

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING
OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT
PARKERS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE, DELENTY DRIVE, RISLEY
ON TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2019

Present: Councillor Reeves in the Chair
Councillors Atkin, Evans, Fitzsimmons and Nelson

Clerk – Mrs. F. McDonald
Deputy Clerk – Mrs C. Caddock

PCSO Callum Jones

Apologies: Councillors Breslin, D. Ellis, J. Ellis, M. Hearldon and T. Hearldon
Councillor Bowden - prior meeting and will attend as soon as possible
Business and Finance Officer - Mr. G. Crowe

146/19-20 **JULY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor Fitzsimmons proposed, Councillor Atkin seconded and it was resolved that: The Minutes of the July Council Meeting held on 23rd July 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.

147/19-20 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Police Report**

PCSO Callum Jones gave a verbal report on recent policing activity in Birchwood.

PCSO Jones informed Members that the Police have a handheld radar speed meter available that can be used for Community Speed Watch operations.

There are six Police surgeries currently arranged up to November which will be held at Birchwood Library at various times.

Members thanked PCSO Jones for attending.

148/19-20 **PLANNING UPDATES**

(a) *Application No. 2019/34700 3 Delenty Drive, Birchwood, WA3 6AN. Proposed residential development of 11 dwellings.*

There are currently no formal further updates to report regarding this application; however, the Clerk had looked online at the planning documents and reported that it appears there has been some correspondence relating to tree preservation and highways access.

- (b) *Application Number: 2019/35322 Heathfield House, Delenty Drive, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6AP. Application to vary Condition 2 to replace plan 77/12/BP with 77/12/BP1 to amend approved car park to 14 spaces; Condition 3 to increase the number of children to 56 children. There shall be no more than 56 children at the Nursery at any one time. Following Planning Appeal APP/M065/A/13/2209344 and Planning Refusal 2013/22163.*

A letter of objection was sent to the Planning Department regarding this application.

Councillor Atkin confirmed that he is still happy to speak against this application if it goes to Development Management Committee.

- (c) Planning Application 2019/35380 Risley Moss Local Nature Reserve, Moss Gate, Birchwood, WA3 6QX. Full Planning – proposed construction of an observation tower, steel structure, primary function to provide views of this nature reserve.

The application was approved by the Borough Council's Development Management Committee.

149/19-20 **UPDATE RE: ACTION ITEMS FROM MEETINGS WITH WBC OFFICERS**

The Clerk stated that all items below remain ongoing; several have already been chased again.

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

Update: Work has been undertaken on the Stanford House footpath.

- (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 she has sent photographs to illustrate the matter to WBC but has yet to hear back. The shrubbery continues to be a health and safety issue to our team when they are mowing. During the last cut, they had to leave parts of some stretches un-mown due to the risk of being hit in the face with thorns/brambles, etc.

- (c) **Damaged Wall – Gorse Covert Shop**

Update: We still do not have any information from WBC as to whether additional work could be done to this raised bed which would make it less liable to damage and ongoing repair costs.

- (d) **Street Lighting**

Update: The Clerk had requested formal feedback from the evening walkabout that took place on Thursday 7th March, covering quite a lot of ground in Oakwood.

The Clerk stated that she has chased this matter several times but has still not received a reply.

150/19-20 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG) - UPDATE**

The Clerk reported that she had a meeting with Mike Redford last week. Briefing notes from the meeting were circulated to Members around the table and the Clerk gave Members a verbal report on what had been discussed.

The Clerk stated that Councillor Bowden had met with YHG's Group Chief Executive, Mr Brian Cronin a few days later. She reported that he will report on that meeting to Members when he arrives later in the meeting.

The Chair proposed that this item be returned to when Councillor Bowden arrives.

This was resolved by Members.

151/19-20 **CHATFIELD DRIVE DOUBLE YELLOW LINES**

The Clerk stated that the work to install the double yellow lines along the full length of Chatfield Drive past the high school has not yet been fully completed. There are two stretches of road that still require the double yellow lines to be installed – but as vehicles have been parking there the work could not be finished. WBC confirmed that the contractor had been asked to put cones in place to stop vehicles parking, in order for the work to be completed.

152/19-20 **DUCK SIGNAGE**

Duck signage is now in place at several locations in Birchwood.

153/19-20 **DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE TO THOMAS RISLEY CHURCH**

The Clerk reported that she had contacted WBC on a polling station questionnaire, recently received, suggesting that, as the school is also used as a polling station, and is owned by the Borough Council, the proposed directional signage should be supplied by WBC and should make it clear that it is a local county primary school and not affiliated to another organisation.

Councillor Fitzsimmons commented that he understands this will not be pursued by WBC.

154/19-20 **YHG PLAY AREA ON GREENFINCH GROVE**

The Clerk reminded Members that, as reported at the June meeting, we had received a request for a meeting to resolve comments made by Councillors relating to the play area on the Greenfinch Grove development (part of Application No. 2019/34689 Land bounded by Admirals Rd, Linnet Grove & Curlew Grove).

In correspondence sent to YHG, with comments, we had requested a response in writing.

At tonight's meeting the Clerk reported that we have still not received any reply from YHG regarding this matter.

155/19-20 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Clerk reported that a working party meeting regarding climate change was held on 11th September. Draft notes from the working party meeting of 17th July and a detailed draft Climate Emergency Action Plan were included in Member's papers.

The Clerk asked if Members could let the office have any comments regarding the notes and Draft Action Plan by 4th October 2019.

The Clerk commented that Councillor D. Ellis would like to consider some alterations to the Birchwood Youth and Community Centre building. However, as we understand the building is still owned by the Lottery, enquiries need to be made as to whether this would be allowed, and how/when ownership will change hands and which organisation would then have ownership/stewardship of the building.

Action Councillors to return any comments to the Clerk's office by 4th October 2019.

156/19-20 **FOOTPATH SMITHILLS CLOSE TO WARRINGTON ROAD**

Despite numerous emails and requests for information, updates and action relating to a section of unmaintained wooded area to the rear and side of some properties on Warrington Road, Risley and the whole length of the path, from Smithills Close to Warrington Road – bordered by private land – to date no work has been undertaken. The footpath is severely overgrown and is a well-used route.

We did ask WBC to contact the landowner to ask them to maintain their trees as a matter of urgency. We understand that a letter was sent, but still there has been no action. We also think that some of the trees, etc. might be on WBC land.

Officers have been in correspondence with a resident who is frustrated about the lack of action from WBC regarding this matter. The resident remains unimpressed with the reply provided by WBC. He has been advised to put in a formal complaint to WBC if he wishes to escalate the matter.

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

157/19-20 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Sent/received – various emails / online reports following contact from residents re: flytipping, overgrown shrubbery, blocked drains and weedspraying at various locations in Birchwood.
- (b) Received/sent – various emails regarding some flytipped green waste on a footpath near Bickerton Close.
- (c) Sent – email re: unstable footpath near a property on Chaffinch Close reported by a concerned resident.
- (d) Received – letter from local resident re: lighting columns 37 to 49 on Millhouse Lane being inoperative for a considerable amount of time. Although this is not within the Birchwood boundary, we chased it up with WBC 07/08/19. They advised traffic management is required at this location but that the work should be completed shortly; the resident was informed.
- (e) Received – email regarding the removal of trees in the vicinity of Birchwood Tennis Centre and notification that replacement planting will take place between October 2019 and March 2020.
- (f) Received – email re: cancellation of Public Rights of Way Forum 08/08/19. Next meeting will take place on 12/12/19.
- (g) Received – emails from Warrington East Phases 2 & 3 Project Team – Project News and Update Issues 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22.

A resident enquired via our Facebook page - *“As part of the improvements to the pedestrian and cycle ways, will all the bushes be trimmed back to reveal the entire path/cycle way from Crab Lane towards the motorway bridge?”* We put the question to WBC and were informed that this path is to be cleared of overgrowing vegetation in the next few weeks.

- (h) Received – email from WBC Western Link project Team – July 2019.

- (i) Sent – email re: large branches from an ash tree on WBC land falling into a resident’s garden.
- (j) Sent/received – various emails with WBC (and YHG) to try to have a bees’ nest in a tree on Heather Close removed.
- (k) Sent – emails chasing a response from property services re: raised block paving, etc. to the side of the church (opposite the Nelsons Quarterdeck) and on Admirals Square in Oakwood.
- (l) Received/sent – additional various emails regarding flytipping, dangerous trees and a resident’s concern relating to a lot of waste within the garden of a private property.
- (m) Received – Letter requesting that the Town Council reserve accommodation at our offices to use as a Polling Station, in the event that a snap parliamentary election is called (if / when a date has been announced). An acknowledgement of the receipt of the letter has been returned, as requested.

158/19-20 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG)**

- (a) Received – a copy of a letter sent to Mr B Cronin, Group Chief Executive of YHG by Cllr R Bowden in his capacity as Leader of WBC addressing numerous areas of concerns raised by local residents concerning YHG’s assets.
- (b) To note that YHG asked Councillor Bowden to provide some tangible evidence of complaints, as their monitoring system/records does not appear to show a lot of complaints. The Clerk has assisted in supplying some evidence for Councillor Bowden’s meeting with Mr Cronin.
- (c) Received – Briefing note re: YHG’s role in relation to the delivery of homes and services within the Birchwood area.
- (d) Sent – email to YHG informing them that the lock is missing from bin store on Layton Close and requesting that it is replaced asap.
- (e) Received – email from A Kirkham re: setting up a meeting to agree a plan going forward in relation to flytipping.
- (f) Sent/received – various emails re: flytipping, overgrown shrubbery, shrubbery growing into roadways, rats, etc.

159/19-20 **BIRCHWOOD FORUM**

- (a) Invitation to ‘Meet up Monday’ at UBC, Rutherford House. 2nd September 2019.
- (b) News from Transport for the North – August 2019.

160/19-20 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Birchwood Lions – invitation to attend Birchwood Service of Remembrance – 9/11/19 at 10.30.

Councillors Evans, Fitzsimmons, Nelson and Reeves indicated that they hoped to attend the service.

- (b) Sent/received – correspondence – Land Trust re: maintenance of vegetation.

Councillors Reeves commented that he has seen some work being undertaken on Gorse Covert Road during the previous weekend.
- (c) Received – Latest newsletter from the Information Commissioner’s Office.
- (d) Poster – Dementia Carers Advice & Support Grp. 3rd Tuesday of the month 1.30- 3pm. Parkers Farm.
- (e) Church of the Transfiguration – invitation to week of launch events – 7-15th September.
- (f) Wynchco – query re: non-delivery of emails from a Councillor’s email address.
- (g) Received – email from the Clerk of Stockton Heath PC regarding office move effective 28/08/19.
- (h) Sent – query re: replacing a damaged black bin, allegedly damaged by a bin waggon. WBC has informed us: *“I have checked the system and cannot see a log from the waste crew to advise any damage has been caused to the bin. Can you please advise the resident that on 16th April 2018 a £25.00 administration charge per bin was introduced for all new/replacement bins. The payment needs to be made at the time of ordering the bin.”*
- (i) Query received via Councillor Reeves re: a resident asking for assistance in dealing with an issue that they have already tried to resolve through WBC, but the process appears to have stalled.
- (j) Received/sent – emails re: maintenance of some shrubbery on Armstrong Close – our team has permission to face it off; but cannot deal with the height.
- (k) Received/published on our Facebook page and notice boards – details of the Friends of Gorse Covert Mounds meeting on 18th September 2019.
- (l) Published on our Facebook page and notice boards – details of an Art Exhibition in aid of St Rocco’s Hospice at Padgate Methodist Church, 11th – 13th October. Several contributors live in Birchwood.
- (m) Received – Various LGC e-briefings and publications
- (n) Received – Various updates/information emails from Warrington Voluntary Action.
- (o) Received – Warrington East Phases 2 and 3 project news updates.
- (p) Received/sent – emails with a local resident looking for information on ‘helping to reduce household waste’.

161/19-20 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received – August 2019 Police Report.
- (b) Received – various neighbourhood alerts.

162/19-20 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.

163/19-20 PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Various LGC magazines & e-mail Briefings, The Clerk – September 2019
LCR – Summer 2019, Clerks & Councils Direct – September 2019

164/19-20 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.

165/19-20 CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES

(a) **Warrington Borough Council**

Development Management Committee meetings were held on 14th August and 11th September 2019. There was one item specific to Birchwood on the main agenda for discussion at the September meeting;

Application No. 2019/35380 Risley Moss Local Nature Reserve. Full Planning – Proposed construction of an observation tower to provide views for visitors of the nature reserve (approved with conditions).

(b) **Enforcement Cases**

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

(c) **Planning Decisions**

- (i) Application No. 2019/35305 15 Mansfield Close, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 6QN 42 Day - Householder Prior Approval. Single extension to rear to extend beyond the rear wall of the dwelling 4.0 metres, maximum height 3.675 metres and height at the eaves 2.625 metres. **Prior approval not required.**
- (ii) Application No. 2019/35162 10 McCarthy Close, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 6RS - Householder. Proposed single storey rear extension. **Approved with conditions.**
- (iii) Application No. 2019/35229 Ground Floor, Birchwood Boulevard, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 7QS - Discharge of conditions – Proposed discharge of condition 7 (cycle parking) and 8 (electric vehicle charging points) on previously approved application 2018/32445. **Condition discharged.**
- (iv) Application No. 2019/35075 3 Kelburn Court, Birchwood, WA3 6JA Advertisements – Proposed 2 non-illuminated fascia signs. **Approved with conditions.**

- (v) Application No. 2019/35473 8 Adlington Court, Birchwood, WA3 6PL
Full planning – Proposed insertion of 4 windows into the building elevation that fronts onto Risley Street. There will be some internal partitioning to enclose kitchen area. **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/](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. 2019/35299 New Age Parkers Farm, Delenty Drive, Birchwood WA3 6AN - Listed Building - Proposed general repointing of 4 elevations to Parkers Farm, raking of the portland cement mortar joints in favour of lime-based mortar. Reinstatement of slipped tiles and replacement of broken tiles to match existing maximum 5%. Upsizing gutter on like-for-like basis of cast gutter to front west elevation on extension. General decoration of timber sash and casement windows to match existing. Doff, light steam, clean of algae to remove from roof surface.

Matters relating to this application were also discussed later in the meeting during Part I Finance (see minute 171/19-20).

- (ii) Application No. 2019/35300 687 Warrington Road, Warrington WA3 6AY. Full Planning – Proposed change of use from Public House A4 to offices B1 including external alterations.
- (iii) Application No. 2019/35488 Land between Reynolds Avenue and Griffiths Avenue, Birchwood Park, Warrington. Full planning (Major). To erect a multi-storey car park (MSCP) containing 1,027 car parking spaces, 12 motorcycle spaces over 4 floors (plus ground floor), access & associated landscaping. (Comments sent under delegated powers.)
- (iv) Application No. 2019/35531. 19 Copperfield Close, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 7PF. Proposed change of use of the existing dwelling to a C2 unit (residential institution) for the care of children between the ages of 7-17 years old. (Comments sent under delegated powers.)
- (v) Application No. 2019/35554. 30 Hamsterley Close, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 6UF. Householder - Proposed rear kitchen extension.
- (vi) Application No. 2019/35180. 29 Hamsterley Close, Birchwood WA3 6UF. Householder – Proposed construction of 1.8M high fence to left hand side boundary. (Objection sent under delegated powers.)
- (vii) Application No. 2019/35669. 37 Stonecrop Close, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 7PD. Householder - Proposed single storey side and rear extension.
- (viii) Application No. 2019/35666. Vacant land adjacent to northern boundary of Birchwood Park, Daten Ave WA3 6YN - Proposed discharge of condition 6 (cycle storage) and 12 (samples of roofing materials) on application 2018/33212.

- (ix) Application No. 2019/35726. Land to the north of Junction 11 of the M62, Warrington. Environmental Assessment Application, Outline Planning Permission (Major) - Proposed Erection of a Motorway Service Area including Facilities Building, up to 100 bedroom Hotel, service yard, Fuel Filling Station, Electric Charging Station, parking facilities landscaping and amenity areas and associated infrastructure, all other details (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and scale) reserved for subsequent applications.

Members discussed this application in detail.

It was noted that both Croft Parish Council and Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council were submitting objections to the proposals. The site is technically within Croft Parish Council's boundary.

Following these discussions, it was unanimously **resolved** that the Town Council would remain neutral at this stage regarding the application but would submit some comments to the Planning Department for consideration. The comments would mainly be in relation to four specific points:

- Safety – there is a high-pressure gas line crossing the proposed site and there will be a fuelling station on site. Emergency procedures?
- Silver Lane Brook – ensuring the brook will not become contaminated or compromised.
- Construction traffic – ensuring the majority accesses the site via the motorway network rather than utilising Birchwood / other local roads.
- Consideration of a Section 106.

Action Clerk's office to send comments to the Planning Department.

- (x) Application No. 2019/35751 56-58 Benson Road, Birchwood, WA3 7PQ. Full Planning – Proposed creation of car parking spaces for 64 cars including electric vehicle charge points, disabled spaces and motorbike parking.

The Clerk has requested some clarification regarding this application.

- (xi) Application No. 2019/35735 20 Talbot Close, Birchwood, WA3 6PR. Householder – Proposed bedroom / shower room extension to rear of property.
- (xii) Application No. 2019/35819 7 Montcliffe Close, Warrington, WA3 7LX. Householder – Proposed single storey side extension to existing dwelling.

Councillor Bowden arrived at the meeting

166/19-20 **STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

As Councillor D. Ellis was not at tonight's meeting, there were no updates relating to the Strategy and Action Plan available this evening.

167/19-20 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG) – MEETING REPORT**

Councillor Bowden gave Members a verbal report on the recent meeting he had with YHG's chief executive, Mr. Cronin. Overall, he felt it was a positive meeting.

This part of the meeting concluded at 7pm.