

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT
PARKERS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE, DELENTY DRIVE, RISLEY
ON TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY 2019

Present: Councillor Reeves in the Chair
Councillors Breslin, D. Ellis, J. Ellis, Evans and Fitzsimmons

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

Apologies: Councillors Atkin, M. Hearldon, T. Hearldon and Nelson

305/18-19 **DECEMBER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor D. Ellis proposed, Councillor J. Ellis seconded and it was resolved that: The Minutes of the December Town Council Meeting held on 11th December 2018 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 Breslin, D. Ellis and J. Ellis – Birchwood Youth & Community Centre Committee

Councillors Breslin and D. Ellis – Birchwood Carnival Committee

Councillor Reeves – Birchwood Community High School

306/18-19 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Police Monthly Update**

No one from the Police attended tonight's meeting.

The Clerk stated both she and the Deputy Clerk had emailed to ask if anyone was available and, if not, could we receive a written report, but we have not received a reply.

Members expressed their disappointment that the PCSO shift patterns no longer seem to allow attendance of a Police representative at our meetings; especially as we had not received a written report to circulate on this occasion.

Action Clerk's office to write to the Police.

(b) **Public Participation**

As there were no residents present, the Chair closed Public Participation.

307/18-19 **SPEEDING ON WARRINGTON ROAD**

The Clerk reported that we have received some results from the traffic survey, which were emailed in full to Members in December and a summary of the results, which was circulated to Members in their papers.

Members discussed some of the highly detailed information that had been sent.

The Clerk said that the Officer who sent them has asked if the Town Council has any feedback to offer. She added that we do not think that a site code has been assigned to this area yet, which would enable the Police to undertake traffic operations in the area.

Councillor D. Ellis noted that the summary shows, taking the average speeds into account, a high proportion of vehicles are exceeding the speed limit. As there are times during rush hour when the traffic moves very slowly, well below the speed limit, this seems to suggest that there must be other times when vehicles are travelling much too quickly.

Councillor Reeves said that the initial impression regarding feedback appears to be that the Town Council would like to see more counter speed measures implemented on this stretch of road. He suggested that we note the receipt of the documentation and take some more time to look through it – bringing this back to the February meeting for further discussion.

This was agreed by those Members present.

Action To bring this item back to the February meeting for additional discussion.

308/18-19 **MEETING WITH WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (WBC) OFFICERS**

The Clerk reported that a partnership meeting is scheduled to take place on 24th January 2019 with Officers from WBC, during which operational matters will be discussed.

The Clerk reminded Members that an evening meeting has been arranged with representatives of WBC, as requested by Councillors, which will take place on Tuesday 5th February 2019.

The Clerk stated to Members that she had put together a draft agenda based on notes from the Minutes of previous meetings (copied to Members in their papers, as a reminder of the types of issues that have been previously raised with WBC – some of which remain ongoing). She said that the draft will be circulated and asked that Members contact her if they have additional items to be put on/removed from the agenda.

309/18-19 **UPDATE RE: ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS WITH WBC OFFICERS**

Initial issue: WBC Officer to telephone a resident, regarding tree/landscaping enquiry. Contact details have been provided to WBC (at the resident's request).

Update: The Clerk reported that the resident was unhappy with the response from WBC. WBC informed the resident that there was no budget available to cut back trees or the footpath shrubbery. The resident has WBC's permission to cut back branches themselves, that are overhanging their garden.

The Clerk stated that our team visited the footpath that runs along the rear of the resident's property and noted that it was overgrown. With the permission of WBC, six Town Council maintenance operatives spent six hours clearing a stretch of footpath to make it more accessible. They did not undertake any cutting on Woodland Trust Land (which owns another stretch of the path).

The resident contacted the office to express their appreciation for the work undertaken.

Initial issue: Lyster Close, Oakwood – Complaints re: overgrown trees; growing out into the road and low hanging branches. WBC was to visit to survey trees and landscaping and decipher which areas belong to WBC.

Update: The Clerk said that a WBC Tree and Woodland Officer has stated that WBC undertook some emergency works to clear a fallen tree about 12 months ago.

An order has been raised to clear the encroachment into the road; but WBC is currently unable to give a date as to when these works will be undertaken.

The Clerk added that she has enquired if it is a health and safety concern if people are being forced towards the middle of the road due to shrubbery encroachment. We are awaiting a response.

Initial issue: WBC Officer to check ownership and responsibility for footpaths (landscaping and maintenance) which run from Birchwood Park Avenue onto the business park; to Chadwick House and Hinton House, etc.

Update: The Clerk stated that we are still awaiting confirmation from WBC as to who owns this land which was not bought by the Council as part of the Birchwood Park Estate. This will be chased up with WBC at the forthcoming meeting.

Initial issue: 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 working its way through the list. As far as we know, WBC is not currently undertaking cutting work in Birchwood; but enquiries will be made at the meeting.

A query was raised as to whether any cutting is being undertaken in other areas other than Birchwood.

Councillor Evans said he thinks some work was being undertaken on the Forest Park last Friday and suggested asking the Ranger if he has any information regarding work being done by WBC in the park (somewhere BTC would not normally undertake any cutting work).

Initial issue: It had been reported that several WBC litter bins, including some in the Forest Park, sometimes appear to get left unemptied (perhaps if someone is on leave).

WBC informed us that the person who empties the WBC bins was in work until the Christmas break. To ensure no bins get missed they would prioritise bins within his area, including Birchwood Forest Park.

Update: The Clerk said that several WBC bins around Birchwood are still not being emptied. We have queried this with WBC to ask if there is a reason why and to request they make their operatives aware of all their bin locations.

In response to a question about emptying bins on the Forest Park, the Clerk confirmed that this is the responsibility of WBC, but if our team sees some that look a mess, they often empty them and remove flytipping from some parts of the park; although not all the way round the circular footpaths, mainly in the areas around the play areas, the multi-use games area (MUGA) and the car park.

The Clerk added that there are also some issues with the landscaping around the MUGA which does not appear to be being maintained by WBC.

310/18-19 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG) - UPDATE**

(a) **Meetings with YHG**

The Clerk reported that she will be meeting a representative of YHG on 23rd January 2019. The main purpose of this meeting is to discuss Birchwood Carnival and whether YHG may wish to be involved in some way.

The Clerk reminded Members that an evening meeting had been arranged with representatives of YHG, as requested by Councillors, which would take place on Tuesday 19th February 2019.

The Clerk said that she had put together a draft agenda based on notes from a previous meeting (copied to Members in their papers, as a reminder of the types of issues that have been previously raised with YHG – some of which remain ongoing). She asked Members to contact her if they have additional items to be put on/removed from the agenda.

(b) **‘The Cage’ Multi-Use Games Area**

The Clerk stated that ‘The Cage’, on Brock Road, had been cleared of leaves before Christmas.

311/18-19 **REQUEST FOR PLANTER – COPPERFIELD CLOSE**

The Clerk reminded Members that we now have permission to install a planter at the proposed location. The next step is to arrange for the area to be checked with a CAT and Genny for underground pipes/cables that could potentially be compromised if a planter is installed on top of them.

312/18-19 **PROPOSAL FOR BARRIER PLANTERS**

The Clerk reported that this matter is one of the items on the agenda for discussion with WBC Officers at the meeting on 19th February 2019.

313/18-19 **STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

Councillor D. Ellis stated that there is no further progress to report at tonight’s meeting.

314/18-19 **PROPOSED EXTENSION OF PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON CHATFIELD DRIVE**

The Clerk reported that we have not received any recent update relating to any progress on this matter.

Action Clerk’s office to chase WBC for an update.

315/18-19 **RISLEY POLICE STATION**

At the December 2018 meeting, Councillor Atkin, who had attended the November PCC meeting, stated that the Police are still talking about closing Risley Police Station, with a suitable alternative Birchwood base being sought.

At tonight’s meeting, Councillor Breslin asked if the Town Council had received any formal update regarding this issue.

The Clerk replied that we have not heard anything yet.

Councillor Breslin said that he understands an announcement re: the closure of Risley Police Station might be imminent, with a view to them potentially moving into Birchwood Fire Station.

316/18-19 **SHRUBBERY AT THE JUNCTION OF ADMIRALS ROAD AND CHATFIELD DRIVE**

The Clerk informed Members that YHG has faced off the shrubbery at this location, but we had hoped that the height of the shrubbery would have been reduced in order to improve sight lines, which has not happened.

317/18-19 **HEALTH/SAFETY CONCERNS RE: REAR OF OAKWOOD SHOPS**

At the December meeting, the Clerk stated that WBC has said the land is not theirs. She contacted McColls' head office to ask if they can assist in identifying the landlord but is still awaiting a reply.

A discussion took place about some ongoing safety concerns that Members have about the rear of the shops in Oakwood, including poor lighting, uneven paving and trollies full of cardboard being stored underneath the bedroom areas of flats above the shops.

At tonight's meeting that Clerk said that at the meeting with WBC Officers, she will ask for WBC's help in trying to identify the landlord(s) responsible for the areas where we believe there is a cause for safety concerns.

318/18-19 **PROPOSED MOTORWAY SERVICE AREA (MSA)**

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. The letter was circulated to Members in their papers.

The plans are currently in the very early stages and Extra MSA Group has asked to meet with Members of the Town Council to discuss their draft proposals and answer any questions Members might have.

Members 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.

Once the results of an Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping exercise, to be undertaken by WBC, is known and if a formal planning application is to be submitted, then Members might reconsider meeting someone from Extra MSA Group; to ask questions, to receive additional information to put to our Birchwood Community and then to solicit our community's views.

Action Clerk's office to inform the correspondent of the Town Council's decision.

319/18-19 **FORMER BIFFA WASTE SITE**

The Clerk reported that we 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 reply.

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

320/18-19 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Sent / received – emails/telephone calls re: WBC's change of policy re: the collection of white goods. This is no longer a free service from them and there are no concessions any more – something we only found out when local residents called us to complain; as the information on our website was no longer correct.

Councillor Reeves commented that we will have to monitor whether this will influence the amount of flytipping in the area.

- (b) Received – Minutes of the Public Right of Way Forum Meeting that was held on 9th August 2018.
- (c) Sent – email re: 16 bags flytipped household waste on Redshank Lane (our team cannot remove it due to licensing issues re: food waste). Chased up 7/1/19. YHG also informed. WBC said it is still within the 5-week timescale for removal (although it should be initially checked within one or two working days).
- (d) Sent – email re: raised paving stones and tree roots causing potential trip hazard (footpath opposite Nelson’s Quarterdeck). Chased up 7/1/19. WBC have responded stating this land is the responsibility of the school and they have spoken to the school about this matter.

We have since been asked by WBC to indicate on a map where the current issue with the paving stones and tree roots is; which has been done.

- (e) Sent – email re: some of the bins WBC has responsibility for emptying in Birchwood seeming to be missed from the WBC emptying round. Our teams have previously emptied some that were overflowing (see also Minutes 309/18-19 above).

We have received several phone calls and emails from residents regarding this issue.

- (f) Received – Local Bus Information Strategy – Draft Consultation. Comments to the proposed strategy to be made by 31st January 2019.
- (g) Received – Minutes of the Oakwood Community Association (OCA) Meeting from 08/01/19 and notice that OCA meetings are now on Tuesdays due to Youth Oakwood Drop In (YODI) starting on Mondays.
- (h) Received – Update (14/01/19) re: Warrington East Phases 2 and 3 roadworks.
- (i) Received – poster re: February Family Craft Sessions – during half term - taking place in Croft, Sankey Bridges and Penketh.
- (j) Sent – email re: the damaged wall on the entrance to the car park at Gorse Covert Shop, following an email from a resident raising their concerns about the wall. We have asked for it to be repaired as soon as possible and for us to be updated with any progress.

321/18-19 **BIRCHWOOD FORUM**

Received – Details of various upcoming Forum events.

322/18-19 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP**

Sent/received – emails re: various issues that YHG tenants have contacted the Town Council for assistance with.

323/18-19 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – Various update/information emails from Warrington Voluntary Action.
- (b) Sent/received – emails re: various issues that a Golden Gates tenant has contacted the Town Council for assistance with.

- (c) We have been copied into an email sent to Sellafield re: an ongoing issue with cigarette litter. This is, we understand, on land owned by one or more of the businesses (the Clerk has confirmed with Birchwood Park that it is not an area covered by them).
- (d) Sent/received – various emails with Electricity North West (ENW) re: site management issues relating to the work being undertaken throughout Birchwood to update cabling. We received positive responses to our emails. The Clerk also met with a representative of ENW regarding matters brought to our attention.
- (e) Received – From United Utilities - a small number of hard copies of ‘Priority Service’ guides and application forms for assistance, for customers who might need extra support.
- (f) Received – Several notes of thanks from local residents; regarding several different matters.
- (g) Received – details of an Emergency First Aid at Work Course, taking place in the Birchwood Youth and Community Centre (details on our notice boards and Facebook page).
- (h) Received – update from Highways England re: M62 Junctions 10 – 12 Smart Motorway Project works.
- (i) Received/sent – emails re: a complaint from a resident re: littering and asking if there has ever been a penalty imposed for littering in Birchwood. We await a response from WBC Enforcement.

324/18-19 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received – copies of various Police Alerts and the Winter 2018 Stakeholder Bulletin.
- (b) Received – Special Edition Bulletin re: Consultation with Cheshire residents on Police Funding – published on our Facebook page.
- (c) Sent/received – emails re: business vehicle parking on Whinchat Drive – following a complaint received from a local resident. PCSO Jones has advised that they were parking legally and not causing any unnecessary obstruction. One of the drivers was asked to be mindful of the junction when parking.
- (d) Sent – emails enquiring about a Police presence for our January 2019 meeting and if we could receive a written report if no one is available. No reply was received.

325/18-19 **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.

326/18-19 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

Various LGC magazines & e-mail Briefings, The Clerk (January 2019)

327/18-19 **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.

328/18-19 **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 9th January 2019. There were no items specific to Birchwood on the main agenda for discussion at the meeting.

(b) **Enforcement Cases**

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

(c) **Planning Decisions**

- (i) Application No. 2018/33767 730 Birchwood Boulevard, Birchwood, WA3 7QY. Proposed change of use for B1 and/or D1 use. **Approved with conditions**
- (ii) Application No. 2018//33791 72 Woodhouse Close, Birchwood, WA3 6QP. Proposed double storey utility room and bathroom extension to side elevations. **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. 2018/34038 Land Bounded by Admirals Road, Linnet Grove and Curlew Grove. Application seeking discharge of conditions 4 (site investigation) 5 (noise) and 24 (LEAP management) following previously approved application 2016/28810.
- (ii) Application No. 2018/32986 24 Hazelborough Close, Birchwood, WA3 6UL. Proposed two storey extension above existing garage, single storey side and rear extension (appeal against refusal).
- (iii) Application No. 2018/34166 31 Hazelborough Close, Birchwood, WA3 6UL. Proposed two storey side and single storey rear extension.
- (iv) Application No. 2018/34160 33 Rockingham Close, Birchwood, WA3 6XA. Proposed two storey side extension.

- (v) Application No. 2018/34152 Risley Day Nursery, 14-15 Delenty Drive, Birchwood, WA3 6AP. Proposed change of use from children's day nursery into 2 x residential dwellings.

- (vi) Application No. 2018/34145 Raglan Court, Birchwood, WA3 6SZ. Section 192 (Lawful Development Certificate) – proposed removal of previous tenant's external plant, switch room and security cabin to the front elevation car park and yard area; works to units 1 – 4 to provide refurbished office and warehouse accommodation; construction of a new single storey extension to the front elevation between Units 3 & 4; installation of new CCTV security system to the external areas to replace the existing and new internally to the 4 no. units and landscaping works.

Members did not have any objections or comments to make regarding the above applications at this point in time.

This part of the meeting concluded at 6.30 pm.