

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

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

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

3 x residents
- Apologies:** Councillors Breslin and Nelson
The Police representatives

380/18-19 **FEBRUARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor Reeves proposed, Councillor Evans seconded and it was resolved that: The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 26th February 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 Evans – Oakwood Community Association

Councillor Reeves – Birchwood Community High School

381/18-19 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Police Monthly Update**

Although there were no Police present at tonight's meeting, due to their shift pattern, PCSO Gina Jones had sent a report on recent policing activity in Birchwood as follows:

The figures of occurrences reported to Cheshire Police for the Birchwood ward for March 2019:

Burglary, theft from motor vehicle, theft of motor vehicle

There hasn't been any Burglary other than in a dwelling.

There hasn't been any theft from motor vehicles.

There has been x 1 Theft of Motor Vehicle (13/03 Integral UK, Birchwood Boulevard)

There has been a Robbery at McColls, Admirals Road (22/03 Currently being dealt with by CID)

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

We received reports x 2 reports of youths causing ASB at Birchwood Golf Club. 09/03 and 23/03. PC Frith and PCSO Jones were able to catch 8 youths involved on 23/03. All details were taken of the youths and all will be getting a Notification sent home to parents.

ASB at Gorse Covert involving group of young male youths kicking a football at someone's window. No damage caused. PCSO Jones and PC Frith are aware of address youths are gathering at and will be attending.

Criminal Damage to vehicle at 37 Curlew Grove, unfortunately no CCTV available and no witnesses.

2 x females arrested for Shoplifting at QVC in Birchwood Shopping Centre.

Male arrested at BP Oakwood Gate on 07/03 for driving with no insurance and no licence and was also in possession of cannabis.

Theft of pushbike on 20/03 from Gorse Covert Primary School, no CCTV no further lines of enquiry.

PCSO Jones has been monitoring parking issues at a local schools and is working closely with them on initiatives to help alleviate the issues.

PCSO Jones has attended Oakwood Community Hub where volunteers have now set up a HAPI Hub Community Fridge, promoting healthy eating and reducing food waste and also still attending the Youth Club there on a Monday evening.

Traffic management

Speed Enforcement carried out by PCSO Jones on Warrington Road, Risley, now that we have a site code for enforcement. In a 45-minute period 5 vehicles were exceeding the speed limit with the highest speed being 39mph.

Birchwood PCSO planned Surgery Dates

Friday 8th March 16:00 – 17:00

Wednesday 13th March - 10:00 – 11:00

Saturday 23rd March - 11:00-12:00

Friday 29th March – 16:00-17:00

Wednesday 3rd April – 11:00 – 12:00

Monday 8th April – 16:00 – 17:00

Monday 15th April – 11:00 – 12:00

Wednesday 24th April – 10:00 – 11:00

Saturday 4th May – 11:00 – 12:00

Friday 10th May – 16:00 – 17:00

Wednesday 15th May – 10:00 – 11:00

Saturday 25th May – 11:00 – 12:00

The Clerk noted that the report confirms that a site code has now been received to enable speed enforcement operations to be carried out on Warrington Road, Risley.

At the February meeting, PCSO Jones had 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.

At tonight's meeting, Councillor D. Ellis said that there are several companies on Birchwood Park that have extended offers of volunteers to work on a project within the community, under their corporate and social responsibility policies. He wondered whether a group of between 20 to 30 volunteers could help to clear some of the shrubbery, etc. on Locking Stumps Common.

The Clerk said that she has raised the issue of reduced maintenance on Locking Stumps Common with WBC previously.

The Town Council has received complaints in the past about people camping on Locking Stumps Common.

Councillor D. Ellis stated that some people might have the alternative viewpoint; that when it is unkempt, it will attract more ASB. He added that there is the opportunity to follow this up with WBC (as they own the land).

The Clerk reported that Kevin McCready (WBC) is now in touch with the Police to directly discuss with them what the issues are that they have raised and what progress, if any can be made in relation to their concerns.

Following further discussion, it was agreed that Councillor D. Ellis will liaise with the businesses and bring details to the Clerk. The Town Council will then liaise with WBC to see if there can be any volunteer project undertaken on Locking Stumps Common.

Action Councillor D. Ellis to contact the businesses re: a volunteer project under their corporate and social responsibility policies and to update the Clerk with any information.

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

(b) **Public Participation**

Three 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.*

The residents wondered whether there was any update in relation to this application since the last Town Council meeting in February 2019, when it was agreed that the Town Council would send a letter of objection.

Councillor Atkin stated that the Town Council had sent a letter of objection to the Planning Department at WBC on the grounds of increased hours, reduced amenity and impact on residents. We asked for the application to go to a Development Management Committee meeting. We have not yet received a date from WBC when it might go to committee.

Councillor Atkin confirmed that he and Councillor Reeves will attend the Development Management Committee to strongly object to the application as Town Councillors and Councillor Bowden will object in his capacity as a Borough Councillor. He added that, as speakers only have three minutes each to put their case, they will be careful to liaise with each other to ensure that points are not duplicated so that as many points against the application are made in the time available.

A resident said that there are about 30 residents who have also responded again with objections to the application. Some of the residents consider this to be a completely new application as the first application had so many mistakes in it. They gave an example of measurements stated in application documentation being completely wrong (the resident took their own measurements) – they said that one measurement was given as 25 metres to the nearest property on School Lane, when it is actually only 4.27 metres to the back door of a house.

A resident stated that their neighbour had asked why the applicant had not been offered a brownfield site, rather than proposing to build on greenbelt land.

Councillor Atkin explained that neither BTC (which is only a statutory consultee) nor WBC would have made any offer of land to the applicant. We assume that someone has approached the landowner directly about having a development – it is a private application.

Councillor Reeves reminded those present that before the first application was submitted (before it was refused by WBC but then granted on appeal to the Planning Inspectorate) another very similar application had been made, by a different developer, which the Town Council did not object to as it was on a brownfield site and appropriate development for that site.

A resident commented that the application still includes the use of gas generators – which is not classed as green energy, renewable or low carbon and there will be significant disruption to residents as a gas pipeline will have to be laid to the site from Gorse Covert (despite the applicant saying that there will be no inconvenience to residents).

The resident stated that the applicant is saying that this application is only for ‘minor changes’, but residents believe that an increase in operating hours from 11 to 17, when someone might live only 300 metres ‘as the crow flies’ from the site – is not a minor change.

Councillor Atkin said that this seems to be ‘scope creep’ and said that a question had been raised as to whether, had these hours been in the original application, it would ever have been approved on appeal.

A resident asked if the ‘facts’ in an application are checked by the planning department, as the resident asserts that the application has a number of inaccuracies within it – some of which they believe would be quite significant when considering whether to grant the application or not. These inaccuracies would have been part of the information considered by the Planning Inspectorate when the application went to appeal.

A resident said that they had written to the Secretary of State regarding these concerns and was also going to write to the Planning Inspectorate. They will update the Town Council should they receive a reply.

Councillor Atkin said that the inaccuracies can be highlighted when the application goes to committee.

Councillor Reeves suggested that it might hold more weight if the points about inaccuracies are made by the residents who are most affected, if they wish to speak at committee.

A resident commented that had the application been for a solar farm, they did not think that residents would have objected to such a development being on green belt land.

382/18-19 **MEMBER’S REFERRAL**

As a Member’s Referral, due to be discussed later in the evening had been mentioned by the residents, who wished to possibly have a chance to comment on it, the Chair asked Members to resolve to alter the order of business (as per Standing Orders item 23. (d)).

Members **resolved** that the Members’ Referral could be brought forward for discussion to the next item on the agenda: The referral brought by Councillor D. Ellis is regarding the Declaration of a Climate Emergency.

Councillor D. Ellis circulated and presented a document of points to those present, setting out his reasons behind raising this matter, which he stated he is very passionate about:

Why declare a climate emergency?

10 years ago a film was made by Franny Armstrong – Age of Stupid. – Pete Posselthwaite was the leading actor in the film (Warringtonian). The film was set in the future and looking back at all the warning signs of disastrous climate change that were ignored – increasing wild fires, flooding, storms etc. – exactly what we are seeing today.

IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) issued its report in October 2018 – They believe that we have 10 years to avoid climate catastrophe. IPCC believe that a 1.5 degree increase in temperatures must be achieved.

Declaring a climate emergency is about showing leadership. The more councils that declare, the more citizens will feel that they can actually achieve something and the less they will despair. It also puts pressure on national government to follow.

Current issues

Arctic ice currently tracking at lowest, insect populations being decimated, ocean currents reducing, glaciers shrinking fast, icesheet on Greenland starting to disappear and movement is increasing – lubricated by meltwater under the sheet, sea oxygen level is reducing – in some limited areas by as much as 40% - leading to serious impact on sea life. Starting to lose key organisms in the food chain which could lead to sterile seas. Sea level rise is now accelerating, increasing occurrence of extreme weather events – wild fires storms, floods etc.

Prof. Stephen Hawking believed that humanity has 200 years to total extinction unless something is done urgently. Our children and grandchildren will see drastic change and frightening events unless we take action urgently. The good news is that we can do it.

What can be done?

While there is a significant challenge, there is a lot that can be done.

Electric vehicles, move to renewable tariffs, electric car charging points, encourage solar panels on schools and other public buildings, encourage community and commercial alternative energy for Birchwood Centre and Birchwood Park (wind, and micro nuclear?)

Work with housing associations to encourage improved housing – ultra-low energy homes,

Encourage WBC to invest in improved public transport (such as rechargeable electric trams), encouraging walking, cycling etc., show leadership in encouraging the public to get involved and take action, taking Climate Emergency into account for planning consent. We can support clean energy projects.

Where is the climate emergency movement up to?

The current global wave of Councils (Boroughs, Towns and Parishes) in the UK declaring a Climate Emergency is finally providing an element of hope and an action pathway. To date, 42 have declared a climate emergency. Of these, 27 have fixed 2030 to achieve carbon neutrality.

Following the presentation of these points, Members discussed the proposal suggested by Councillor D. Ellis that the Town Council considers declaring a climate emergency; with the aim of reducing the Town Council's carbon footprint to neutral.

Councillor D. Ellis then formally proposed a **MOTION**:

This Council declares a climate emergency and will become carbon neutral in its own activities by 2030. We will set up a working group to report back to Council by 1st October 2019 with an action plan to achieve this and will work in cooperation with the community and relevant organisations both in Birchwood and the wider community to look at ways to make the Town of Birchwood carbon neutral as soon as possible.

This motion was **seconded** by Councillor J. Ellis and **unanimously resolved** by those Members present.

The residents present expressed their approval of the declaration of a climate emergency by the Town Council.

Action Councillor D. Ellis to put together a working group, via the Town Council office, in order to formulate an action plan on how to achieve the desired objectives.

Councillor D. Ellis said that he would like the Town Council to encourage Warrington Borough Council to also declare a climate emergency.

Councillor Fitzsimmons said that by the end of 2019 all the Borough Council's electricity will be obtained from a solar powered resource. He added that he would be happy to take the suggestion to the Borough Council.

Action Councillor Fitzsimmons to speak to Warrington Borough Council about declaring a climate emergency.

It was also noted that if Birchwood Town Council declared a 'climate emergency' it could have an effect on the way in which it responds to planning applications which it deems not to be environmentally appropriate.

Councillor D. Ellis asked if Members wished the Town Council to be listed on a website that names the Councils that have formally made the declaration; which they resolved to do.

Action Councillor D. Ellis to submit the Town Council's name for inclusion on the list of those Councils that have made the declaration.

383/18-19 **TROLLEYS**

At the February meeting, Councillor Nelson had 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 had also reported that around 80/90% of the trolleys lack the cartronics system and 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.

At tonight's meeting Councillor D. Ellis said that he had sent a letter to the Store Manager at Asda (copied to the Customer Services Manager) and to Warrington Borough Council, where it had been picked up by the Planning Enforcement and Environmental Crime department. Copies of the correspondence and replies had been circulated to Members in their papers.

Councillor D. Ellis (and Members) expressed disappointment regarding the responses.

Following discussions, it was agreed that Councillor D. Ellis would write to the Chief Executive of Asda.

The Clerk stated that when this matter had been discussed several years ago, it had been mentioned that the Environment Agency takes a dim view of waste, such as trolleys being abandoned in water ways. Apparently, there are currently some in Birchwood Brook. She suggested that this might be another avenue to try to get support from regarding abandoned trolleys in the area.

Action Councillor D. Ellis to write draft letters to send to the Chief Executive of Asda and the Environment Agency, to be sent via the office, for review by the Chair and Vice Chair, prior to sending.

The Clerk said that a recent meeting has taken place with Borough Council Officers, herself and our Senior Maintenance Team Operative, to discuss various ongoing issues.

- (a) **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 although WBC sent us a copy of the land ownership title which shows ownership of some of the land, it transpired that it did not cover the whole area that BTC has concerns about. We are liaising with WBC to try to obtain additional information.

- (b) **A list was provided by BTC to WBC in October 2018 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 has undertaken a lot of cutting from the list, but there are still large amounts that need to be done. This was raised again with WBC Officers at a recent meeting.

WBC has still not undertaken any cutting and apparently it is not included on their upcoming work schedules. The only cutting they are doing is in reaction to complaints. It was drawn to their attention that this cutting back is necessary to make the working area safer for maintenance operatives when they are undertaking grass cutting.

WBC has advised it is struggling to fund/resource works to cut back encroaching greenery.

The Clerk said that in some areas our team may reach a point where they cannot drive round the shrubbery on longer stretches of road, which may necessitate taking the mowers down onto the road, past the obstruction and then back up onto the grass verge – which is a not only a safety issue for operatives, it also has the potential for damaging the mowers.

WBC's advice is that where trees, etc. obstruct mowing the area should not be cut by the BTC team. This will ensure that operatives are not forced to drive on the road. They suggest that the width of grass cutting could be reduced or, in extreme cases, areas should be left completely.

In these areas the grass will be cut every six weeks by WBC as they have different mower decks.

The Clerk said that the team have pointed out that WBC's suggestions will leave areas looking uneven and complaints will come back to the Town Council. It is not what the Town Council had envisaged when we took on the interim cutting schedule – which was done following complaints about the length of grass when just WBC did the mowing. The additional cut is meant to help keep the area looking neat and tidy.

The team take a pride in their work and are unhappy with the suggestion that they should leave parts uncut which would leave the area looking untidy.

The Town Council is also working with constraints on resources and funding, so understand the position WBC is in, but is taking on more and more of the work that WBC is no longer doing.

Councillor Atkin said that we undertake this and other services around Birchwood in the ‘spirit of partnership’, but WBC is not holding up its side of the bargain; causing pressure on the Town Council’s resources.

Councillor Bowden commented that there seems little point in doing the mowing if there is not going to be an evenness of appearance. He agreed that the blame will come back to the Town Council’s team by reflection. He added that we should make a complaint about this situation. He also asked whether WBC could use their flailing equipment to do the cutting back.

The Clerk informed Members that she understands the budget for flail cutting – which is contracted out to local farmers who have agricultural machinery – has already been spent. The flail also gives an untidy appearance, although it does green up quite quickly if undertaken at the right time of year.

Councillor Bowden requested a copy of the list of areas that require cutting and those that our team have already cut; which the Clerk supplied.

Action Councillor Bowden to speak to Dave Cotterill regarding the lack of shrubbery maintenance, particularly regarding staff safety when mowing, in Birchwood.

(c) **Copperfield Close Planter**

Update: The planter for the entrance to Copperfield Close has been ordered and will hopefully be delivered and installed during the week commencing 22nd April 2019. WBC Street Lighting will check for underground services prior to installation,

(d) **Barrier planters**

Update: The Clerk stated that she and the Senior Maintenance Operative met with a Highways Inspector on site to discuss what can and cannot be done regarding the proposed installation of barrier planters.

The Clerk circulated the information and photographs to Members.

Admirals Road: Due to the proximity of the guard rails to the exit from the pub car park, the exit from the primary school, the exit from the primary school car park and a segregated footpath adjacent to the playground it was decided that to fix planters either side of the guard rails would be too much of a hazard for both pedestrians and motorists.

Gorse Covert Road – outside Gorse Covert Primary School: Due to the proximity of the guard rails to the entry of the primary school car park that to fix planters either side of the guard rails would be too much of a hazard for both pedestrians and motorists.

Gorse Covert Road – opposite Gorse Covert Primary School:

Planters could be fixed to the left-hand side of the pedestrian crossing – on the footpath side only.

No planters to be fixed on the right-hand section of guard rails, possible hazard to pedestrians looking right at the pedestrian crossing, could impair their sightline for oncoming traffic. Also, for motorists turning left onto the pedestrian crossing from Ashdown Lane junction, if planters were fixed on the right-hand side there could be a possible blind spot for small children at the pedestrian crossing.

Glover Road – near local shops

Planters could be fixed to the left-hand side of the barrier to the back edge of the parking bay.

No planters to be fixed on the right-hand section of guard rails, possible hazard to pedestrians looking right at the pedestrian crossing, could impair their sightline of oncoming traffic. Also, for motorists driving towards the pedestrian crossing from the Stonecrop Close direction, if planters were fixed on the right-hand side there could be a possible blind spot for small children at the pedestrian crossing.

Glover Road – opposite local shops

Planters could be fixed to the left-hand side of the pedestrian crossing – on the footpath side of the barrier.

No planters to be fixed on the right-hand section of guard rails, possible hazard to pedestrians looking right at the pedestrian crossing, could impair their sightline of oncoming traffic. Also, for motorists driving towards the pedestrian crossing from the Armstrong Close direction, if planters were fixed on the right-hand side there could be a possible blind spot for small children at the pedestrian crossing.

The Clerk suggested that the restrictions imposed on the installation of barrier planters and the few barriers where there could be one installed was probably not the answer that Members were hoping for, nor would it have the envisaged visual impact – it could look like a half-hearted attempt.

Councillor Bowden said that there seems to be too many obstacles in the way to pursue this further.

The Clerk said that WBC is happy to work with BTC to find additional locations where more planters could be installed instead.

Following further discussions it was **proposed** by Councillor Atkin, **seconded** by Councillor Evans and **unanimously agreed** that the Town Council would look to install additional planters where possible, where funding allows.

Action Clerk's office to liaise with WBC regarding the possibility of installing additional planters.

(e) **Clayton Road – litter**

Update: WBC will install two new litter bins on Clayton Road.

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

Update: There are still a few areas where some of the repairs do not appear to be up to standard, e.g. some undulation where footpaths have been reinstated. WBC is passing this on to ENW to investigate and rectify.

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

Update: WBC has raised an order for works to be carried out. However, there is currently some consideration being given as to what the nature of the work will be.

It has been proposed by WBC that possibly a portion of the wall could be taken away, so that vehicles do not hit it on their way into the car park. A slightly larger raised planter in Wardour Street, in the residential estate opposite Warrington Hospital, was removed completely at a cost of £12,000. John Drake (WBC) is costing up potential solutions.

Action The Clerk's office to continue to liaise with WBC regarding this ongoing issue.

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

Update: Now the Police have a site code, speed enforcement operation can be carried out on Warrington Road, Risley.

(i) **Street Lighting**

Update: An evening walkabout took place on Thursday 7th March, covering quite a lot of ground in Oakwood.

Councillor Atkin stated that they had taken WBC Officers to areas where there were various issues: lights within tree canopies, lights illuminating roads but not footpaths, paths where there are no lights at all and there was zero visibility, etc.

Councillor Atkin said that the WBC representatives agreed with all the points made but could not make any commitments to do anything to resolve the issues. The point was also made that this was just a small sample of paths and roads and that similar issues are being experienced in other areas of Birchwood.

Councillor Bowden suggested that we ask WBC for their formal feedback from the walkabout. Even if there is no funding to make any changes at this point in time, it will be on record if an opportunity comes up in the future for improvements to be made.

Action Clerk's office to request formal feedback from the walkabout.

385/18-19 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG) - UPDATE**

Meetings with YHG

The Clerk reported that there had been a number of meetings with YHG and a walkabout around Layton, Leatham and Talbot Closes in relation to flytipping issues.

The Woodland Trust, YHG and BTC met on site to discuss, in particular, flytipping at the rear/side of Talbot Close. WBC has reported that apart from the adopted footways, the majority of the open space near Talbot Close is not owned by WBC (they supplied a diagram indicating where their responsibilities lie in this area).

The Clerk stated that a spring clean-up is planned to take place on 23rd April 2019 which will involve the Woodland Trust, YHG, WBC enforcement, residents and some Town Council staff.

YHG are going to write to all their tenants on Talbot Close to remind them of their responsibilities when it comes to disposing of waste.

YHG is also now in direct contact with WBC Enforcement Officers.

The Clerk said that any flytipping that BTC agrees to remove, will only be done on a Thursday, unless it is a health and safety emergency, as we cannot keep taking the team off other work; it disrupts the schedules and, if it is removed too quickly, it seems to indicate to some residents that it is okay to keep flytipping.

The Clerk reported that she also met Mr. Mike Redford (YHG) to discuss various matters. These meetings will be held regularly, every two months if possible, in order to build on our partnership working arrangements and to discuss any issues arising and how to deal with them.

The Clerk informed Mr. Redford that the MUGA on Brock Road and the remaining items and ground area at The Birches do not appear to be being maintained.

Mr. Redford thought that they were inspected every Friday for safety purposes.

The Clerk had shown Mr. Redford some photographs showing the table tennis tables at The Birches and the ground covered in moss, which can be very slippery. The MUGA also suffers from moss build up on the pitch.

The Clerk said that it has been agreed that the benches that were removed from The Birches, following the arson attack a few years ago and were installed at another YHG site – but out of area, will now be replaced. The Town Council campaigned for these to be replaced as the children of Locking Stumps School had a big input into the creation of The Birches.

Members were asked to bring suggestions to the next meeting of where they might like to see the new benches being installed, possibly in an area that will benefit a large section of the community and is less ‘out of the way’ than The Birches.

The benches may not necessarily need to be like-for-like, depending on where the Town Council would like them to be installed; as long as they are of similar monetary value. They will not be re-installed where they initially came from, due to the risk of further damage.

386/18-19 PROPOSED EXTENSION OF PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON CHATFIELD DRIVE

The Clerk reported that traffic notices are being posted this coming Thursday. The final date for representations to be made either in support of or against the proposals is 18th April 2019.

If approved, the double yellow lines will extend the full length of Chatfield Drive on both sides.

387/18-19 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 this decision.

At tonight’s meeting the Clerk stated that this afternoon an email had been received regarding two consultation events taking place, one in Croft on Thursday 4th April 2019 and one in Gorse Covert on Saturday 6th April 2019

The email stated that there will be a preview session at both consultation events for Parish and District Councillors and would like to extend an invitation to Members of Birchwood Town Council to attend either of these sessions. They are also happy to attend any future Town Council meetings to provide a briefing to Members about the plans.

In addition, the company asked if we could display some posters on our notice boards.

Following discussion, Members agreed for the posters to be put on our notice boards and Facebook page and suggested it would be appropriate for an additional consultation event to be added, to take place in the shopping centre.

Action Clerk’s office to contact the representative of Extra MSA Group regarding the request for an additional consultation event.

388/18-19 **FORMER BIFFA WASTE SITE**

The Clerk reported that BTC 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. However, in the minutes of the Public Rights of Way Forum meeting of 4th January 2019 (which we received on 25th March 2019) it states:

“Access improvements at a parish level

CB (Chris Bluck) has again emailed the manager of the Risley landfill site about the opening of the paths in the central area of the site but had not received a reply. Access gates were still locked in a recent visit.”

We assume that once WBC receives a response, they will update us regarding this matter.

389/18-19 **FLYTIPPING – SILVER LANE**

At the February 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.

At tonight’s meeting Councillor Bowden said that he is liaising with WBC Officers regarding this matter.

Some of the historical waste has been removed from WBC land, including from the bank down to the hollow, but there is still a lot of waste dumped on land privately owned.

Members agreed that it has reached a point where they believe it is ‘time to get tough’ on the landowner.

The Clerk said that she had not yet written to Mr. Dave Boyer, as the Clerk’s office had been waiting to see what the outcome of Councillor Bowden’s discussions with WBC would be.

Members confirmed that, as resolved at the February 2019 meeting, the Town Council should now formally write to Mr. 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 ongoing situation on Silver Lane and pressing for prosecutions where possible.

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

390/18-19 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Sent/received – various emails re: flooding (particularly in underpasses), lighting not working and trees.
- (b) Received/Sent – emails re: work being undertaken by WBC in the Thomas Risley car park. Although the car park is privately owned, it is managed by WBC pursuant to a service charge. Works are being undertaken to remove tripping related issues. The work was delayed due to an issue that arose in the course of the program, but a resolution is in the process of being obtained and the works will recommence shortly.

391/18-19 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP**

Sent/received emails re: the 'Great British Spring Clean', various issues picked up following the most recent walkabout and flytipping matters.

392/18-19 **BIRCHWOOD FORUM**

- (a) Received – Details of various events and 'News From Warrington & Co.' publication.
- (b) Received – Details of a consultation; 'Have Your Say on How You Would Like to Contact Police in an Emergency'.

393/18-19 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – Various update/information emails from Warrington Voluntary Action.
- (b) Received – Various LGC e-briefings and publications
- (c) Received – Minutes of the Oakwood Community Association meeting (05/03/2019).
- (d) Sent/received – emails with The Woodland Trust re: a post missing on the access path from Silver Lane to Gorse Covert Mounds and vandalism/arson to the interpretation board.

The Woodland Trust is aware of both issues and will arrange for the post to be replaced.

- (e) Received – Invitation to the official opening of the High School's new third generation pitch (29th March at 10am – report to reception on arrival).

Several Members have indicated they are unable to attend due to work commitments. Councillor Evans said that he hopes to be able to attend.

- (f) Received – details of Spring cleans at Birchwood Forest Park, the Small Woods of Oakwood and Gorse Covert Mounds (displayed on notice boards and our Facebook page).
- (g) Received – details of an orienteering event, taking place on 28th April 2019 around Birchwood with around 200 participants expected.

We have passed details about the event onto the Police and will also let parking services at WBC know.

Action Clerk's office to contact parking services at WBC about this upcoming event.

394/18-19 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received – copies of various Police Alerts.
- (b) Received – Police Update Report for March 2019.

395/18-19 **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.

396/18-19 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

Various LGC magazines & e-mail Briefings, The Clerk – March 2019 and LGC 2019.

397/18-19 **MEMBERS REFERRALS MADE VIA THE CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING**

Agreed via the Chair - Councillor D. Ellis – Declaration of a Climate Emergency

It had been resolved earlier in the meeting to move this item of business for discussion to follow Public Participation. See Minute 382/18-19 above.

398/18-19 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

(a) **Warrington Borough Council**

- (i) Received – link to the Development Management Committee meeting document pack for 13th March 2019. There was one item specific to Birchwood on the main agenda for discussion at the meeting:

Application No. 2018/33853 420, Birchwood Boulevard, Birchwood, WA3 7WE. Proposed removal of landscape buffers in and around the site boundaries, to facilitate the extension and reconfiguration of the car park, including the relocation of Electric Vehicle Charging points and Lighting Columns.

This application was **approved with conditions**.

- (ii) Received – Link to a Draft Fourth Local Transport Plan (LTP4)

(b) **Enforcement Cases**

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

(c) **Planning Decisions**

- (i) Application No. 2018/34145 Units 1 – 4 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.

This application was **Granted**.

- (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 Vehicle Parking) on previously approved planning application 2018/32445. **Part discharged (3, 4, 5 and 6), part not discharged (7 and 8 – awaiting acceptable details)**
- (iii) 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. With a slight rewording, the condition was approved and will now read: *"Prior to the occupation of each unit within the development, the building & any external plant on any individual unit shall be acoustically insulated to a scheme submitted to & approved by the LPA. The scheme shall ensure that the background noise level at the boundary of the individual site or nearest noise sensitive dwelling does not increase. For the avoidance of doubt, calculated noise levels at the measurement point should be 10dBA below the existing background level."*

(d) **Planning Applications**

All plans can be viewed 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 for information only.

- (i) Application No. 2019/34396 – 12th Warrington East Scout Centre, Warrington Road, Locking Stumps. Proposed removal of Condition 3 (opening hours) on previously approved application 2006/08185.

Several emails were sent/received to establish what the removal of the condition was for – mainly it is in order that the Scout Centre can *‘provide a complete Scouting service. In particular . . . to enable the Group to provide nights away from home . . . experience to its Members.’*

The Town Council copied the application to around 30 properties in the area, for information, as WBC had only copied the application to four properties.

- (ii) Application No. 2019/34478 Land adjacent to units 720 and 730 Birchwood Boulevard, WA3 7PS. Outline planning (Major) with some matters reserved – proposed erector of B8 self-storage unit, new access off Dewhurst Road, parking and associated works including demolition of garage, together with provision of additional parking for adjacent office building.

Members considered the documentation and diagrams and noted the new access will be off Dewhurst Road; but it is estimated that there will only be around ten vehicle movements a day to the proposed unit.

There will not be an access to the offices behind on Birchwood Boulevard, so it cannot be used as a ‘cut through’.

- (iii) Application No. 2019/34557 Eastern Edge of Birchwood Park, Plots 107, 300, 501-502, 611-612, 701-702 and Quadrant, Warrington, WA3 6AE. Discharge of Condition - Proposed discharge of condition 5 (Foul and Surface Water), Condition 9 (Characterisation and Remediation), Condition 11 (CEMP) and Condition 17 (Local Employment Scheme) on previously approved application 2015/26044

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

399/18-19 **STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

Councillor D. Ellis said that there are no updates to report at present.

This part of the meeting concluded at 7.40 pm.