

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2021 COUNCIL MEETING
OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL,
HELD AT PARKERS FARM, DELENTY DRIVE, WA3 6AN,
ON TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2021, 6PM

Present: Councillor Ellis in the Chair
Councillors Allen, Atkin, Brereton, Dempsey, Scott, Sheridan and Simcock
Clerk – Mrs. F. McDonald
RFO / Deputy Clerk – Mrs C. Caddock

Apologies: Councillors Ball (personal) Bowden (health) Evans (health) and Reeves (health)

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 Ellis – Birchwood Youth and Community Centre, and Development Management Committee (WBC)

Councillors Atkin and Simcock – Birchwood Carnival Committee

435/21-22 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Police Monthly Update

PCSO Titans had sent his Police Report to the Council earlier in the day, which was circulated to Members, prior to the meeting. The report is as follows:

The following comprises the Police report to Birchwood Town Council for the month of December to date. This includes the period of November not covered in the previous report. This is not an exhaustive list of all crimes and incidents recorded by Police. Incidents of a sensitive nature, or those not of public concern, have been excluded.

Burglaries

- *One reported burglary involving the theft of car keys and the associated vehicle in the area of Hamsterley Close*
- *One reported attempted burglary in the area of Woolmer Close*
- *One reported burglary in which entry was forced to a residential property on Hamsterley Close and items taken from the property*
- *One reported burglary of a business*
- *One reported aggravated burglary of a residential property*

Vehicle Thefts/Crime

- *A report was received of a vehicle's registration plates being stolen whilst at Birchwood Shopping Centre.*

Criminal Damage

- *Two reports of criminal damage by persons unknown to the Visitors Centre of Birchwood Forest Park. This is of a minor nature.*

Antisocial Behaviour

- *One report of unknown persons throwing a stone at the door of a residential property, causing no damage.*

Hate Incidents

-A person approached a Police Officer to report that a driver had used racially abusive language towards them on the car park of Birchwood Shopping Centre.

Other Incidents of Note

-A report was received of an unknown male wearing a balaclava and carrying a hammer outside of McColl's Admirals Road and behaving suspiciously. The male was arrested at the scene.

-A report was received of an unknown person using another's personal details fraudulently.

-Police were contacted by a dog owner to report that another dog had attacked their dog causing injury. The other dog owner was present, and details were exchanged.

-A complaint was received from a member of the public regarding a frequent and strong smell of cannabis in the area of Heather Close.

Traffic-related incidents

-A driver was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

-A vehicle was seized in the area of Oakwood on suspicion of being stolen.

-Complaints were received from members of the public of several vehicles parking obstructively near to Birchwood Leisure Centre. This is believed to be in relation to an event that was taking place at that venue.

Councillor Sheridan said that she had wanted to ask PCSO Titans, had he been present at tonight's meeting, about some anti-social behaviour that she has been contacted about, regarding issues surrounding the public house in Oakwood.

Councillor Ellis stated that he had also been contacted regarding the same issues. He is currently dealing with the matter(s).

As there were no Members of the public present to raise any issues, the Chair called Public Participation to a close.

436/21-22 **NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor Atkin **proposed**, Councillor Dempsey **seconded** and it was **resolved** that: The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 23rd November 2021 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

437/21-22 **PROPOSED PUBLIC MEETING**

The Clerk reported that she has been trying to find a suitable date to hold the public meeting, with a representative of the Police and the Cheshire and Warrington Traveller Team.

It is now likely that this meeting will take place in early Spring.

Sgt Stuart Gibbard is retiring from the Police on 22nd December. The new sergeant in post will be Sgt Nathan Gulam.

438/21-22 **MOBILE SPEED SIGN**

The Clerk reported that we are still awaiting the return of the speed sign and accessories to our offices.

439/21-22 **BIRCHWOOD CARNIVAL COMMITTEE**

The Clerk reported that next meeting of the Birchwood Carnival Committee is scheduled to take place via Teams on 16th December 2021 at 12.30pm.

440/21-22 **ACCESS ISSUES – BIRCHWOOD RAILWAY STATION**

The Clerk reported that this remains ongoing and is one of several continuing and unresolved items that were raised at a partnership meeting that took place on 2nd December with WBC.

We have not yet received feedback regarding any of the items raised at the meeting.

441/21-22 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG)**

The Clerk stated that the next walkabout with YHG is scheduled take place in Locking Stumps on 13th January 2022, at 10am.

Paul McNeilly is still following up on the replacement of the concrete bollards on the Village Green, off Ainscough Road.

Other YHG areas that might be vulnerable to unauthorised access have been highlighted to them.

442/21-22 **FLOODING ON ROBERTS FOLD**

The Clerk stated that this was discussed at the recent partnership meeting with WBC.

443/21-22 **HS2 HIGH SPEED RAIL (CREWE – MANCHESTER)**

We are still awaiting details of when a tablet and stand, on which HS2 documents can be viewed (in digital format) will be delivered to us.

444/21-22 **UPDATE – PLANNING**

Re: Application No. 2021/39954 Car parking areas adjacent to 2 Kelvin Close, Birchwood, WA3 7PB. Part retrospective alterations to the layout of the site to provide additional car parking, landscaping and associated works.

We still do not have any additional information regarding the application at this time.

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

445/21-22 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Sent/received – various emails / online reports / telephone calls following contact from residents re: directional sign needs fixing near Moss Gate, complaint relating to contractors' construction noise in Gorse Covert, flytipping, fallen trees, etc.

446/21-22 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG)**

Sent/received – various emails / reports following contact from residents re: fallen trees, flytipping, responsibility for gate repairs, etc.

447/21-22 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – various emails from Warrington Voluntary Action (WVA).
- (b) Received – correspondence from Warburton Toll Bridge re: Rixton and Warburton Bridge Order – TWAO application.

448/21-22 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

Received - Various Neighbourhood Alerts.

449/21-22 **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (CHALC), NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC), SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS (SLCC)**

- (a) Received – NALC publications including Legal Topic Note 5E Parish Council Meetings and a request that councils and councillors consider writing in support of remote council meetings to the local MP and the Minister for Levelling up Communities. Also received were the Chief Executive’s Bulletins, events information, etc.

Action Clerk’s office to write in support of remote council meetings to the local MP and the Minister for Levelling up Communities.

- (b) Received – ChALC weekly e-bulletins with various attachments, details of training sessions, etc.
- (c) Received – SLCC – various updates, briefings, news items, etc.
- (d) Civility and Respect Project Newsletter.

450/21-22 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

Various LGC e-mail correspondence/briefings. LCR Issue 4 2021

451/21-22 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

- (a) **Warrington Borough Council - Development Management Committee (DMC)**

At the time of writing there are no documents available for the next DMC.

- (b) Other Planning related correspondence:

- (i) Planning Enforcement case ENF/21/08988 Foxwood site, Chatfield Drive, Birchwood. Alleged problem. Breach of condition 9 of 2020/36579 (parking).
- (ii) Delenty Drive, Birchwood. TPO query. Update from WBC.

452/21-22 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

Application No. 2021/40295 47 McCarthy Close, Birchwood, WA3 6RS. Proposed two storey side extension. **Refused.**

453/21-22 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

All plans can be viewed via:

<https://planning.warrington.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/run/wphappcriteria.display>

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.

- (a) Application No. 2021/40405 Land East of Kelvin Street, Birchwood Park, Warrington. Proposed 3 no. general industrial and/or warehouse distribution (Use Classes B2 and/or B8) units (714, 715 and 716), access, parking and associated landscaping.

The Clerk asked Members, that as this is classed as a major development, whether the Council wishes to consider requesting a Section 106 be attached to the conditions, if there is anything relevant that can be requested via the WBC Planning Department?

The Clerk stated that the main residential areas that would be affected by the development and any increase in traffic would be Risley, Locking Stumps and potentially the Moss Gate area of Gorse Covert.

Residents of Locking Stumps and Risley have historically been adversely affected by the driving behaviours of motorists/commuters.

Councillors discussed several suggestions. They wondered if any of the following would be appropriate for a Section 106 agreement:

- speed activated awareness signage along Glover Road, Warrington Road (near the old Noggin pub) and/or other roads used to access Birchwood Park. Several of these roads have been highlighted as being of concern by local residents and Locking Stumps Primary is located on Glover Road. WBC has recently undertaken several speed surveys in the area.
- could a contribution be made to improve the play area in Locking Stumps (improvements to local public space)? This is the only play area in Locking Stumps, and it is in need of some attention, refurbishment or upgrade.
- there was a dropped crossings query submitted to WBC/Birchwood Park – route from Warrington Road to the nursery on site. Difficulty with accessibility for those on mobility scooters or with prams.
- two old bus shelters on Glover Road. Could these be replaced with something more modern and with a perch bench?

Councillor Atkin stated, that following the planning training that he and other Councillors have recently undertaken, it is his understanding that a Section 106 can only be applied if it would directly mitigate any potentially adverse effects of a proposed development on the local area.

Members agreed that a large number of local residents are affected by Birchwood Park in various ways and these suggestions may make some positive improvement(s) to their quality of life whilst addressing concerns raised with Councillors.

It was suggested that the Clerk speaks to the Planning Department to enquire whether any of the options above would be likely to be accepted for a Section 106 request.

It was proposed to delegate a decision to the Clerk's office, if WBC advises that a choice needs to be made between options if there is a possibility that any of them could be considered as part of the Planning Application process to benefit from a Section 106 in relation to this application.

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

- (b) Application no. 2021/40502 Land at Kelvin Street, Birchwood Park, Warrington WA3 7PB. Proposed Works to widen Kelvin Street (including its junction with Daten Avenue).
- (c) Application no. 2021/40549 58 Gilderdale Close, Birchwood, WA3 6TH. Lawful development certificate – proposed single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory and garage conversion.

- (d) Application no. 2021/40557 66 Inglewood Close, Birchwood WA3 6UJ. Proposed single storey extension to rear to extend beyond the rear wall by 5.00m, to a maximum height 3.95 m and height at the eaves 2.50 m.
- (e) Application no. 2021/40576 1 Palliser Close, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 6RT. Proposed two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.
- (f) Application no. 2021/40596 6 Stainmore Close, Birchwood WA3 6TP. Removal of existing conservatory proposed two storey side and rear extension with part rear single storey extension.
- (g) Application 2021/40628 Site of former Foxwood School, Chatfield Drive, Birchwood WA3 6QW. Discharge of condition 11 (Management and Maintenance), Condition 12 (Drainage), Condition 13 (Future Management), condition 20 (Un-adopted and communal areas) on previously approved application 2020/36579 (Residential Development). Discharge of condition.

This part of the meeting concluded at 6.25 pm.