

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT
PARKERS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE, DELENTY DRIVE, RISLEY
ON TUESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2019**

- Present:** Councillor Atkin in the Chair
Councillors Allman, Bowden, Breslin, D. Ellis, J. Ellis, Evans, Fitzsimmons,
Nelson and Reeves

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

David McDonald – Project Manager, Warrington Foodbank

PC Gareth Frith, PCSO Gina Jones and PCSO Houghton

2 x residents
- Apologies:** M. Hearldon, T. Hearldon and the Deputy Clerk – Mrs C. Caddock
Councillor Bowden apologised for missing the January meeting

346/18-19 **JANUARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor Evans proposed, Councillor D. Ellis seconded and it was resolved that: The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 22nd January 2019 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.

Councillor Evans – the Friends of Birchwood Forest Park

Councillors Allman and Evans – Oakwood Community Association

Councillors Bowden, Breslin, D. Ellis, J. Ellis and Nelson – Birchwood Youth & Community Centre Committee

Councillors Atkin, Bowden, Breslin and D. Ellis – Birchwood Carnival Committee

Councillor Reeves – Birchwood Community High School

Councillors D. Ellis and J. Ellis – Repair Café

347/18-19 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Police Monthly Update**

PC Frith gave Members an update on some of the recent Police activity in Birchwood during February 2019.

He stated that enquiries were ongoing regarding a recent armed robbery at McColls shop in Oakwood.

There has been a burglary at the Turf and Feather Public House in Locking Stumps. Nothing was taken and there was no attempt to gain access to the living quarters.

There has also been a burglary at a commercial premise in Prestwood Court.

Three females were caught acting in an anti-social manner at Birchwood Shopping Centre and letters have been sent home.

Two motorcycles have been stolen in Birchwood recently – both of which have been found burned out locally.

Regarding speed enforcement operations, in 45 minutes on Glover Road, six vehicles were found to be travelling in excess of the speed limit.

The Police will be taking the speed indicator device out on Warrington Road during this week. It is hoped that the site code for formal speed enforcement operations to be undertaken, will be issued in the next couple of weeks.

Councillors Evans enquired whether any of the robberies, mentioned previously, are linked.

PC Frith said that it does not appear that they are; investigations remain ongoing.

Councillor D. Ellis enquired about anti-social behaviour taking place on the golf course.

PCSO Jones asked if Locking Stumps Common can be cut back as she is not able to access the area very easily when responding to any ASB incidents.

Action Clerk's office to liaise with the Borough Council re: Locking Stumps Common.

Councillor J. Ellis raised an issue regarding 'loose dog attacks', citing an incident that occurred a few weeks ago near the Tennis and Leisure Centre. She asked PC Frith what the public should do in the event of dog attacks.

If the dog is on its own, the Police will attend with the dog unit and then a decision will be made regarding the dog. If the dog has bitten/is biting people, then the situation will be escalated.

If the dog has bitten another dog, then the Police should be contacted if the owner is known. If it is a dangerous dog off-lead, then the Police will investigate. If it is a recurring situation it could result in a prosecution. There is a dog bite register, therefore the Police can check if the dog has bitten before.

Councillor J. Ellis asked if someone has their dog on a lead and another dog isn't, what can people do?

PCSO Frith said that the Police cannot force people to put their dogs on leads, they can only advise them. If there is a situation of concern, the Police have to try to establish which party is to blame.

Other points to consider are that there is a difference between a dog biting another dog and a dog biting a person. Depending on circumstances it could be a civil matter rather than a Police matter. What constitutes the classification of a dog being 'under control' is also open to interpretation.

Councillor D. Ellis asked about the legality of taking photographs of people who have removed trolleys from the shopping centre.

PC Frith said that it would depend what the photographs would be used for.

Councillor D. Ellis said that it would only be to enable enforcement; they would not be photographs of minors and would not be used for any form of harassment.

He has been working with the Trolley Angels, who have been trying to educate people that they can be fined £100 for removing a trolley from the shopping centre site, as well as collecting abandoned trolleys from around the area. Unfortunately, some people have literally been laughing at the volunteers.

PC Frith said that the volunteers should try having a conversation with the people who are taking the trolleys. If, for example, they saw a car being bumped with a trolley, then it would be okay to take a photograph, as long as the image is not circulated publicly in any way and is not used for any form of harassment.

Councillor Nelson commented that the lack of the pound coin slots on the trolleys, since the introduction of the newest pound coin, has probably contributed to more trolleys being taken.

Councillor D. Ellis said that around 80/90% of the trolleys lack the cartronics system as well. He added that the amount of abandoned trolleys around the area is as bad as it ever was, although he is liaising with ASDA and the shopping centre with a view to improving the situation.

The Clerk informed the Police that a tent has been found on Leacroft Road; it is unknown if someone is sleeping rough.

Action The Police to check this out.

(b) **Public Participation**

Two residents attended tonight's meeting to raise their concerns about a recent planning application: *Application No. 2019/34410 New Hall Farm, School Lane, Birchwood, WA3 6LH. Variation of Conditions – Application to vary conditions 2 (layout & related drawings) conditions 7 and 8 (noise report) and conditions 11 (hours of operation) associated to 2017/31147.*

A resident acknowledged the Town Council's initial involvement with the original planning application and thanked Councillors for their efforts in objecting to the proposal, even though it was granted on appeal. The resident added that he would like the Town Council to object to the change of conditions.

A detailed discussion took place regarding the new proposal, which, although it is a slightly smaller scheme, with the promise of lower emissions and noise levels, it does include the option for longer operating hours of 6am to 11pm (originally 9am to 8pm).

Councillor Bowden noted that the Town Council has to act in what it believes is in the best interests of its residents, for example increasing the hours of operation may negatively impact residents.

It was suggested that had the longer hours been included in the proposals that were sent to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the appeal against the Borough Council's decision to reject the first application, then the Planning Inspectorate might not have granted the appeal.

Councillor Ellis noted that about 30 Councils in the UK, including ten Local Councils and Trafford – effectively 'next door' to Warrington Borough Council, have declared a 'climate emergency' with the aim of reducing their Council's carbon footprint to neutral. Some have set targets, others are 'as soon as possible'.

If Birchwood declared a ‘climate emergency’ could it have an effect on such applications?

Following further discussions, it was concluded that the Town Council would object to the application on the grounds of increased hours, reduced amenity and impact on residents.

Councillors Atkin and Reeves are willing to object in person as Town Councillors if it goes to committee and Councillor Bowden will object in his capacity as a Borough Councillor.

Action Clerk’s office to send a letter of objection to the Planning Department.

Councillor D. Ellis asked Members if he could bring ‘declaration of climate emergency’ to the March 2019 meeting for discussion. This was agreed by Members.

Action To put ‘declaration of climate emergency’ on the Clerk’s Report as a Member’s referral for the March 2019 meeting for Councillor D. Ellis to lead a discussion.

(c) **Presentation – Warrington Foodbank**

David McDonald – Project Manager at Warrington Foodbank attended tonight’s meeting to give those present an insight into how the Warrington Foodbank operates and why there is an ongoing need for the services it provides.

The foodbank originally started in 2012, supported by the Trussell Trust, as people were facing food poverty. At that time, it was thought that it would be a short-term project, but the foodbank is busier than ever.

The foodbank works on a voucher only system and people are referred and given vouchers based on their family size, which they can redeem for three days’ emergency food at a distribution or satellite centre. There are many different reasons that people find themselves struggling and requiring the services of the foodbank.

There are five satellite centres in Warrington, including one at Birchwood Community Church.

Any food and toiletries donated by people in Warrington are distributed for the people of Warrington.

The Warrington Foodbank is also supported by some business partners, including the Ombudsman Service, BNFL, Torus Housing, Priestly College, BNFL, Warrington Housing Association and Balfour Beatty.

There have also been pilot schemes at six schools in Warrington that, in addition to breakfast clubs during term time, they have been feeding children during school holidays at Easter and during the summer and Christmas holidays. During the last summer holidays 161 children were fed in Warrington. It is hoped that this scheme will be extended to 12 schools from the 2019 summer holidays.

There is no evidence to suggest there is a reduction in need for the foodbank services. Every Council ward has foodbank vouchers, but it is sometimes difficult to get them to the right people. Some people feel ashamed to admit they need help, some are embarrassed to be seen going to a foodbank.

The foodbank can also point people in the direction of other agencies who can help them to solve longer term issues.

The foodbank needs the support of the people of Warrington. Since 2012 they have been able to supply the equivalent of 275,000 meals.

Councillor Nelson enquired how the Town Council can help.

Mr McDonald said that the foodbank at the Encounter Centre in Birchwood does not seem to be working very well and that there seems to be a lack of local referral agencies.

He stated that foodbanks work with various professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers and police to identify people in crisis. The local schools can also help in identifying families in need of assistance.

Donations are always being sought, either of food or monetary gifts. The main Foodbank Warehouse is at Unit 9, Tanning Court, Warrington (behind DFS near Riverside Retail Park). Further details can be found online at <https://warrington.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Councillor Nelson asked whether Warrington Borough Transport helps to get people home if they have to walk to a foodbank.

Mr McDonald said that people used to get free bus passes, but this is no longer the case.

He added that he has a meeting tomorrow with another organisation called FareShare, to find out how they work and whether it would be able to benefit any local Warrington charities or community projects.

Members thank Mr McDonald for attending and giving his informative presentation to Members.

348/18-19 **SPEEDING ON WARRINGTON ROAD**

The Clerk stated that Members had requested additional time in which to study the results from the traffic survey data, and for them to be brought back to tonight's meeting for reconsideration.

Councillor Atkin, who analysed the data in some detail between meetings, concluded that the data should be re-assessed by the Borough Council because it seems there is clear evidence of a significant speeding issue on Warrington Road. His analysis and conclusion have been forwarded on to Warrington Borough Council for their consideration.

At tonight's meeting, Councillor Atkin suggested that now we have the traffic data, next time applications are open to the Police and Crime Commissioner's grant funding stream, that the Town Council makes an application for permanent speed indicator devices to be installed either side of Risley Village, using the traffic statistics to back up the request.

Councillor D. Ellis wondered if we could ask the businesses on the business park for funding. Bents Garden Centre funded one in Culcheth. They cost in the region of £2,000 to £4,000.

349/18-19 **MEETING WITH WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (WBC) OFFICERS**

The Clerk reported that a partnership meeting took place on Tuesday 5th February 2019.

The draft minutes from the meeting were circulated to Members and have been sent to the WBC Officers who attended the meeting.

- (a) **Lyster Close, Oakwood – Complaints re: overgrown trees; growing out into the road and low hanging branches.**

Update: The Clerk said that the cutting work has now been undertaken.

- (b) **Ownership and responsibility for footpaths running from Birchwood Park Avenue onto the business park; to Chadwick House and Hinton House, etc.**

Update: The Clerk stated that WBC has sent us a copy of the land ownership title which shows that the land, or at least part of it, appears to be owned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

- (c) **A list had been provided by BTC to WBC re: areas of overhanging shrubbery which need to be cut back to prevent injury to our team when they are mowing. The shrubbery on the list is owned by WBC.**

Update: The Clerk reported that the BTC team is still working its way through the list. This was raised with WBC Officers at a recent meeting. As far as we are aware, no cutting has been undertaken by WBC so far. This cutting back is necessary to make the working area safer for maintenance operatives when they are undertaking grass cutting – and the mowing season is fast approaching.

- (d) **It had been reported to WBC again, that several WBC litter bins, including some in the Forest Park, sometimes appear to get left unemptied. The Clerk also spoke to Kevin McCready about this matter.**

Update: We have been informed that the person who usually empties the WBC bins is currently absent from work. The operatives filling in might not be fully conversant with the role at present; however, some that were being missed are now being emptied.

A query was also raised about litter picking on the main routes (which has to be done by WBC or their contractors, under traffic management conditions).

The Clerk stated that she is still trying to arrange a partnership meeting with WBC Officers to talk about various ongoing issues.

- (e) **Hedgecutting/landscaping/mowing**

Update: The Clerk stated that she is still trying to arrange a partnership meeting with WBC Officers to talk about various ongoing issues.

- (f) **Planters, barrier planters / Copperfield Close**

Update: The Clerk stated that a Town Council representative will meet a Highways Inspector on site to discuss what can and cannot be done regarding the proposed installation of barrier planters (there are restrictions that have to be considered). There appears to be some inconsistency of what is / is not allowed throughout Warrington.

The planter to be installed at the entrance to Copperfield Close will cost £400, which includes delivery. The Clerk's office will liaise with WBC to have one of their operatives on site with cat and genny equipment (to check for cabling) whilst the planter is being installed.

(g) **Leacroft and Clayton Roads – litter**

A letter was received from a representative of one of the companies on Leacroft Road, regarding the amount of litter that is in the area. They are wondering if the area can be tidied up, if not by the local authority, possibly by their business; perhaps encouraging other local businesses to join in.

A reply had been sent to the resident, explaining why BTC does not litter pick the area, and informing them that we have been in talks with WBC about this issue.

Some of Leacroft Road is private and WBC own part of the road. The Borough Council has asked that we give them details of the company names off the side of the heavy goods vehicles of ‘offenders’, which would be difficult as BTC doesn’t litterpick this road as it is a business park.

Action To contact WBC for further advice (Linda Smallthwaite and/or Louis Banks regarding enforcement and Andy Cutts regarding litter bins).

(h) **Electricity North West (ENW) Works**

A concern was raised with ENW regarding the fire station / Powell Avenue underpass. Removal of vegetation and the removal of a concrete bollard has made potential unauthorised access easier. There is no real deterrent to stop vehicles from driving through the underpass.

Update: ENW to investigate. WBC to arrange for the bollard to be reinstated.

In addition, there is an area of grass verge which BTC believes has been damaged by vehicles associated with the ENW works. BTC has made WBC aware of this issue.

(i) **Damaged Wall – Gorse Covert Shop**

Update: WBC has raised a works order for repairs to be carried out.

A question was raised as to whether, in the longer term, it would be more cost efficient to completely remove this raised planter and possibly turf over the area, as despite it costing several thousand, the amount that repairs cost each time the wall is damaged soon add up and it would be less costly to maintain.

Action The Clerk to speak to WBC regarding this ongoing issue.

(j) **Speed Statistics – Warrington Road**

BTC had received some raw traffic speed data from WBC following a speed survey that was undertaken on Warrington Road in Risley (including the stretch running past the residential properties, situated on the opposite side of the road to the Noggin).

Councillor Atkin had analysed the data and concluded that there is clear evidence of a significant speeding issue on Warrington Road.

Update: Councillor Atkin’s email has been forwarded to WBC requesting feedback, for further discussion at a future meeting.

The Police do not yet have a site code to undertake formal speed enforcement operations at this site; however, PCSO Jones is liaising with a colleague regarding deploying the speed indicator device in the meantime.

(k) **Flooding and blocked drains (including underpasses and Roberts Fold itself)**

WBC advise that there is a partial collapse of the ground / drainage in part of the fire station / Powell Avenue underpass.

Update: WBC cleared the gully following recent flooding in the fire station underpass; we are currently awaiting an update from a Highways Inspector regarding the suspected collapsed drain.

There are four or five properties on a stretch of Roberts Fold where the path / road has no drainage as it is not adopted highway. The footpath and gardens of these properties suffer from ongoing problems with flooding due to the lack of drainage.

Update: This issue has been passed on to WBC's Flood Management Team.

(l) **Street Lighting**

There are ongoing concerns regarding the new street lighting not giving sufficient illumination and/or the lighting being obstructed by tree branches and canopies on some footpaths in Birchwood.

Update: An evening walkabout has been arranged to take place on Thursday 7th March. Some of the main areas to be looked at include Chatfield Drive, The Cage multi-use games area, Goldfinch Close and Dunnock Grove, which should highlight the wider issue with lighting levels. Councillors Atkin, D. Ellis and Evans hope to be able to attend, along with Officers from WBC.

(m) **Rear of Oakwood Shops**

Some issues had been raised relating to potential health and safety issues at the rear of Oakwood shops – in particular, raised paving stones and a build up of cardboard that was considered to be a fire hazard.

Update: A significant amount of paving has been replaced with tarmac and the area had been cleared of cardboard, etc.

We were advised to contact the fire service if there is a future build-up of cardboard, as they have legislation to support them in advising commercial premises owners in dealing with potential fire risk situations.

We have been advised that the car park is still owned by the same people we previously had contact details for.

351/18-19 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG) - UPDATE**

Meetings with YHG

The Clerk reported that, as requested by Members, an evening meeting took place on Tuesday 19th February 2019 between herself, several Councillors and two representatives of YHG. Once she has completed the draft minutes, the Clerk will circulate them to Members for information.

The Clerk gave Members a brief update on some of the items raised at the February meeting:

- a) Meetings are taking place with Councillors D. Ellis and J. Ellis with a view to improving the service provided to YHG customers.
- b) Neighbourhood inspections will be programmed in for the next 12 months and customers will be invited to attend.
- c) YHG are looking at having 'Street Ambassadors'.
- d) There will be a reduction in the 'patch size' for property agents.
- e) YHG is moving towards getting staff out more into the neighbourhoods, providing an increased presence, rather than them being mainly office-based.
- f) A detailed discussion took place re: flytipping; including recent problems with a bin store on Layton Close. A new combination lock has now been installed on the gates to the bin store which will hopefully deter flytipping and improve the situation.
- g) The issue of flytipping on the Redshank Estate, where bags of household food waste were initially reported to WBC and YHG on 18th December 2018 – but were still in situ, was also discussed. YHG will arrange for their contractors to remove this waste.
- h) A meeting is to be arranged between BTC and YHG to specifically discuss ongoing flytipping issues on YHG estates and how they will be dealt with.
- i) YHG does not have an in-house maintenance team – Fix 360 carry out property maintenance and repairs to properties on their behalf. Maintenance is programmed according to priority: emergency, 3-day, 7-day or 21-day.
- j) It was noted that the average wait for a call to be answered at the YHG Contact Centre is now 24 seconds.
- k) YHG will provide a copy of a statistical report relating specifically to Birchwood regarding customer satisfaction.
- l) The next walkabout is planned for 5th March, 10am – 12 noon. As it is not always easy for Councillors who work to leave work for two hours at a time, the Clerk suggested to YHG that the walkabouts revert to being one hour's duration. It was agreed that YHG/BTC walkabouts would be for an hour and focus on environmental aspects and that other, possibly longer walkabouts would be arranged to which residents would be invited.
- m) YHG are aware that grounds maintenance is a contentious issue with residents and YHG need to be clear about the work they will be doing. This will be managed by their housing team.
- n) It has been confirmed that YHG does not have a litter picking team. The only litter picking they carry out is when they undertake some grounds maintenance e.g. mowing or shrub cutting.

352/18-19 **PROPOSED EXTENSION OF PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON CHATFIELD DRIVE**

The Clerk reported that WBC has this in hand and that traffic notices are being posted.

353/18-19 **RISLEY POLICE STATION**

The Clerk reported that a survey had been circulated and details shared with residents via our Facebook page, regarding the proposed relocation of the Police Base from Risley Police Station to sharing the space at Birchwood Fire Station. In addition, the help desk would be completely relocated to Warrington.

The closing date for completing the survey is 7th March 2019.

The Police Station costs around £30,000 to £50,000 per annum to maintain at present. Although it is not known what the building and/or land on which the Police Station currently stands would be used for; it was suggested that it might be used for housing.

354/18-19 **PROPOSED MOTORWAY SERVICE AREA (MSA)**

At the January meeting, the Clerk reported that a letter had been received from a company writing on behalf of Extra MSA Group, who are currently examining the possibility of developing a new MSA at Junction 11 of the M62.

Members had discussed the correspondence received and resolved that at the present time they do not wish to meet with a representative(s) of Extra MSA Group.

The Clerk's office had written to the correspondent to inform them of the Town Council's decision.

At tonight's meeting Councillor Breslin informed Members that Helen Jones, MP has a meeting with a representative of Extra MSA Group on Friday in order for them to brief her about the proposals.

Councillor Reeves enquired re: ownership of the land that the proposed MSA would be built on.

Councillor Bowden stated that WBC would be prepared to meet with representatives of Extra MSA Group, but only if it was a formally convened meeting.

If a formal planning application is submitted, then the Town Council will solicit the opinions of the Birchwood Community in order to represent their views regarding the proposals.

Action Clerk's office to update Members if any further information is received regarding these proposals.

355/18-19 **FORMER BIFFA WASTE SITE**

The Clerk reported that we and WBC Officers have chased a query sent on behalf of a local resident asking whether the footpaths and bridleways at the Risley (previous landfill) site are now formally open and if they will be included on the definitive rights of way map.

We are still awaiting a response from the relevant contact at WBC.

356/18-19 **WBC ENFORCEMENT QUERY**

The Clerk stated that the following response had been received from WBC Enforcement following a query received from a resident asking if any penalties have been imposed in Birchwood.

In order for WBC to take enforcement action it either needs;

- information that would lead to the person dumping the waste and / or
- evidence from within the waste that provides a lead to whose waste it was

'Having looked through our database of complaints these are the ones that are listed for Birchwood 1 July - 31 December 2018 (6 months):

Dog Fouling

2 x dog fouling incidents reported

1 warning letter sent

1 interview under caution – insufficient evidence to proceed to formal legal action, warning letter issued.

Fly-tipping

33 x reports of fly-tipping

14 where no waste was found

11 wasn't local authority land

1 FPN issued (paid)

1 case file being compiled to determine course of action

We appreciate that it is often difficult to witness littering and fly-tipping taking place; but we would welcome as much information as possible in order to target our enforcement activities e.g. names and / or addresses of individuals involved, descriptions of individuals involved, car vehicle registrations and details of vehicles involved, times of day when the incident occurred etc. Residents can report any future issues on 01925 443322 or via the following weblink <http://www.warrington.gov.uk/report>

By reporting individual incidents of fly-tipping as they occur, Officers can then investigate each case, monitor the frequency and map where we get repeated issues and consider more proactive action.'

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

357/18-19 WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

- (a) Sent – emails relating to a number of flytipped items (copied to YHG in case part of the land ownership might be theirs. The resident's complaint also raises the issue of some WBC bins not being emptied. Our team went emptied them on this occasion. (see also Minutes 350/18-19 (d) and 351/18-19 (g) above).
- (b) Received – Warrington East Phases 2 and 3 Roadworks updates (published on our Facebook Page).
- (c) Received – notification that the Definitive Map and Statement for the area will be modified by adding the footpath running from a point on a publicly maintainable footpath, near to where Birchwood Way crosses the M6 motorway, in a north westerly direction, parallel to the motorway to Locking Stumps Lane.
- (d) Sent – details of trip hazard where a tactile paving is raised at the junction of Admirals Road and Dunnock Grove (case ref: CRM 871416).
- (e) Sent – query asking whether it would be possible for a new, clearer sign to be installed indicating the location of Thomas Risley Church and Locking Stumps Primary School. We are awaiting a reply.

- (f) Received – notice that the next Parish Liaison Meeting will take place on 1st April 2019 and on 3rd April 2019 WBC’s Monitoring Officer will be delivering an update session on the code of conduct.

Members did not have any items to add onto the agenda.

- (g) To note that the long-campaigned-for 30mph speed limit repeater signs have been installed on Ordnance Avenue.

358/18-19 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG)**

- (a) Sent – copied into emails to WBC re: flytipping in YHG areas.
- (b) Sent/received – emails and phone calls re: flytipping and overflowing bins in a bin area of Layton Close. The Clerk arranged for it to be cleared by YHG and for WBC to empty all the bins – despite them being ‘contaminated’. A combination lock has now been installed (see also Minute 351/18-19 (f) above).

359/18-19 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – Various update/information emails from Warrington Voluntary Action.
- (b) Received – Minutes of the Oakwood Community Association meeting (05/02/2019).
- (c) Received – Various updates relating to the M62 Smart Motorway Project works/programme.
- (d) Received – An email from Ralph Johnson, saying that he is retiring from Birchwood High School on 28th February 2019. The new Business Manager contact for the high school is Mr. Alan O’Reilly.

Action Clerk’s office to write to Ralph Johnson, thanking him for all the hard work he put into, not only the school, but also the community and to wish him the best for his retirement.

- (e) Received – Poster re: Friends of Gorse Covert Mounds meeting, 27th February 2019.

360/18-19 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received – copies of various Police Alerts and the Winter 2018 Stakeholder Bulletin.
- (b) Received – Details of a consultation with local residents on the closing of the local Police Station help desk and moving the Birchwood Police base to Birchwood Fire Station (see also Minute 353/18-19 above).
- (c) Sent/received – emails re: business vehicles parking and obstructing a footpath on Pennant Close; following a complaint received from a local resident. PCSO Jones has spoken to the owner of the vehicles and advised them that it is illegal to park obstructing a footpath. She is monitoring the situation.

361/18-19 **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (ChALC), NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC), SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS (SLCC)**

- (a) Received – ChALC weekly e-bulletins with various attachments.
- (b) Received - NALC Chief Executive Bulletins, Blogs and Newsletters.

- (c) Received – SLCC – various News bulletins and details of Branch meetings, conferences, etc.

362/18-19 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

Various LGC magazines & e-mail Briefings

363/18-19 **MEMBERS' REFERRALS MADE VIA THE CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING**

Councillor D. Ellis raised the ongoing issue of flytipping on Silver Lane (near the motorway junction) following the receipt of a video sent to him by a resident of the current state of the area.

There is a mix of landowners in this area including the Woodland Trust, the Borough Council, Highways England (closer to the motorway) and a large part of the lane is privately owned.

Currently there is a massive amount of waste in the area and the cost of removal will be huge. Some of the waste may be hazardous and much of it is commercial waste.

Town Council Members are once again asking, “What can be done to catch offenders?”

Following discussions it was suggested that the Town Council writes to Dave Boyer regarding the situation, to enquire what steps can reasonably be taken to identify/deter offenders, and if the Borough Council can urge the landowner(s) to take responsibility for securing their land.

Action Clerk's office to write to Mr. Boyer regarding the above.

Councillor Nelson **proposed**, Councillor Evans **seconded** and it was **resolved** that the Town Council will write to the Borough Council, urging it to investigate the waste and prosecute offenders.

Action Clerk's office to write to WBC regarding the ongoing situation on Silver Lane and pressing for prosecutions where possible.

Councillor Bowden said that WBC no longer funds PCSOs, however, they are investing in three additional Environmental Crime Officers. Hopefully this will lead to further prosecutions regarding flytipped waste, some of which is industrial dumping.

Councillor Bowden agreed that the landowners need to be encouraged to take responsibility of the items on their land, including the private landowner.

Action Councillor Bowden will also follow the issue of Silver Lane up with WBC, in particular regarding the large amounts of catering and building waste being dumped.

364/18-19 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

(a) **Warrington Borough Council**

Received – link to the Development Management Committee meeting document pack for 13th February 2019. There were no items specific to Birchwood on the main agenda for discussion at the meeting.

(b) **Enforcement Cases**

- (i) Lists of enforcement cases recently opened/closed have been received.
- (ii) Sent – complaint re: flyposting of adverts around the roundabout where Garrett Field crosses to Glover Road. These are being posted at a height that would require ladders to remove them.

(c) **Planning Decisions**

- (i) Application No. 2018/33715 106 Carrington Close, Birchwood, WA3 7QB Retrospective construction of a 1.75m fence at the side of the property. **Approved with conditions**
- (ii) Application No. 2018/33818 A574 Birchwood Way, between the junction with Moss Gate and Junction 11 of the M62. **Approved**
- (iii) Application No. 2018/33944 17 Woodhouse Close, Birchwood, WA3 6QP. Proposed single storey wrap around extension. **Approved with conditions**
- (iv) Application No. 2018/34039 62 Inglewood Close, Birchwood, WA3 6UJ. Proposed conservatory to rear of property. **Approved with conditions**
- (v) Application No. 2018/33952 21 Pennant Close, Birchwood, WA3 6RR. Proposed single storey rear and side extension. **Approved with conditions**

(d) **Planning Applications**

All plans can be viewed via:

http://www.warrington.gov.uk/home/transport_planning_and_environment/Planning/Se arch_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 for information only.

- (i) Application No. 2019/34246 Volvo Construction Equipment, Clayton Road, Birchwood, WA3 6PH. Proposed 2 x fascia signs and 1 x totem pole.
- (ii) Application No. 2019/34291 Ground Floor, 920, Birchwood Boulevard, WA3 7QS. Discharge of Conditions 3 (Tree Protection), Condition 4 (Landscaping and Tree Replacement), Condition 5 (Surface water drainage), Condition 6 (Travel Plan), Condition 7 (Cycle Parking), Condition 8 (Electrical Vehical Parking) on previously approved planning application 2018/32445
- (iii) Application No. 2019/34226 4 Stainmore Close, WA3 6TP. Proposed single storey front extension.
- (iv) Application No. 2019/34389 Land bounded by Admirals Road, Linnet Grove and Curlew Grove. Proposed Discharge of Condition 4(A Remediation and Verification, B Reporting unexpected contamination, C Long term monitoring and maintenance) from application 2016/28810.
- (v) Application No. 2019/34369 Melbury Park, Clayton Road, Birchwood, WA3 6PH. Retrospective erection of a temporary Portakabin Solus building to be used as an office.
- (vi) Application No. 2019/34376 3 Culbin Close, Birchwood, WA3 6UA. Proposed first floor side extension and single storey side extension.

- (vii) Application No. 2019/34418 Eastern Edge of Birchwood Park, Plots 107, 300, 501-502, 611-612, 701-702 and Quadrant, Warrington, WA3 6AE. Non Material Amendment - Proposed Amendment to wording of condition 15 on application 2015/26044 to read "The building & any external plant on any individual unit shall be acoustically insulated to a scheme submitted to & approved by the LPA prior to the first occupation of each unit within the development. The scheme shall ensure that the background noise level at the boundary of the individual site or nearest noise sensitive dwelling does not increase. To avoid doubt, calculated noise levels at the measurement point should be 10dBA below the existing background level."
- (viii) Application No. 2019/34371 (21 Pennant Close, WA3 6RR) Proposed single storey side/rear extension with (19 Pennant Close, WA3 6RR) two storey rear and single storey rear/side extension.

(e) **Miscellaneous**

Received – Details of the submission of the Poynton Neighbourhood Plan, Regulation 16 Consultation to Cheshire East Borough Council.

365/18-19 **CURRENT STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

Councillor D. Ellis gave a brief update to Members regarding some of the items included within the Strategy & Action Plan.

He is forecasting that by the end of March they should have a balance of around £4,500. The grants awarded by the Town Council have enabled the Youth and Community Centre Committee to make significant improvements to the centre, many of them involving cost saving measures. They have also made savings on the gas bills.

There have been additional room hire bookings recently, including for first aid courses and a signing choir.

Councillor D. Ellis stated that a number of volunteers are now involved with the running of the Youth and Community Centre and the Repair Café, although it is always hoped that more people may volunteer.

Councillor D. Ellis reminded Members that Sellafield and Birchwood Park had both provided funding for the centre. Money from Sellafield had been used to buy new tables that were lighter weight, easier and safer to use and would enable user groups to set up the room for themselves, how they 'like it'.

In addition, Birchwood Park had painted the centre, cleaned the carpets and The Centre provided 100 good quality, second-hand chairs, to replace the old ones that had seen better days. The old chairs were taken away by a local scrap company.

It was also noted that the Friends of the Forest Park are doing an excellent job and will hopefully be hosting a BBQ later on in the year.

Councillor D. Ellis asked Members for their opinions regarding a proposal for a volunteer event, to show how much local volunteers are appreciated and make a difference to the community. He suggested that it could be held at the Youth and Community Centre and possibly include a buffet and the presentation of certificates.

Action Councillor D. Ellis to put a proposal together to bring back to the Council.

This part of the meeting concluded at 7.30 pm.