

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT
PARKERS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE, DELENTY DRIVE, RISLEY
ON TUESDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2012**

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

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

PC Jordan Trentini – Beat Manager for Birchwood

Apologies were received from Councillors Allman, Bowden and Liz Hearldon

It was **RESOLVED THAT:**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council which took place on Tuesday, 25th September 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.

452/2012 **RECESS**

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

Priorities

PC Trentini gave Members a brief update on policing activity in the area since last month.

Members were informed that this month's priorities have included speeding on Locking Stumps Lane, Lords Lane, Admirals Road and Ordnance Avenue. Both the speed sign, which is used as an awareness tool, and the speed gun have been used. Data obtained from the speed gun can be used to issue tickets if appropriate.

Councillor Balding suggested that the most recent breakdown of data received regarding speeding vehicles on Locking Stumps Lane might be useful information for the Police.

PC Trentini asked if he could be given a copy.

Action Clerk's office to send a copy of the data to PC Trentini.

Another priority has been parking issues around Gorse Covert Primary School. PC Trentini stated that mainly leaflets and advisory notices have been issued so far at the school to people parking inconsiderately, particularly as there are a number of parents whose children are new to the school and who don't yet appreciate the problems being caused. They have been given a chance, rather than a 'heavy-handed' approach being used in the first instance.

Tickets will be issued in future if people persist in parking where they should not, or causing obstructions.

PC Trentini stated that the priorities for next month have not been formally set yet; much will depend on what the trends are for the area.

Ivy Screening

One trend that has been noted is in relation to calls to accidents and other traffic incidents on Birchwood Way. PC Trentini suggested that a number of these incidents have come about as a direct result of the ivy screening that has been put in place as a 'traffic calming' measure. He stated that the Police were never consulted about the implementation of the ivy and if they had been they would not have been in favour of it.

As Risley Police Station is a 24 hour response station, they are often called to emergencies to areas such as Padgate and Woolston. Emergency drivers are impeded as they cannot assess whether their exit is clear on approach to the roundabout to allow them to go straight across at emergency speed. They are being forced by the ivy screening to almost stop – slowing down the response to emergencies. Also vehicles already on the roundabout cannot see them coming and give way to them (if safe to do so) as they might otherwise do. Other emergency vehicles; fire engines and ambulances are similarly affected.

Members pointed out that Birchwood Town Council was not consulted either as technically it is just outside of our parish boundary – the first any of the Councillors or Officers knew about it was the morning that the installation of the screening started.

Councillor Fitzsimmons stated that when the Borough Council was asked why a more comprehensive consultation had not taken place, he was informed that the scheme cost less than the budget threshold that would trigger a wider consultation to take place.

PC Trentini stated that he believes that the roads should be repainted with the yellow lines across (that give the impression that your speed is increasing) on the approach to the roundabout and for the ivy screening to be removed.

Councillor Fitzsimmons suggested that the Town Council and the Police put together a joint piece of correspondence to the Borough Council stating that we want the ivy screening to be removed completely and the paint strips put in place.

Action Clerk's office to liaise with the Police regarding the above.

Wheelie Bin Fires

PC Trentini told Members that it is likely this month, particularly with Halloween and Bonfire Night coming up, that there would be an increase in anti social behaviour, including wheelie bin fires, which is a trend at this time of year.

Councillor Balding stated that he had seen the report in the local press about a recent wheelie bin fire in Birchwood. He believes that sometimes groups of youths deliberately start fires because they get a thrill from seeing the fire engines turn out. He asked if this could be made a priority, to target areas and monitor them more closely where wheelie bin fires have been started; as they can result in danger not only to property, but also to life.

PC Trentini stated that unfortunately the layout of Birchwood means there are many footpaths that people can dart down to escape detection if they wish to. He added that crime prevention is sometimes the best first step with regard to wheelie bin fires, advising people to store them securely and not leave them out for any longer than is necessary.

Councillor Nelson said that some people who live in terraced or mews houses are unable to take their bins back in as the only space they have for them is the front of their properties.

PC Trentini accepted that this is the case and said that monitoring might be better targeted in those areas that have more mews properties and offer crime prevention advice to properties where bins can be safely stored.

CCTV Coverage

The BAFO stated that following previous reports about bike thefts on the business park and more recently the theft of our skip, when the use of CCTV footage has been mentioned as part of the investigations in trying to identify the perpetrators, it sometimes seems to be the case that the quality of the images is not good enough to be useful. The CCTV showed the skip being taken, but was not of high enough quality to identify the people clearly or the vehicle number plate. He asked whether this is a continuing problem.

PC Trentini replied that this can be an issue. There have been occasions when CCTV does not show up facial features properly or is not clear or close enough to identify vehicle number plates. Sometimes an area covered by one camera is too large to be properly effective; and the quality of an image can only be enhanced so much before it starts to pixelate. PC Trentini added that in the short term, the loss suffered by a company is sometimes more acceptable to them than the cost of a higher quality CCTV system.

The BAFO asked if the Police could keep highlighting to the businesses the importance of having effective CCTV coverage.

PC Trentini reminded Members that a CCTV mapping exercise had been undertaken, so the Police know where the majority of CCTV coverage is in the area. However, since the exercise was undertaken there have been instances of changes of ownership (so information may no longer be available) tapes and storage systems are sometimes wiped before footage can be retrieved and the quality of CCTV is not the same for all premises.

Councillor Balding stated that he had requested a copy of the CCTV footage in relation to the skip theft from Inspector Tomlinson, which she has agreed to supply.

Silver Lane - Travellers

Councillor Fitzsimmons reported that he had received a number of complaints from residents regarding the influx of travellers on to Silver Lane, near the Noggin. Although technically this is in Croft, not in Birchwood, we tend to receive the complaints; especially as some of our residents are allegedly experiencing difficulties. Councillor Fitzsimmons said that he had received reports of residents being harassed.

Councillor Higgins stated that he had seen a fire that had been lit on a grassed area on Silver Lane, which could possibly have spread and he has had reports of travellers jumping out in front of vehicles trying to access the Biffa site.

PC Trentini said that he was not aware of the reports of intimidation, of fires being lit or vehicles being obstructed. He said he would speak to the local residents to try to obtain further information about these matters. PC Trentini stated that all the vehicle details at the site had been checked and the other necessary checks were all being made. The eviction process was at the point of going to court. He said that he would speak to the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer to see if anything could be done to expedite the process.

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>

The Twitter address is @WarrEastNPU.

Members thanked PC Trentini for attending the meeting.

453/2012 **ADOPTION OF NEW CODE OF CONDUCT/REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

The Clerk informed Members that there is still one Councillor from whom we have not yet received the completed new Register of Interest documents. All others have been published on our website as required by law.

We are waiting for the final document before taking the complete set to the Monitoring Officer.

Issues relating to the Code of Conduct are one of the items on the agenda for discussion at the Parish Liaison meeting, taking place on 1st November 2012.

454/2012 **POWELL AVENUE UNDERPASS DRAINAGE ISSUES**

The Clerk stated that she has been assured that an inspector has been assigned to look at the Town Council's request regarding the installation of a grit bin at this location and it will be considered next week.

Councillor Nelson asked if the underpass was still flooding.

The Clerk stated that it is not flooding as it used to do. One of the drains does still overflow occasionally. Also, water is still running diagonally across the underpass and might freeze when the temperature drops as there is no natural sunlight to warm the pavement in that area. For the Borough to put in a land drain on the side it flows from would be extremely costly; which is why the Borough has agreed to cut some of the vegetation in the area to try to create a natural ditch to divert some of the water away from the underpass and to plant more shrubbery to help catch silt washdown. We have been told that this should be done by the end of October.

The Clerk added that the missing block has been replaced.

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

455/2012 **SPEEDING ISSUES – LOCKING STUMPS LANE**

The Clerk stated that a breakdown of the statistics, requested at a previous meeting was copied to Members in their papers. This was also discussed during Recess (see Minute 452/2012 (a))

456/2012 **FLYTIPPING ON SILVER LANE**

This matter remains ongoing. It is expected that there will be a Borough Council clean up team needed at the Croft side of Silver Lane soon; once the Travellers that are currently camped there have left.

457/2012 **FOOTPATH OWNERSHIP**

The Clerk reported that this matter remains ongoing. We still do not know who owns the path from the underpass to Chadwick House, which is on private land.

The Clerk stated that she is looking into the possibility of setting up a variable direct debit with the Land Registry to enable us to use their services more easily than sending cheques with each request we have to make.

Action Clerk's office to contact the Land Registry regarding the above.

458/2012 **JOINT POLICE/TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY**

These surgeries currently take place, the third Saturday of each month (except August) in the Community Corner in the Encounter Café, from 10.30am to 12 noon.

Councillor T. Hearldon attended the surgery on 20th October 2012; no one had any matters to raise with him.

The shopping centre has put posters up which were emailed to them; detailing the last three surgeries for 2012. We have still not received a reply from Asda to our enquiry as to whether they have any space that could be used for the surgeries.

Susan Spibey was also sent the posters with a query as to whether they could be included on the Forum's new website. We have not yet received a reply.

The Clerk stated that we have acquired an A-frame that we can use, once we have cleaned it up, to advertise the surgeries.

Councillor Balding will be attending the surgery on 17th November 2012.

459/2012 **BULKY WASTE COLLECTIONS**

This item was moved to the Finance section of the meeting which took place later in the evening.

460/2012 **PLANTERS**

The Clerk reported that additional plaques have been ordered to put on the planters.

461/2012 **UPDATE ON PLANNING MATTERS**

- (a) **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 been advised by John Lindsay at Warrington Borough Council that the anticipated date for this to go to the Development Management Committee for consideration is Thursday 6th December 2012.

- (b) **Application No. 2012/19709 Prospect Farm, Prospect Lane, Rixton-with-Glazebrook, WA3 6EH. Proposed change of use to provide a clay pigeon shooting club, clubhouse and associated parking.**

Councillor Higgins declared an interest

The Clerk reported that we have received information that this application is scheduled for consideration at the Development Committee Meeting taking place on 25th October 2012. Councillor Bowden will be attending.

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

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

Regarding (c) and (d) above; we do not yet have any further information as to when these two applications will be considered by the Borough Council's Development Management Committee.

- e) **Application No. 2012/20108 34 Rockingham Close, Birchwood. Proposed two storey side extension (resubmission of application 2012/19763).**

The Clerk reported that this application has been approved with conditions.

- f) **Application No. 2012/20645 - Heathfield House Nursery, Birchwood. Proposed single storey extension to rear of building to replace outbuilding to provide 9 additional nursery spaces (updated proposal description).**

The Clerk reported that a letter of objection had been sent as requested. An amended proposal description has been issued (see above).

462/2012 **WILDFLOWER MEADOWS**

At the September meeting Members discussed this year's wildflower meadow displays around the area and agreed that overall the displays had been very poor. The only flowers that seem to have flourished once again were the yellow blooms, which some Councillors felt tended to look a bit like weeds.

The Clerk was asked by Members to negotiate on the charges on behalf of the Town Council due to the poor displays.

A tonight's meeting the Clerk reported that she has been able to obtain a 50% reduction to the costs.

Councillor Evans **proposed** a formal note of thanks to the Clerk for negotiating this discount. This was **seconded** by Councillor Balding and **unanimously agreed** by all those Members present.

463/2012 **BUILDING WORK/PLANTING AT BIRCHWOOD PARK**

The Clerk reported that, as requested, she has contacted Planning Enforcement at the Borough Council to 'double check' that all the agreed planting that was proposed on the plans between Birchwood Park and Powell Avenue is in place.

464/2012 **RISLEY LIAISON MEETING/BIFFA WASTE**

The Clerk reported that the next Risley Liaison meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 22nd January 2013, 4pm, Rixton Old Hall.

465/2012 **CORRESPONDENCE WITH MCDONALD'S RE: LITTER BINS**

The Clerk stated that, as requested, another letter has been sent to McDonald's asking whether they are willing to sponsor additional litter bins in the area.

The Clerk added that we did initially receive a response to our first letter, saying that they would be willing to assist with a litter pick, which was not what had been asked. Since then, despite several attempts at telephoning the local franchise the person who sent the letter has not been available to speak to and no other letters have received a response.

Councillor Fitzsimmons suggested that if we do not receive a reply this time we should write to the Chair of McDonald's UK and send photographs of litter from McDonald's that has been thrown out of car windows, etc. – not just litter in the area around the McDonald's at the shopping centre.

Action Clerk's office to write to McDonald's Chair if no response is received.

466/2012 **FRONTIS**

Big Clean Up Event

The Clerk reported that the next event will be taking place on Redshank Lane on 25th October 2012, from 10am to 12 noon. Some of the maintenance team will be helping.

Councillor Evans hopes to be able to attend this event.

467/2012 **DEPARTURE OF LOCKING STUMPS PRIMARY SCHOOL HEAD TEACHER**

At the September meeting the Clerk informed Members that Mr. John Littler, current Head Teacher of Locking Stumps Primary School, is leaving soon to go take up a new post in another area; and Members had asked that he be sent a letter of thanks when he leaves; offering the Town Council's best wishes for his future.

The Clerk reported that a letter has been sent to Mr. Littler.

468/2012 **FENCE REPLACEMENT**

Correspondence has been exchanged relating to work needed to repair the fence of a Frontis tenant who lives on Renown Close and whose property backs on to Town Council land. We had initially thought the two properties that had fencing in a poor state of repair belong to Frontis, but we have since been told that it is only one; the other is privately owned.

The Clerk reported that the work was finally completed today, although we had asked for the area where the work was done to be tidied up properly and it is still quite a mess.

469/2012 **PEDESTRIAN CROSSING REQUEST - ADMIRALS ROAD NEAR CURLEW GROVE**

At the September meeting, the Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence between a resident and the Borough Council regarding the resident's request for a pedestrian crossing or traffic calming measures on Admirals Road, near Curlew Grove. The resident asked for the Town Council's assistance with his request.

The Clerk emailed Craig Bailey about the resident's request and also to enquire about Section 106 funding previously pledged relating to planning developments within the area.

At tonight's meeting, the Clerk reported that she has received a response from Alan Dickin, who is the Transport Planning and Development Control Manager at Warrington Borough Council.

His email states: '*. . . there is £75K from Birchwood Shopping Centre for 2 crossings – one at the station and one on Benson Rd. This funding is specifically earmarked for these locations. There is a further £21K from an agreement from land at Ainscough/Dewhurst Road which can be spent on "improving the highway network within a 3000 metre radius of the land". This is not allocated but probably would not fund a crossing in itself.*

I have spoken to Traffic Management colleagues and they will look at the location you refer to on Admirals Road near Curlew Close (sic) and get back to you regarding the process of assessment or indeed if the site has been previously assessed.'

The email also mentioned that the Borough Council has been awarded funding as part of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund to improve pedestrian and cycle links in Birchwood.

The Borough is planning to hold 'drop-in' consultations for residents about proposals to improve links to and from the station and Birchwood Park, via Admirals and Dewhurst Road. In order to help the design process some maintenance/clearance work will be undertaken during November.

The Clerk wondered if a new crossing would be considered an 'improvement', particularly as the station is to be upgraded to improve disabled access. The Clerk added that we have received an update from Alan Dickin regarding the Birchwood Station Access for All Project. A meeting with Network Rail is expected in mid October, after which it is expected that key programme milestones will be confirmed.

The Clerk believes that it would make sense for a crossing to be part of the proposed Access for All Project to enable safe passage across the road to/from the station.

Members agreed with this. The Clerk was asked to enquire whether a crossing is part of the proposals for either scheme; the upgrade of the station or improved pedestrian/cycle links to Birchwood Park.

Action Clerk's office to make further enquiries regarding the above in relation to the provision of crossings.

470/2012 **PARISH LIAISON MEETING**

The Clerk reported that the agenda has now been received for the Parish Liaison meeting that is taking place on Thursday, 1 November 2012 at 5.30 pm. There was also a consultation document attached; the deadline for comments is 5th November 2012.

471/2012 **GIVE WAY ROAD MARKING REQUEST**

At the September Meeting the Clerk reported that an enquiry has been sent to Warrington Borough Council – (following a request from a resident) as to whether 'Give Way' road markings could be painted on the road at the junction of Ashdown Lane/Killingworth Lane in Gorse Covert.

This request has also been made on previous occasions. The enquiry has been chased up but we are still awaiting a response.

472/2012 **REQUEST FOR A REPLACEMENT SIGN ON COPPERFIELD CLOSE**

This was moved to Finance for discussion.

473/2012 **DOG FOULING - KINSALE DRIVE AREA**

The Clerk reported that she has contacted Phil Ramsden and Louis Banks at Warrington Borough Council, as requested, to enquire about stencilling on the footpaths in the area

474/2012 **ANNUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

The Clerk reminded Members that the annual community Service of Remembrance, organised by Birchwood Lions, is being held on Saturday 10th November 2012, 10.30am at the shopping centre Memorial.

A number of Councillors hope to be able to attend the Service.

475/2012 **MEMBERS' REFERRAL MADE AT THE SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING RE: TRAFFIC ISSUES ON GOLDFINCH AND KESTREL LANE**

At the September meeting, following a discussion about ongoing traffic problems being experienced in Goldfinch and Kestrel Lane in Oakwood, Councillor T. Hearldon asked whether the Town Council would support a proposal for Kestrel and Goldfinch Lane to become a one-way system. This is an issue that has been raised in the past.

It was agreed that the first action should be to contact the Highways department at the Borough Council to see if it is technically a possibility.

At tonight's meeting, the Clerk reported that she did contact the Highways Department at the Borough Council.

The response received from the Traffic Management Section states; *'Feedback from the Council's Collision Investigation Team suggests that the introduction of a one way Order on this narrow length of road would actually make the route more hazardous, with motorists more likely to increase their travelling speed based on the knowledge that another vehicle will not be approaching from the opposite direction.'*

Taking the above into consideration it is unlikely there would be any benefit achieved from the introduction of a One Way Traffic Order on Goldfinch Lane and therefore it would be difficult to justify the introduction of such a measure on the public highway.'

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

476/2012 WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

- (a) Received – Notice of Election – Details of the nomination process regarding the Election of a Police and Crime Commissioner for the Cheshire Police Area. If an election is contested, the poll will take place on Thursday 15th November 2012.
- (b) Received – Dates for 2013 East Neighbourhood Board meetings.
- (c) Received – October 2012 Neighbourhoods Bulletin.
- (d) Received – Update from Alan Dickin regarding the Birchwood Station Access for All Project. A meeting with Network Rail is expected in mid October, after which it is expected that key programme milestones will be confirmed.
- (e) Sent/received – correspondence relating to flooding on the path at the side of Locking Stumps Community Primary School and other areas.

The Clerk reported that we have received a lot of complaints regarding flooding on the path at the side of Locking Stumps Community Primary School. The Borough has told us that they are unable to get their gulley jetting equipment down the path. They attempted to clear the gulley by hand, but think there might be a blockage caused by roots. They will try to get a van mounted jetting machine out to clear the blockage.

The Clerk stated that as an interim measure our team has tried to clear the footpath of silt and mud and has put some chippings down on the mud that has been left on the verges, to try to make it less slippery underfoot.

- (f) Received – 'News and Views' – Golden Gates' newsletter, Autumn 2012.
- (g) Received – Details of Borough Council apprenticeships.
- (h) Received – Flyer re: Woolston Neighbourhood Open Day.
- (i) Sent/received – emails re: lighting - Ordnance Avenue and Lowes Farm subway.

- (j) Sent – emails regarding a complaint from a resident of alleged noise nuisance; relating to building work on Birchwood Business Park.

The Clerk informed Members that a gentleman had visited the office a few times; becoming increasingly agitated with each visit, as he did not believe a complaint he made to us a few weeks ago about work starting too early on the business park was being dealt with.

The Clerk showed him emails that had been sent by us to the Borough (after his initial visit to the office) and that he had been copied in to, but he remained unconvinced. The Clerk contacted Mr Ramsden at the Borough Council again to try to get a reply about the issue.

When Mr Ramsden replied, he said there had been one instance when work had started early on site and that it had not happened again. He implied that the resident had been contacted about the matter, but that there had been some difficulty in communicating with him.

On a related matter, the Clerk stated that Officers are currently having difficulty in receiving responses from many of the Borough Council departments, even when they are chased up about matters. This is placing us in a difficult position with residents who think that we have done nothing to attempt to solve whatever issue it might be that we are trying to obtain information about to pass on to them. The Clerk wondered if the Borough Councillors could make enquiries about delays in response to requests for information.

Councillors Fitzsimmons and Nelson indicated that they would take the matter up with the Borough Council.

Action Councillors Fitzsimmons and Nelson to make enquiries regarding the above.

- (k) Received – Information relating to motorway closures in November 2012 due to Metrolink extension work on the M60 between junctions 5 and 8 and junctions 2 to 5 of the M56.
- (l) Received – Agenda and related documents for the Parish Liaison meeting taking place on 1st November 2012.
- (m) Sent – email regarding the Lords Lane nameplate sign that was taken down when new dropped kerbs were installed but has been left in the bushes.

477/2012 **BIRCHWOOD FORUM**

- (a) Received – Invitation to the launch of Warrington Skills Commission – 19th October 2012.
- (b) Received – Presentation slides from the September meeting re: ‘Connecting Cheshire – Superfast Broadband’.
- (c) Received – Details of the Cheshire Economic Forum; 31st October 2012 at Chester Racecourse.
- (d) Received – Invitation to the October meeting.

478/2012 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – Details of changes to local postal delivery services.
- (b) Received – ‘Parklife’ newsletters – September and October 2012.
- (c) Received – Parish Council Survey from Electricity North West.

The Clerk stated that Officers had discussed the survey and felt it was poorly constructed and leading.

Following some discussion Members agreed they did not wish to respond to the survey.

- (d) Received – ‘Warrington LINK’ newsletter; dedicated to mental health.
- (e) Received – Skipton-East Lancashire Rail Action Partnership (SELRAP) update newsletter re: the campaign for the re-opening of a Skipton-Colne rail link).
- (f) Received – Poster re: Friends of Gorse Covert Mounds’ ‘Woodland Management and Coppicing Day’ – 27th October 2012. Placed on notice boards.
- (g) Received – Minutes from the Risley Liaison Meeting that took place on 3rd October 2012; with Powerpoint presentation.

The Clerk reported that the Minutes included some information about the ongoing matter of trying to arrange for the ‘stopping up’ of Silver Lane. There are a number of issues that have to be taken into consideration and it was agreed at the Liaison Meeting that Warrington Borough Council and Biffa Waste Site continue to discuss the matter further.

- (h) Received – Email from a resident of Picton Close, copying the Town Council, Councillor Fitzsimmons and Helen Jones MP in to correspondence sent to the Borough Council regarding a small area of road subsidence that he has asked Warrington Borough Council to sort out, so far without success.

On receipt of the email, Councillor Fitzsimmons visited the resident to speak to him about his concerns and has contacted the Borough Council regarding this matter. It is not an issue that the Town Council could resolve.

- (i) Received – Warrington Voluntary Action update – 18th October 2012
- (j) Received – email from a resident of Warrington Road in Risley Village regarding issues being experienced with people from local businesses allegedly parking on the service road in front of their properties for the day and on occasions blocking their driveways. The resident asks for assistance in applying for a ‘residents only’ parking permit area. This is discussed further in Minute 482/2012 (b) below.

479/2012 **iCAN ALERT**

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

- (a) Alert regarding a distraction burglary when an elderly lady let a man into her home after he told her that there was a burst pipe at a neighbour’s property. Cash and valuables were stolen.

480/2012 **FRONTIS**

- (a) Received – Invitation to attend the first sod turning event for ‘The Birches Family Health Zone’, 12th October, 2012.
- (b) Sent – Email to Frontis following a telephone call to our office complaining about parking on Violet Close.

The Clerk reported that Bernadette Bell from Frontis is dealing with this matter.

481/2012 **SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS**

- (a) Received – E-News Bulletin – 26th September 2012.
- (b) Received – Details of nomination process for the post of Chief Executive of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

- (a) Sent/received – Birchwood News Bulletin – October 2012.
- (b) Sent/received – Correspondence relating to ongoing parking issues on Ordnance Avenue near the junction with Redshank Lane.

The Clerk said that unfortunately the PCSOs cannot do much about parking in this area unless the vehicles are parking too close to a junction or in a way likely to cause an obstruction. There were four cars parked there today. She wondered whether making the road a clearway might be an option.

The Clerk also reported that we have also received an email from a resident of Warrington Road in Risley Village regarding issues being experienced with people from local businesses allegedly parking on the service road in front of their properties for the day and on occasions blocking their driveways. The resident asks for assistance in applying for a 'residents only' parking permit area.

The resident has been asked for permission to pass the email on to the Borough Council; explaining that the Borough deals with requests for 'residents only' parking schemes and the administering and monitoring of them. The resident was also informed that residents would have to consider 'knock-on' effects, such as permits being required for visitors, trades people, etc. to those properties affected.

The Clerk stated that the PCSOs have been asked to monitor this area in the past, but, again, there is not much they can do unless there is a clear case of obstruction.

The Clerk said that by putting the planters on the grass verge, we had hoped to try to alleviate the problem, which it seemed to for a while.

Councillor Balding asked if there is an underlying problem regarding parking at the business parks.

The Clerk replied that it is an ongoing problem due to planning regulations; businesses are only allocated certain spaces and they are charged if they want more spaces for their staff.

Councillor Balding asked if it was possible to influence the issue, so that businesses could have more spaces.

The BAFO stated that the matter was all part of a Government drive to try to get people out of their cars and using different methods of transport to get to and from work. It has been the case for many years now that a maximum number of parking spaces are allocated to certain types of developments/businesses. These are regulations that we cannot override.

This then has a knock-on effect within surrounding areas if there is not enough space for all the members of staff who are likely to travel to work by car.

Councillor Nelson stated that she believes that the business park has done the best it can given the planning guidelines that it has to follow.

With regard to the request from the resident asking for assistance with the creation of a 'resident's only' parking zone; Councillor Balding wondered whether the residents might have to pay for their parking permits, as has been happening in other areas of Warrington.

Councillor Nelson confirmed that this is the case in Stockton Heath.

Councillor Spencer suggested exploring the possibility with the Borough Council and finding out all the relevant information, whether there would be any costs involved, etc., before consulting with the residents who would be affected.

Action Clerk's office to contact the Borough Council to ask about the possibility of creating a 'resident's only' parking zone in the service road area.

483/2012 **CHESHIRE COMMUNITY ACTION**

- (a) Received – Invitation to the Cheshire Community Action AGM, 1st November in Northwich; with agenda and minutes of previous AGM held in November 2011.
- (b) Received – Details of a networking lunch, taking place on 1st November 2012 in Northwich. Guest speaker will be Miriam O'Reilly.

484/2012 **CHESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Received – Information relating to the launch of a major consultation of future plans for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service. Details can be found on their website: www.cheshirefire.gov.uk There is a specific partner survey which they are encouraging local councils to complete.

The Clerk stated that there are no specific new changes being made to the Birchwood Fire Station.

Members discussed the matter and decided not to submit a response to the survey.

485/2012 **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

- (a) Received – October 2012 newsletter.
- (b) Received – E-bulletin; 28th September 2012.
- (c) Received – Nomination form for any larger Council members wishing to stand for election to the NALC Larger Councils Committee.
- (d) Received – Forwarded correspondence from two of the candidates standing in the forthcoming elections for Police Commissioners.
- (e) Received - documents relating to the Boundary Commission (BC) consultation on changes to Constituency boundaries and Wards in the North West region which includes ChALC's membership areas of Cheshire East, Cheshire West & Chester, Warrington, Halton & Trafford. The consultation period is 16th October to 10th December 2012.

The Clerk reported that Birchwood remains in Warrington North.

- (f) Received – list of companies that supply village signs that ChALC members have used in the past and been satisfied with the result (an update from a previous survey).

486/2012 **PRESS ARTICLES**

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

487/2012 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

LGC – 20/09/12, 27/09/12, 04/10/12, 11/10/12, 18/10/2012

488/2012 **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.

489/2012 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

(a) **Warrington Borough Council**

- (i) Email received confirming that a restructure of Development Services is now being implemented; detailing the changes in personnel and their responsibilities.
- (ii) Received – Invitation to the Peel Ports 'Mersey Ports Master Plan' Briefing; Thursday, 8th November at Warrington Borough Council's Town Hall Council Chamber.
- (iii) Received – Correspondence relating to Planning Application No. 2012/19709. Proposed change of use to provide a clay pigeon shooting club, clubhouse and associated parking. This is scheduled to be considered at the Development Committee Meeting taking place on Thursday 25th October 2012.
- (iv) Received – Documents relating to the Planning Applications Sub-Committee taking place on 24th October 2012.

There was nothing of specific relevance to Birchwood on the agenda for discussion.

- (v) Received – Documents relating to the Development Management Committee taking place on 25th October 2012.

Application No. 2012/19709 Prospect Farm, Prospect Lane, Rixton-with-Glazebrook, WA3 6EH; proposed change of use to provide a clay pigeon shooting club, clubhouse and associated parking, was on the agenda for consideration. The Borough Council's recommendation is for refusal.

Councillor Bowden will be attending the meeting.

490/2012 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

- (a) Application No. 20112/20108 34 Rockingham close, Birchwood, WA3 6UY. Proposed two storey side extension (resubmission of application 2012/19763). **Approved with conditions**
- (b) Application No. 2012/20365 Risley Landfill Site, Silver Lane, Warrington, WA3 6BY. Proposed variation of condition 1 on permission 2011/18326 to require the compound, plant and machinery to be dismantled and removed from the site at least 8 weeks prior to the site restoration (to allow restoration in accordance with the approved restoration scheme). **Approved with conditions**
- (c) Application No. 2012/20366 Risley Landfill Site, Silver Lane, Warrington, WA3 6BY. Application for variation of conditions 2 & 3 of permission 2011/18957 to extend completion of site restoration from 19th October 2012 until, or before, 31st March 2015 and allow continued importation of leachate via site haul road from 19th October 2012 until, or before, the final placement of restoration soils or the implementation of the leachate discharge point at the existing leachate treatment compound accessed via Silver Lane, whichever is the sooner. **Approved with conditions**

- (d) Application No. 2012/20367 Risley Landfill Site, Silver Lane, Warrington, WA3 6BY. Proposed variation on permission 2012/17206 to allow restoration of the site to be completed on or before 31st March 2015 in accordance with the approved scheme.
Approved with conditions

491/2012 **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. 2012/20708 Hamnett Court, Ainscough Road, Birchwood, WA3 7PN. Proposed external works including a revised car parking layout, relocated bin stores, vehicular and pedestrian access gates, cycle racks and construction of 2 No, Pergolas within the site.
- (b) Application No. 2012/20676 66A Woodhouse Close, Birchwood, WA3 6QP. Proposed two storey side and rear extension.
- (c) Application No. 2012/20736 410 Birchwood Boulevard, WA3 7WD. Proposed external alterations to the existing building and associated landscaping reconfiguration.
- (d) Application No. 2012/20745 3 Kelburn Court, Birchwood, WA3 6JA. Proposed installation of new heating/cooling condenser units to rear elevation.
- (e) Application No. 2012/20778 Allday House, Birchwood Park, WA3 6GR. Proposed internal and external refurbishment of existing building to provide upgraded office accommodation, new central glazed atrium, feature entrance canopy, proposed roof terrace and increase in car parking.
- (f) Application No. 2012/20785 14 Gilderdale Close, Birchwood. Proposed garage conversion (lawful development certificate).

Members did not have any objections to the above applications.

The meeting concluded at 8.00pm