) Sent – email enquiring whether a BAT Roost Survey has been/will be done on any relevant trees, prior to any planned tree works being undertaken by YHG. A reply has been received confirming that where there is a strong reason to believe a tree is a potential bat habitat then a survey is carried out.

261/17-18 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received – Various alerts from the Cheshire Police Alert System. For details re: Cheshire Police Alerts and how to sign up go to www.cheshirepolicealert.co.uk/ Registering is completely free.
- (b) Sent/received – emails (with photographs) regarding recent incidents of anti-social spray painting. The incidents have been logged.

262/17-18 **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (CHALC), NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC), SLCC**

- (a) Received – ChALC weekly e-bulletins
- (b) Received - NALC Chief Executive Bulletins

263/17-18 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

LGC – 28/09/17, 12/10/17
Cheshire Fire Authority Annual Report 2016-2017

264/17-18 **PRESS RELEASES**

Copies of press releases that include some relevance or interest to the Birchwood community.

265/17-18 **MEMBERS' REFERRALS MADE VIA THE CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING**

There were no Members' Referrals made prior to the publication of the Clerk's Report.

266/17-18 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

(a) **Warrington Borough Council**

- (i) Received - documents for the Development Management Committee meetings on 10th October 2017 and 11th October 2017. There were no applications specific to Birchwood on the agendas for discussion at these meetings.
- (ii) Received – Link to Neighbourhood Area Consultations – Lymm Parish Area and Stretton Parish Area. Representations regarding these consultations are to be made to the Borough Council before 5pm on Monday 27th November 2017.
- (iii) Received – reminder regarding upcoming Transport Summits’ in Warrington that are being used to shape Warrington’s Local Transport Plan.
Councillors Atkin, Ellis and Evans are hoping to attend.
- (iv) Received – Notice that the Borough Council proposes to exercise its powers conferred by Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended and of all other enabling powers, by the installation of a Zebra Crossing facility on Admirals Road.

A visual plan was also received that illustrating the proposed installation of the zebra crossing between the junctions of Admirals Road with Chatfield Drive and Admirals Road with Linnet Grove. To manage approach speeds, it is proposed that speed cushions are introduced approximately 40m north of Linnet Grove and 30m south of Chatfield Drive.

Members discussed the proposal and unanimously agreed that, as initially suggested at a previous meeting Councillor Atkin and Councillor Bowden attended, with the developer of the new housing development on Admirals Road and Officers from the Borough Council, the Town Council’s preferred option would be for a single raised flat top section to slow vehicles at the crossing rather than speed cushions several metres away either side.

Councillors have concerns that if there is not a specific ‘deterrent’ / slowing mechanism at the actual site of the zebra crossing, it might be treated like the signalised pedestrian crossing in Locking Stumps, where some vehicles race through – even when the lights are on red.

The Borough Council has said a raised crossing is not its preferred option due to Admirals Road being a bus route and a primary route for emergency services – and going over the raised ‘bed’ could cause discomfort to occupants (in ambulance and buses) and potential delay for emergency vehicles.

Members considered this comment, but noted that there are other streets in Warrington that have these raised crossings and are main routes.

Action Clerk’s office to send comments to the Borough Council’s Legal Services by the deadline of 16th November 2017.

267/17-18 **ENFORCEMENT CASES**

Lists of enforcement cases recently opened/closed have been received.

268/17-18 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

There were no planning decisions received prior to the publication of the Clerk’s Report.

269/17-18 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

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

Certain applications are not Planning Applications; therefore there is no statutory opportunity to allow 21 days for comments, e.g: Non material amendment applications, Lawful development certificates (S192) and 28 day prior approval/determination applications. These types of applications are received on an information basis only.

- (a) Application No. 2017/31260 75 Sandicroft Close, Birchwood, WA3 7LY. Proposed single storey rear extension.
- (b) Application No. 2017/31281 1 Marlow Close, Birchwood, WA3 7PE. Proposed two storey extension side extension, part of extension is over existing garage.
- (c) Application reference: 2017/31326 35 Armstong Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6DH. Discharge of Condition - Application for approval of details reserved by Conditions 1 (Full Planning permission), 2 (Plans), 3 (Matching Materials) & 4 (Car Parking Spaces) following Planning Approval 2016/27327.

There were no objections made to applications (a) to (c) at this time.

- (d) Application reference: 2017/31330 1 Penzance Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6ZP. Householder - Retrospective application for the retention of the existing boundary wall (at its current height) and the proposed erection of 2 x brick pillars and a gate across the existing drive.

Councillor Atkin stated that he had been approached by some residents regarding the height of the wall, as it is taller than that allowed under permitted development (1m) - especially as it is blocking sight lines. It was initially raised with planning enforcement who contacted the resident regarding the issue. The resident ultimately decided to put in a retrospective planning application.

Members discussed the retrospective application and unanimously agreed to object to for the following reasons:

- The boundary wall is over 1 metre high and next to the footpath of a highway used by vehicles.
- The wall incorporates the busy 'junction' of Delenty Drive and Powell Avenue and, at the height it has been built to, causes sight line issues for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians alike.
- The wall is out of keeping with rest of the development, which has a more 'open' aspect.

Members requested that Borough Council Officers consider recommending the height of the wall be reduced to 1m, particularly to ensure the safety of drivers, cyclists and pedestrians at this very busy junction.

Action Clerk's office to contact the Planning Department regarding the above.

270/17-18 STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Councillor Ellis stated that there is not currently any further update information relating to the Strategy and Action Plan.

The next step is to arrange a meeting of the Policy and Strategy and Engagement Sub-committee to discuss, in particular, the results of the recent community consultation and how they can inform the Town Council's future strategy.

All Members are on the sub-committee.

A date of 9th November, 6pm at Parkers Farm was agreed.

The Clerk will be unable to attend as she will be at the Parish Liaison Meeting that evening.

271/17-18 **NOVEMBER 2017 MEETING**

Members unanimously agreed that, as was done last year, the November Meeting will be a Pre-Budget and Strategy meeting. It will still be open to members of the public, but there will not be any 'public participation' section of the meeting.

This part of the meeting concluded at 7.10pm.