

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT
PARKERS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE, DELENTY DRIVE, RISLEY
ON TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2012**

PRESENT: Councillor M. Hearldon in the Chair
Councillors Evans, Fitzsimmons, T. Hearldon, Hepworth, Higgins, Nelson and Spencer

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

PCSO Allison Davies

2 residents

Apologies were received from Councillors Bowden and Ratcliffe

It was RESOLVED THAT:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council which took place on Tuesday, 24th January 2012, 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.

055/2012 **RECESS**

(a) **Police Monthly Pledge Meeting and Update**

PCSO Davies gave Members an update on policing activity in the area since last month and reported some of the statistics for the Birchwood area.

Priorities

PCSO Davies stated that the priorities for February had been industrial thefts (mainly of catalytic converters) bike thefts (although many of the bikes that had been stolen had not been locked) and speeding. She reported that PCSO Steve Dodd had taken the speed van out on Ordnance Avenue and Admirals Road and the speed sign had been deployed on Locking Stumps Lane on several occasions.

PCSO Davies added that the Police are hoping to be able to get the help of the Borough Council to put traffic ribbons across the road on Locking Stumps Lane to further monitor the traffic in that area.

The Clerk asked whether the Police had any additional plans in place for monitoring of traffic when the resurfacing work on the A574 Birchwood Way starts on 19th March, as it will undoubtedly cause some drivers to choose to divert down Locking Stumps Lane to avoid the contraflow system. PCSO Davies stated that she didn't know of any specific plans in place and that there would be nothing to stop traffic from choosing a different route; but the situation could be monitored.

Councillor Evans suggested having the speed sign in place on occasion to make drivers aware that speed was being monitored.

Proposed Bike Marking Event

At the January meeting PCSO Williams had stated that he was hoping to be able to acquire some property marking equipment and SmartWater soon and to hold an event locally for people to have their bicycles marked.

The Clerk asked PCSO Davies if she knew whether any SmartWater had yet been acquired for this purpose.

PCSO Davies replied that the SmartWater was not yet available for this event, but she had received some property marking kits which could be used to mark up bicycles.

Parking on Ainscough Road

At the January meeting the Clerk reported that our Team had cut back shrubbery on the footpath and opened up the area near the back of Betfred and PCSO Williams said he would inform PCSO Davies that the work had been completed.

At tonight's meeting PCSO Davies stated that she had spoken to Betfred and asked them to email all their staff to warn them about parking on the pavements. Some warning notices have since been put on vehicles and in future PCSO Davies will put fixed penalty notices on the cars that continue to park inappropriately.

Parking on Ordnance Avenue

Councillor Higgins asked PCSO Davies whether the Police had been made aware of cars now starting to park on Ordnance Avenue, close to the junction with Redshank Lane; which does sometimes present a visibility hazard for people trying to exit Redshank Lane on to Ordnance Avenue.

He added that it seems people are now using Ordnance Avenue as a car park and are leaving their vehicles, then using the nearby footpath that leads to the business park.

PCSO Davies replied that they had received some complaints, but unfortunately there are no traffic restrictions along this stretch of road, so legally there is nothing that can be done. She believes that although there may be spaces on the car parks at the business park, employees now have to pay to use the spaces.

PCSO Davies added that she will try to find out where the people who are parking on the road work and will monitor the situation.

Councillor Higgins stated that although he can understand why people might not wish to pay to park and that there are currently no traffic restrictions on the road, it is ultimately the local residents who are suffering again as a result of local business restrictions on employee parking.

Local Police Initiatives

PCSO Davies informed Members of a couple of ongoing Police initiatives. Firstly, there is an operation covering the whole of the Warrington East area relating to business thefts, including the local business parks and the Leacroft Road area.

The second initiative involves the Police working in partnership with Paul McGovern from HMP Manchester and his Community Team, going into schools to talk about the dangers of drugs, stranger danger, etc.

The team has already been into Gorse Covert Primary School and it is hoped that the other local schools can be visited within the next six months. PCSO Davies stated that when the team goes to the high school it will deliver more high impact messages, appropriate to the age of the children; and will take the passive drug dog with them.

PCSO Davies stated that if Members wanted more details about any of the initiatives being undertaken in the area, then she would be pleased to speak to them.

The Clerk asked PCSO Davies if there was any update regarding an alleged panther/ sighting of a very large cat that she had reported following the receipt of a phone call from a local resident.

PCSO Davies replied that it is believed that the creature was in fact a large domestic black cat, although the Police did go out and search local and surrounding areas.

PCSO Davies informed Members that Inspector Tomlinson had asked her to inform the Council that although she is unable to attend the March meeting as requested, due to other commitments, that she would be pleased if any Members wanted to make an appointment at another time to speak to her.

Action Clerk's office to liaise with Councillors and Inspector Tomlinson re: arranging a meeting.

The Chair thanked PCSO Davies for attending.

The most recently available information regarding local Policing priorities can be found on the Cheshire Police Website: <http://www.cheshire.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/warrington-east/birchwood/priorities.aspx>

A resident who attended the meeting stated that a member of RIMAG had been out to speak to the lady who reported the sighting and assess the situation. He said that it had been clear from noting the position the resident had been standing to view the animal and measuring from her description of where and what she saw sitting in the tree that it had, in fact, been a large domestic cat.

(b) **Recent Local Tidy Up Events**

A resident at the meeting asked that thanks be passed on to the Maintenance Team as they had collected and disposed of a number of bags of litter from two locations in Birchwood following two tidy up events that had been undertaken by local residents' groups the previous weekend.

The resident asked whether the Maintenance Team could remove a sofa that had been found flytipped in a ditch that runs parallel with Ordnance Avenue as it was too large for the residents to remove.

PCSO Davies stated that this area has been used as a 'camping ground' in the past.

Action Clerk's office to ask the team to collect the flytipped item.

(c) **Powell Avenue Underpass**

At the January meeting the Clerk informed Members that we had received reports of flooding regarding the underpasses that run between Birchwood Fire Station and Powell Avenue/Delenty Drive, which were passed on to the Borough Council. Although the Borough Council went out on the day it was reported, jetting the gullies did not solve the problem and the Borough went out again about a week later with some additional equipment which seemed to alleviate the problem – at least in the short term.

However, since then, we received a letter from a local resident regarding the state of the subway, asking that a permanent resolution be found to the drainage problem.

The Clerk stated that she and Councillor Bowden have already contacted the Borough Council regarding this matter. A reply had also been sent to the resident.

The resident who sent the letter attended tonight's meeting and gave an account of an accident her husband had when he slipped at night on black ice near the underpass.

She expressed her concerns that the subway needed attention regarding the drainage to make it a safer route. The resident stated that is a very well used route and as the weather could still remain cold for some time; she did not want something similar to happen to someone else. Water, when it runs off the embankment, flows diagonally across the underpass to the nearest drain, which silts up and blocks frequently.

The Clerk stated that some people choose to climb the embankment, cross the road and then climb down the other side when the underpass is flooded, which is another potentially dangerous course of action.

Councillor Nelson asked if our teams grit the area when we have freezing weather.

The Clerk reported that areas around the entrance/exits of the underpasses are gritted when it gets icy.

The resident said that she is aware that the Borough Council has restrictions on its resources, but asked if the Town Council could do everything within its power to encourage the Borough Council to address her concerns as a matter of urgency.

The Clerk confirmed that we have been informed that the Borough Council is going to survey the area regarding the drainage and that the gullies will be cleaned regularly on a two weekly cycle.

Members unanimously agreed that the Town Council should continue to liaise with the Borough Council regarding this matter with a view to solving the matter permanently.

The Town Council will continue to grit the area (with the exception of at weekends when the team are not in work) if we are aware that it is likely to be icy. They do not grit if it is raining as the grit simply gets washed away.

Councillor Hepworth wondered whether the fact that silt is coming off the embankment would, in the long term, cause any instability of the roadway itself.

Action Clerk's office to continue to liaise with the Borough Council regarding the above and update the resident regarding this matter.

Action Maintenance Team to grit around the area when there are icy conditions.

056/2012 **RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLORS**

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council has been notified of the resignation of two Council Members and the Borough confirmed that as elections will be held in May the Town Council is not required to call a by-election under the 'six month rule'.

057/2012 **TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT 2012/2013**

The Clerk reported that the Town Council precept, with a nil increase, had been reported in the Warrington Guardian on 2nd February 2012.

058/2012 **PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF LOCKING STUMPS SKATE PARK**

At the January meeting Bernadette Bell from Frontis, John Littler, Head Teacher of Locking Stumps Primary School and four of the schoolchildren presented their proposals for the regeneration of Locking Stumps Skate Park for it to become 'The Birches Healthy Family Zone'. Members had unanimously agreed to send a letter of support for the proposals.

At tonight's meeting, the Clerk reported that a letter had been sent as requested.

059/2012 **MINI MOTOS**

At the January meeting Councillor Hepworth had reported that he had recently been aware of what sounds like mini motos being ridden in and around the Pipit Lane area between the hours of 11pm and 2am.

At tonight's meeting Councillor Hepworth stated that, during those hours, he had not heard any mini motos since the last meeting.

060/2012 **PARKING CONCERNS – AINSCOUGH ROAD**

This was discussed during recess (see Minute 055/2012 (a) above).

061/2012 **RISLEY LANDFILL LIAISON MEETING**

The Clerk reported that the Risley Landfill Liaison meeting scheduled for 28th March 2012 has been rescheduled again and will now be taking place at 4pm on 7th March 2012.

062/2012 **UPDATE RE: TRAFFIC RELATED QUERIES**

(a) Puffin Crossing to the Forest Park from Gorse Covert

The Clerk reported that work appears to be almost completed on the installation of the puffin crossing.

(b) Birchwood Park Avenue – reduction in speed limit

The Clerk reported that the new 50mph speed limit is now in operation on stretches of Birchwood Park Avenue. She said that we had received a few comments from residents regarding the new signage that appears to have caused a bit of confusion.

Councillor Fitzsimmons stated that all the new signage that has been put in place is necessary by law. Wherever the speed changes from one limit to another a sign has to be put in place, no matter how short the section.

Action Clerk's office to contact the residents who asked about the signage re: the above.

063/2012 **PLAY EQUIPMENT IN BIRCHWOOD**

The Clerk reported that we had received some 3D artwork impressions and proposals for improvements to the play area near the Rangers' Centre at Birchwood Forest Park.

Members asked that this be moved to the Finance section of the meeting.

The Clerk reported that the grinding rail should be reinstalled at the skateboard park very soon.

064/2012 **JOINT POLICE/TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY**

Councillor Fitzsimmons attended the surgery held on 18th February 2012, with PCSO Davies.

The Clerk reported that the surgeries now take place, the third Saturday of each month (except August) in the Community Corner in the Encounter Café, from 10.30am and 12 noon.

PCSO Davies had asked if we could make some posters. These are displayed on our notice boards and PCSO Williams took some additional posters to display at other locations.

Councillor Nelson will be available to attend the next surgery on 17th March 2012.

065/2012 **TOWN COUNCIL FLAG**

The Clerk reported that this matter remains ongoing. She is trying to arrange a meeting with the shopping centre to discuss this and other matters.

Action Clerk's office to continue to try to arrange a meeting with the shopping centre.

066/2012 **FRONTIS WALKABOUTS**

The Clerk reported that a follow up walkabout took place in Oakwood on 27th February 2012.

An additional walkabout has also taken place at the request of a resident, around Violet Close and the surrounding area. The Clerk reported that a note of thanks to Councillors Fitzsimmons and Evans had been received from the resident.

Councillors Fitzsimmons and Evans asked if a walkabout could be arranged with Frontis to cover the area of Strawberry Close to Trefoil Close.

Action Clerk's office to contact Frontis regarding the request for an additional walkabout.

At the January meeting the Clerk was asked to send another reminder to the Borough Council regarding the missing the missing nameplate for Swallow Close. This has been done.

067/2012 **BULKY WASTE COLLECTIONS FOR FRONTIS TENANTS**

The Clerk informed Members that she had sent a letter to Frontis (copied in the late papers) asking if Frontis staff could be reminded that the Town Council makes its discretionary bulky waste collections from Birchwood residents only. This follows several occasions when residents from outside our area have called to request collections and told us that Frontis gave them our number. On a few occasions callers have been verbally abusive to Town Council Officers when it has been explained to them that we only collect within Birchwood.

068/2012 **PLANTERS**

The Clerk reported that this is ongoing in liaison with Warrington Borough Council. We are awaiting the receipt of our licences before the planters can be installed.

069/2012 **WASTE BINS**

The Clerk reported that the waste bin which was situated at the recycling centre at the shopping centre has now been relocated close to Oakwood shops.

PCSO Davies recently forwarded an email to us, passing on some comments about litter and litter bins that she received.

We sent a reply stating that, the Borough Council has a limited number of litter bins that it is able to supply to the whole of the Borough each year. We were recently lucky to be allocated two bins for the area ...we asked for three, but the Borough could only give us two at that time.

In the past the Town Council has managed to obtain some funding for another couple of bins. However, because the Town Council does not own any land in the area (with the exception of the office car park and a small piece that the Youth and Community Centre is situated on), we had to obtain the permission of the landowners to install these bins – one of which was stolen the day after it was installed (near the BP Petrol station). In addition, any bins that are installed have to be put on a schedule for collection and the waste has to be disposed of.

The Clerk informed Members that we had received several complaints regarding litter this month, but that quite a lot of the areas mentioned are in the business areas or on private land.

Members discussed the issue of waste bins and it was suggested that we contact McDonalds to ask whether they would consider funding some new litter bins in the area. Members unanimously agreed with this suggestion.

Action Clerk's office to write to McDonalds to ask if they might fund some new waste bins.

The Clerk stated that we have had a complaint about litter near Locking Stumps Primary School, but much of it is sandwiched between two fences and because of the size of the gaps in the fencing, the litter picking sticks cannot reach through. However, the Clerk is organising a clean up day on 20th March with Frontis, our Maintenance Team and hopefully Sodexo to try to address the litter and some landscaping issues along this stretch of path.

Action Clerk's office to continue to liaise with Frontis regarding the clean up day.

070/2012 **LIGHTING ISSUES ON THE 'SPINAL PATH'**

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council is in discussion with Norweb, which has to remove some cabling before the Borough can put theirs in place.

071/2012 **ALLOTMENTS**

At the January meeting Councillor Bowden informed Members that a Task Group had been set up at the previous Borough Council Executive Board meeting and Councillor Fitzsimmons had stated that it would be worth reminding the Task Group about the Borough Council's portion of the old Oliver Plunkett School site, which is already fenced off and there are utility services still running to the site.

At tonight's meeting the Clerk stated that we had heard nothing further from the Borough Council regarding this matter; but she presumed that the Birchwood Borough Councillors would be bringing up the matter with the Task Group, as agreed at the January meeting.

072/2012 **UPDATE ON PLANNING MATTERS**

(a) **Application No. 2011/18822 1 Delenty Drive**

Proposed demolition of existing dwelling and construction of six detached two storey dwellings, garages and associated landscaping.

The Clerk reported that this application was considered at the Planning Applications Sub-Committee which took place on 15th February 2012, following a site visit which took place on 10th February 2012. The application was **approved with conditions**.

- (b) **Application No. 2011/18954 Land adjacent to Carrington Close, Birchwood. Application to establish land as Village Green.**

Councillors Fitzsimmons and Spencer declared an interest

The Clerk reported that we have not received any update regarding this application which is still going through the relevant application process.

She stated that she sent a letter, as requested, in response to the correspondence received from Birchwood Golf Club and that we had since received another letter from the Golf Club stating that they were dissatisfied with our response.

However, there is nothing more that the Clerk can add to the previous information sent to the Golf Club. The application is a process instigated by the residents and all the relevant planning procedures are then undertaken by the Borough Council. The Town Council is simply a statutory consultee in the process. The town Council had no part in making the application other than advising residents, when they asked for assistance, that there was an application process they could follow.

The Clerk added that we had also received correspondence from the office of Helen Jones MP, who had been contacted by a constituent who wished to add her support to the land becoming a Village Green. The letter asked for an update on the issue. The Clerk reported that she had telephoned Matt Rhodes, who had signed the letter and advised him of the Village Green Application Number so that he could follow the process online on the Borough Council's website.

- (c) **Application No. 2011/19009 Prospect Farm, Prospect Lane, Rixton-with-Glazebrook. Proposed change of use to provide target shooting club with associated parking.**

Councillor Higgins declared an interest re: (c) and (d) and offered to leave the room

Members decided that they did not wish to discuss this application further at this stage, so Councillor Higgins remained in the meeting.

- (d) **Application No. 2011/19014 Prospect Farm, Prospect Lane, Rixton-with-Glazebrook. Retrospective application for upgrade of existing track surface.**

Members decided that they did not wish to discuss this application further at this stage.

073/2012 **NEW BUS SHELTER ON BROCK ROAD**

The Clerk reported that the new shelter has now been installed.

074/2012 **QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIAMOND JUBILEE**

At the December 2011 meeting, the Clerk reported that a consultation item has been published in the winter issue of Birchwood Community News; asking residents whether they would like the Town Council to mark this occasion somehow, and, if so, whether they have any suggestions for a way that would be both feasible and inclusive.

At tonight's meeting the Clerk reported that we have still not received any feedback from residents regarding this issue. However the matter was discussed at the recent Finance and Strategy Working Party Meeting held on 15th February 2012 at which Members present considered an idea of installing two commemorative benches. This will be considered further at a future meeting.

The Clerk reported that we had received correspondence (copied to Members in their papers) regarding The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, whereby Town and Parish Councils are invited to nominate a piece of recreational land in order to protect it.

Members noted this, but as the Town Council does not own any land they did not feel that it was worth pursuing.

075/2012 **WILDFLOWER MEADOWS**

The Clerk reported that there is a special 'jubilee mix' of seeds that has been created especially for the Diamond Jubilee, which is a mix of red, white and blue flowers. However it is considerably more expensive than the other mixes.

The mix we have used in the past that culminates with the cosmos flowers starts with flowers containing red, white and blue blooms, so we have decided to retain this mix and to sow it along Ordnance Avenue as well as in some other areas.

The Clerk informed Members that Frontis has again kindly agreed to part sponsor one of the wildflower meadows on Ordnance Avenue.

076/2012 **BIRCHWOOD CARNIVAL**

The Clerk informed Members that we have now been informed that the date for Birchwood Carnival has been set for Sunday 3rd June 2012. A Carnival Committee meeting took place this afternoon which was attended by Councillors Nelson and M. Hearldon.

Councillor Nelson asked for further discussion to be moved to the Finance section of the meeting.

077/2012 **WINTER RESILIENCE SCHEME**

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council has given permission to put identifying Birchwood Town Council logo stickers on our grit bins.

She added that the bins are now unlocked. The first weekend they were installed we left them locked until the 'novelty value' of them being in place had worn off, in order to prevent potential anti social use of the grit. Since then they have been unlocked

Action Clerk's office to arrange to put stickers on the grit bins.

078/2012 **POWELL AVENUE UNDERPASS**

The Clerk reported that repairs had been made to the missing flags on the sides of the underpass. The lights that are not currently working have also been reported to the Borough Council for them to action.

The issue of ongoing flooding and drainage of the underpass was discussed earlier in the meeting during recess (see Minute 055/2012 (c)).

079/2011 **LEISTON-CUM-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING PROPOSAL**

The Clerk reported that, as requested, she had sent a letter regarding the above to the Minister for Communities and Local Government, Greg Clark MP and sent a copy to Helen Jones MP.

080/2012 **REMOVAL OF RECYCLING BAYS AT BIRCHWOOD SHOPPING CENTRE**

The Clerk reported that we were copied into some correspondence between a resident and the Borough Council regarding the removal of the recycling centre at the shopping centre.

The Clerk stated that the textile and shoe banks have been retained elsewhere on site. Our team undertook the last litter pick of the site on Monday 13th February 2012.

081/2012 **KENNEL CLUB AWARD SUBMISSION**

At the January meeting, the Clerk reported that we had received correspondence from Phil Ramsden at the Borough Council regarding an application they were making to the Kennel Club for an award regarding the Oakwood dog fouling project and requesting a letter of support from the Town Council, which was sent.

We have since received an update from Phil Ramsden stating that, unfortunately on this occasion they had not been shortlisted.

082/2012 **CESHIRE FIRE**

At the January meeting Members had considered two pieces of correspondence; one from Gwyn Williams at Cheshire Fire asking for support for the campaign to retain the local fire control room.

The second letter was from Councillor David Topping, Chair of Cheshire Fire Authority responding to the correspondence mentioned in the letter from Mr. Williams.

Councillors had considered both the letters and initially decided to support the use of new 'state-of-the-art' facilities at Lingley Mere in Warrington, although the wording in both letters had left room for some confusion as to exactly what was being referred to in parts.

Since requesting and receiving clarification regarding some of the detail in the letters, Members discussed the matter again at the recent strategy meeting and asked that, for now, a letter be sent to both parties simply stating that the correspondence had been received and noted by Council.

The Clerk confirmed that she had sent the letters.

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

083/2012 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Received – Details of the Public Rights of Way Forum meeting taking place on 17th May 2012; with draft agenda enclosed.

The Clerk reported that the Biffa waste site and Silver Lane footpaths are on the agenda. It was suggested that this matter be raised again after the outcome of local elections in early May is known.

- (b) Received – Copy of Warrington's Adult Social Care Services Local Account document.
- (c) Received – Details of two Mental Health Awareness training sessions.
- (d) Received – Warrington LINK Healthwatch – newsletter February 2012.
- (e) Received – Details of the Birchwood Community Football official launch.

Councillor Evans attended this event, but it was raining very heavily and he did not see anyone he knew to make himself known to.

The official photo shoot will be rescheduled due to the inclement weather on the night.

- (f) Received – Details of the Young Enterprise Event - 27th March 2012.

- (g) Received – Poster for a free ‘CV Workshop’ – displayed on our notice boards.
 - (h) Received – Notification from Warrington Borough Council re: some resurfacing work on Oakwood Gate footbridge and Ordnance Avenue and Dewhurst Road footbridges.
- The Clerk reported that this work has now been completed.
- (i) Received – Details of Cultural Diversity & Safeguarding Children training.
 - (j) Received – Neighbourhoods Bulletin.
 - (k) Received – Flyer re: recruitment at Orford Park. This was displayed on our notice boards.
 - (l) Received – Information on Olympic Leaders – the Local Leader Programme.
 - (m) Received – Copy of ‘Green Chat’.
 - (n) Received – Papers for the East Area Board meeting and subsequently copies of presentations for the East Area Board meeting.
 - (o) Received – Details of a public consultation event regarding Cheshire and Merseyside Vascular Services Review; which took place on 2nd March at the Halliwell Jones Stadium in Warrington.
 - (p) Sent/received – Correspondence with Development Control regarding ‘For Sale’ and ‘To Let’ signs being displayed inappropriately in several areas of Birchwood.
 - (q) Received – East Warrington Neighbourhood News, Issue 5.
 - (r) Sent/Received – Email correspondence with WBC regarding complaints received about the litter along the stretch of Birchwood Way from Junction 11 to the roundabout junction with Daten Avenue/Moss Gate. Also regarding litter in business areas, including Leacroft Road and the path that runs from the underpass on Birchwood Park Avenue through to Chadwick House.

The Clerk reported that she has asked the Borough Council if it can find out who owns the path leading to Chadwick House. In the meantime, Mr. Jonathon Walsh from MEPC very kindly offered their team’s services to clean the path, despite it not being their land.

Until we find out who owns the land, the Clerk stated that our Maintenance Team will litter pick the path that runs from the underpass on Birchwood Park Avenue through to Chadwick House on a two weekly cycle as a lot of our residents use this route.

With regard to the stretch of Birchwood Way from Junction 11, the Clerk stated that we have been informed that the Borough Council’s ‘high speed’ team will deal with the litter on this road within the next few weeks. This stretch of road is too dangerous for the Town Council’s team to litter pick.

We will inform the residents who raised this matter with us.

Action Clerk’s office to inform the residents who contacted us regarding the above.

- (s) Received – Email from the Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust, which provides community services in Warrington, about some public consultation meetings being held regarding becoming a Foundation Trust.

- (t) Received – Email regarding a request for people to help shape drug and alcohol services in Warrington. The Centre for Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University (JMU) is carrying out a survey on behalf of Warrington Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), who have responsibility for delivering drug and alcohol services in the town.

The results of the survey will be used to examine which drug and alcohol issues are most important to people living and/or working in Warrington to help ensure the DAAT is providing services that people want.

- (u) The Clerk stated that we had received notification of two street trader licence applications, one for a mobile food van on Clayton Road and one on Risley Road.

Members did not have any concerns or comments to make regarding these two applications.

Councillor Higgins asked if we had received any correspondence relating to the mobile food van on Daten Avenue, as he has some concerns about road safety in this area.

The Clerk said that we had not yet received any correspondence regarding the van on Daten Avenue.

Councillor Nelson stated that the new licensing rules would mean that the Borough Council will have more control over the operation of all street traders throughout Warrington.

- (v) The Clerk reported that we had received a copy of a letter sent by a resident to the Borough Council asking for clarification regarding responsibility for the pavements outside the shop at Gorse Covert. The resident stated that during a recent icy spell his wife had slipped and fallen, although he considers the pavements around that area to be unsafe even in normal weather conditions.

The resident said that the Borough Council had sent a reply stating that there was a grit bin provided for the use of residents, however, the resident believed that it had been locked.

The Clerk stated that the bins had only been locked on the first weekend following their installation, to deter any anti social use of the grit, given the novelty value of having the bins in place. There was no inclement weather forecast for that weekend. Since then they have all been left unlocked.

Members discussed the issue; as the Town Council does not own any of the land within Birchwood (with the exception of our car park and a small piece adjacent to our office) any problems with the footpath surfaces are the landowner's responsibility.

Councillors think that the area outside the shop and the car park is owned by the Borough Council, but which part of the Borough Council, we are unsure. Councillor Higgins believes it might be Warrington Borough Council Estates.

We also do not know who owns the footpath that then runs past the Poacher and the primary school.

The Clerk stated that it needs to be established who owns which part of the footpath and whether the surface of the footpath can be changed.

Action Clerk's office to contact the Borough Council regarding this matter.

084/2012 **BIRCHWOOD FORUM**

- (a) Received – ‘Marketing Cheshire’ e-bulletins – 24th January and 22nd February 2012.
- (b) Received – Copy of information for employers that can be found on the Borough Council’s website re: the Government raising the age at which young people are required to continue in education or training.
- (c) Received – Brief report on the Jan. meeting. The next meeting was on 24th February
- (d) Received – Parklife – e-newsletter, 9th February 2012 and Business Warrington e-magazine, February edition.
- (e) Received - Details of a consultation: Warrington Borough Council has been encouraged by Network Rail to investigate the economic case for rail improvements to serve the area and to gain a better understanding of local business rail travel needs and desires.
- (f) Received – Invitation to meet the Warrington, Widnes & District Branch of the Federation of Small Businesses.

085/2012 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – An enquiry made under the Freedom of Information Act asking for a breakdown of the Council’s hardware maintenance and costs. A reply has been sent.
- (b) Received – Details of a Public Sector Efficiency Expo, taking place in London in March 2012. Entrance is free, but attendees must be registered.
- (c) Received – Email from Mr. Peter Briggs, Clerk to Appleton Parish Council and Stockton Heath Parish Council stating that he is standing down from the Clerk position roles from both Councils from 1st February 2012 but will become Part Time Assistant Clerk to both. Mrs. Louise Parker, the present Secretary, will take over both roles.
- (d) Received – ‘Parklife’ 20th February – Birchwood Park’s e-newsletter.
- (e) Received/Sent – Various emails regarding litter in several local areas – several of which are outside of the Birchwood boundary or on private land or in the business areas. This was also discussed earlier in the meeting (see Minute 082/2012 (r)).
- (f) Received – Posters for two ‘tidy up’ events taking place on 25th February.

The Clerk confirmed that our Maintenance Team collected and disposed of the litter bags filled by the residents’ groups during their ‘tidy up’ events and that the Team would be asked to collect the flytipped settee located in a ditch in the woods near Ordnance Avenue.

- (g) Received – Email from a resident concerned about trees being cut down along a stretch of Birchwood Park Avenue – near the Encore Hotel and the increase in litter near to commercial units and along some footpaths – she asks if more litter bins can be installed. A reply has been sent.

An email has also been sent to the Borough Council asking if they know anything about the trees being cut down on the stretch of Birchwood Park Avenue – near the Encore Hotel as we have had complaints from other residents. We are unsure if the trees were on private or Borough Council land. We are awaiting a reply.

- (h) Sent – Email to Frontis asking for their staff to be reminded that we only take bulky waste items from residents living in Birchwood and it is a discretionary service. There are circumstances in which we will not remove waste if we consider it to be unsafe to do, for example because there are access issues, or health, safety or hygiene risks for our staff. This was also discussed earlier in the meeting (see Minute 067/2012).
- (i) Received – Poster regarding Volunteer Action in Neighbourhood East (VANE). VANE meetings take place at 11.30am on the last Friday of every month at 11.30am at the Encounter Centre, Birchwood. The purpose of the meetings is to support local voluntary groups and to network, share information, find out about funding, training and other useful information.

For further details or to confirm your place at a meeting, email either Claire Ross claire.r@warringtonvc.org.uk or Sue Emery semery@warrington.gov.uk
- (j) Received – Email regarding an event taking place in London in March ‘Securing the Future of Our Natural Environment’.

086/2012 **RECENT iCAN ALERTS**

Full details regarding the following iCAN alerts and details of free membership to the service can be found at <http://www.tswarrington.co.uk/ican>

- (a) A man claiming to be working for the Council was going door to door offering loft insulation. After a resident asked him to produce ID he left and was later picked up by the Police.

Anyone claiming to be from the Council will have ID which can be verified by telephoning the Contact Centre on 01925 44 33 22.
- (b) An email entitled 'Population Census: a message to everyone - act now' is being circulated, allegedly in the name of National Statistician, Jill Matheson.

This email is a scam and a hoax. DO NOT RESPOND. The links in the email could download malware to your computer.
- (c) Police in Warrington are asking householders to be extra vigilant as house burglaries continue to be reported across the Borough; generally the incidents have occurred during the afternoon and in the evening.
- (d) Details of sessions about advice on your rights and choices within the NHS and Social Care Service - Warrington LINK Care Navigation Service has a weekly drop in session open to everyone.

The sessions are held by Care Navigation Officer Anne Hignall each Thursday from 4pm to 6pm at the Gateway, Sankey Street in Warrington (Tel: 01925 246894).

087/2012 **SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS**

- (a) Received – Details of the Larger Council’s Conference, taking place in April 2012.
- (b) Received – Notification that the SLCC Advisory Service Hotline number has been changed, but the email address stays the same.
- (c) Received – Branch Newsletter – February 2012. *Information*
- (d) Received – Details of conferences and courses in 2012. *Information*

088/2012 **CESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received – Email giving details of suspicious activity relating to a vehicle in the area registration: CU51 EYG – white, Ford Transit van. Anyone who sees any suspicious activity in the area is asked to report it on the new non-emergency telephone number: 101. The email also stated the theft of catalytic converters is on the rise in the area.
- (b) Received – Birchwood News Bulletin – February 2012. *Information*
- (c) Sent – Email following a report from a resident regarding what appears to be damage from mini motos/motorbikes along the Brook Path footpath. We are awaiting a reply.

089/2012 **CESHIRE COMMUNITY ACTION**

- (a) Received – Details of an all day event ‘Connecting Communities’, taking place in March 2012.
- (b) Received – Newsletter March 2012. This includes information that WREN has increased the maximum application amount under its main grant scheme from £50,000 to £75,000.

090/2012 **CESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

- (a) Received – Newsletter – February 2012.
- (b) Received – Consultation; requesting views on the proposal for Area Working – there is currently no Area Meeting in Warrington. Any comments need to be with ChALC by 27th March 2012.

The proposal is that ChALC will facilitate two Parish Conferences in the area of Cheshire East Borough Council, two within the area of Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council and one within the area of Warrington Borough Council.

Members discussed the proposal, but as elections are to be held shortly in May, they agreed that any decision should be made by potential new Council Members after the elections.

Councillor Fitzsimmons suggested that we let ChALC know that the Council be able to comment after the May elections.

Action Clerk’s office to contact ChALC regarding the above.

- (c) Received – Annual Meeting 2011 Motions update.
- (d) Received – Notification that the next ‘Engaging Communities in Planning’ event will be held on 30th March in Middlewich.

091/2012 **PRESS ARTICLES**

Copies of various articles from local publications of relevance/interest to Birchwood.

092/2012 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

LGC 08/12/11, 12/01/12, 19/01/12, 26/01/12
The Playing Field

093/2012 **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 time of writing this report.

094/2012 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

(a) **Warrington Borough Council**

- (i) Received – Notification of the Planning Applications Sub-Committee meeting that took place on 15th February 2012.

Application No. 2011/18822 - Delenty Drive, Birchwood. Proposed demolition of existing dwelling and construction of six detached, two storey dwellings, garages and associated landscaping, was on the agenda for discussion. The application was **Approved with conditions**

- (ii) Received – Notification that the Development Management Committee meeting would be taking place on 16th February 2012. There were no items of specific relevance to Birchwood on the agenda for discussion.

- (iii) Received – Request for a selection of appropriate dates as John Groves Service Manager, Development Services would like to attend a Town Council Meeting, in order to provide General Updates for Planning Policy, Development Control & Planning Enforcement.

Members asked that Mr. Groves be invited to a Town Council meeting after the May elections.

Action Clerk's office to contact Mr. Groves regarding the above.

095/2012 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

- (a) Application No. 2011/19284 9 Eccleston Close, Birchwood. Proposed two storey rear extension (resubmission of 2011/18878). **Refused**
- (b) Application No. 2011/19213 9 Darnaway Close, Birchwood. Proposed single storey side extension, first floor rear extension. **Approved with conditions**

096/2012 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

All plans can be viewed via the Borough Council's website:

http://www.warrington.gov.uk/home/transport_planning_and_environment/Planning/Search_planning_applications/

- (a) Application No. 2011/19303 Garrett House, Garrett Field, WA3 7BP. Proposed refurbishment of existing light industrial unit with new over cladding, new landscaping and internal reconfiguration and part change of use.
- (b) Application No. 2011/19282 9 Trinity Court, Birchwood, WA3 6QT. Retrospective change of use from B1/B2/B8 to D2 Gymnasium.
- (c) Application No. 2012/19451 6 Elton Close, Birchwood, WA3 6NB. Proposed first floor extension and two story side/rear extension.

There were no objections raised by Members regarding the above applications.

The meeting concluded at 8.15pm