

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT
PARKERS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE, DELENTY DRIVE, RISLEY
ON TUESDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2010**

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

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

PCSO Jon Williams

2 residents

Apologies were received from Councillors J. Clark, R. Clark and Spencer

It was RESOLVED that:

The Minutes of the July Meeting of the Town Council which took place on Tuesday, 27th July 2010, be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman; with the following amendment: on page one apologies received from Councillors Higgins, Ratcliffe and Spencer and the Resolution of the June Minutes had been omitted. This has now been rectified.

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.

369/2010 **RECESS**

Police Monthly Pledge Meeting and Update

(a) Update and priorities

PCSO Jon Williams gave Members a brief update on Policing activity in the area since last month and reported some of the statistics for the Birchwood area. He informed Members that PCSO Gina Jones is currently on 'light duties' (re: maternity arrangements) and PCSO Phil Pickering is currently redeployed back to Birchwood.

Jon added that the Police priorities over the last month had been mini motos, bin fires and speeding on Locking Stumps Lane, but overall the area had been very quiet from a Policing point of view.

Jon stated that one mini moto had been seized at the weekend and very few drivers were found to be speeding on Locking Stumps Lane when speed enforcement operations had been undertaken in the area.

He also informed Members that there had been no real problems with the parks; there was a bit of smashed glass and evidence that some drinking had been taking place, but there had been no formal reports of anti social behaviour.

Councillor Nelson enquired whether the Police had received any reports or evidence of drinking or the taking of drugs in the Walled Garden. She added that some of the Council had been alerted to rumours being spread that the Walled Garden was becoming a drink and drug den which was obviously of concern to Members.

Jon reported that there was no evidence at all of drug taking but he was aware that on occasion youths may sit on top of one of the walls to have a drink and some may drop the bottles or cans into the garden if the Police come along, or when they are finished. He is not aware of any call-outs to the area regarding any anti social behaviour or problems in the area.

Councillor Nelson said she was relieved that residents' minds could be put at ease regarding these unfounded rumours.

Jon also stated that Hamnett Court has been quite quiet, although there are some indications that a few of the boarded up doors and windows have been breached. These have all been reported to the company that is engaged to secure the property.

Jon was asked if a rumour that groups of people were sleeping 'rough' in Hamnett Court was true, but he did not believe that this was the case.

The Clerk asked whether the Police had been able to monitor a food vendor that we have received a few telephone calls about from a member of the public. We have previously mentioned this to PCSO Allison Davies.

The caller is concerned that the van is parking on the grass verges causing damage. The person has also commented that it also parks on a bend, in such a way that it is causing a sight line obstruction.

The Clerk said that when Allison had been to check the situation, the van had been parked on hard standing and hadn't appeared to be causing an obstruction, but the caller had reported it on a grass verge again since.

Jon replied that he would ask for this to be monitored.

The Clerk also raised the issue of the mobile food van on Daten Avenue and asked if the Police could monitor it as quite often big articulated trucks park on the two lane carriageway as the drivers stop for refreshments, causing traffic obstruction.

Councillor Higgins agreed that Daten Avenue has been the cause of concern over a number of years. He said that the owner has now put down stones to form some hard standing and occasionally puts out tables and chairs. Quite often at peak travel times in the morning there is a vehicular obstruction on this busy stretch of road, as drivers, sometimes of very large wagons, park on the road, causing a potentially dangerous obstruction.

This stretch of road is only a two lane carriageway leading directly onto the business park and is also a main route to the M62 motorway junction.

Councillor Nelson stated that the Borough Council is currently looking into putting plans forward that will require mobile food vans to have to obtain a license in future before they are allowed to operate.

Jon asked what issues Members would like the Police to consider for the following month's priorities.

Members agreed that monitoring the food vans should be a priority from a traffic obstruction/sightline point of view and to see if any are churning up/parking on grass verges belonging to the Borough Council.

They also asked that the Walled garden and surrounding area be monitored to see if there are any issues around that area that we are currently unaware of.

The following update information is taken from the Cheshire Police Website:

Local priorities

3rd September 2010

Local priorities agreed following feedback from community questionnaires, contact from residents and crime analysis.

- As a result of incidents reported to police and community questionnaires: Young people stealing and setting fire to wheelie bins in the Whinchat Drive / Whitethroat Walk area of Oakwood. Mainly occurring on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings between 7pm and 12am.
- As a result of community engagement at public meetings: The anti social use of mini-motos and off-road bikes in and around the Keyes Close area of Locking Stumps. Mainly occurring weekdays between 3pm and 7pm and weekends between 10am and 7pm.
- As a result of direct contact from a concerned member of the public: Speeding motorists along Locking Stumps Lane, Locking Stumps. Main times are between 8.30am and 9.30am and 2.30pm and 5.30pm from Monday to Friday.

You Said, We Did

3rd September - Anti-social behaviour

You said: Anti social behaviour and youths gathering, drinking alcohol and smoking drugs on Pestfurlong Hill weekday and weekend evenings between 6pm and 10pm.

We did: Residents had reported to us that the local beauty spot Pestfurlong Hill was being used by youths to hang out, drink and generally cause a nuisance. Officers have patrolled through the location on both bike and foot regularly. During each patrol, officers reported that there were no signs of anti social behaviour and no youths were seen drinking alcohol or taking drugs. Officers will continue to patrol the area during their normal duties to further deter this behaviour.

Shoplifting

You said: There has been an increase in shoplifting offences across the area, particularly McColl's store and Asda/Aldi in Birchwood Mall. This is mainly occurring weekdays between 10am and 5pm.

We did: All officers closely monitored the Birchwood Mall Radio Link throughout their tours of duty in August. Officers also conducted high visibility patrols at Birchwood Mall. We also visited McColl's store on Admirals Road and spoke with staff about crime prevention. There were only two reported shoplifting incidents across the area during the month of August, both of which have resulted in offenders being brought to justice. On the morning of 16th August 2010, Officers were alerted via the Radio Link to two shoplifters at the Asda store. They promptly attended and this led to both offenders being dealt with for the offence by means of restorative justice (RJ). On the afternoon of 28th August 2010, McColl's staff reported a male having stolen a quantity of alcohol. Officers promptly made a search of the area and a male was arrested shortly afterwards. He was later charged with the offence and has been bailed to attend Warrington Magistrates' Court. An update will be provided following the outcome of the court case.

Anti-social behaviour

You said: Anti social behaviour and inappropriate use of children's play facilities in the John Keeney Park, Admirals Road, Oakwood. This is after 5pm particularly on Friday and Saturday nights.

We did: The park has now fully opened to members of the public and this is seen as positive by the Police. The park will provide a great location for younger residents to have fun and be active. However, a small minority of the community believe they can use the park for anti social purposes. There were regular patrols throughout August. The location was also set as a patrol priority location for other police resources. Officers closely monitored the use of the children play facilities during each patrol and there were no issues reported.

Members thanked Jon for attending tonight's meeting.

(b) Town Council's New Website

The resident who attended July's meeting and commented on the ongoing construction of the new website also attended tonight's meeting. He had sent a detailed email earlier in the day highlighting some of the 'problems' the site currently has, and he raised some specific points with Members.

The Clerk once again explained that we are in the process of updating and populating the site as it is still 'under construction' and that staff work on the website when they are able to, but they have to prioritise other day to day and monthly tasks and fit the website training and updating in when they can.

Officers will be undergoing further training on the new software being used for the site next week, in particular with regard to uploading large amounts of archive material, such as Minutes of meetings and published Birchwood Community News magazines.

In the meantime, if residents wish to look at particular Minutes of meetings or would like another copy of the magazine, for example, if they contact the office, we will be happy to send the items out to them, wherever possible, either in hard copy format or by email.

The Chair thanked the resident for his extensive comments and said that they will be taken into consideration.

The Clerk added that some of the issues he had raised had already been dealt with.

370/2010 **SPEED REDUCTION ON BIRCHWOOD PARK AVENUE**

The Clerk informed Members that we had been informed by WBC that the order for the implementation of the reduction of the speed limit to 50mph on Birchwood Park Avenue is now in place and matters are proceeding; we are waiting to hear from the Borough Council when the actual implementation will go ahead.

371/2010 **WILDFLOWER PLANTING**

(a) **Update on this year's wildflower meadows**

The Clerk asked Members if they had any comments on this year's wildflower meadow displays around Birchwood.

Members agreed that the displays had been disappointing compared to last year, but accepted that it was likely that the extreme weather conditions had been partly to blame for this. They commented that the amount of yellow flowers had seemed to overwhelm the displays and the said that there appeared to be a lack of other flowers, particularly poppies.

The Clerk stated that this had been commented on throughout the Borough, not just in Birchwood; again it is thought the weather may have played a large part in this. She said that should Members wish the wildflower meadow scheme to continue, the Borough Council had suggested that the company supplying the seed could be asked to reduce the amount of the yellow variety in the added to the mix, but add more of the poppy and cornflower seeds, etc. of which very few came up this year.

Members particularly like the cosmos mix, which has been the more successful mix this year and was spread at Fisherfield Drive and on the swathe of verge opposite the 'dog bone' island. The Clerk suggested that Members might like to consider having this mix everywhere next year if they preferred.

Councillor Fitzsimmons asked Members to give some thought to identifying areas where they would like to see planters installed, similar to the ones we have on Warrington Road, so that we can liaise with the Borough Council to get their permission to place them in areas where the wildflowers meadows are not feasible, especially in Locking Stumps.

The Clerk stated that some of the meadows are now looking past their best, whilst others are still flourishing, but the Borough Council will arrange to harvest them in the near future once the majority have died off.

Proposals regarding next years wildflower meadows and potential new planters will be discussed at a future meeting.

372/2010 **JOINT POLICE/TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY**

Councillor Fitzsimmons stated that a few people attended the 21st August 2010 surgery.

Councillor T. Hearldon will attend the next meeting which we presume is being held on 16th October 2010.

Action Clerk's office to confirm with the Police the dates and times of the next few meetings, as our current listing does not give any for October 2010 onwards.

373/2010 **WALLED GARDEN**

Councillor Bowden declared an interest

Walled Garden Project Progress

The Clerk reported that the bid had been submitted and that a representative of WREN had given feedback, commenting that there were areas of the documentation that would need further work if the bid was to have the best chance of being successful. Several suggestions were made regarding sections of the document that needed revising. In particular, the Borough Council's involvement needed to be clarified in the document as it is still their land.

There is a possibility that the Borough might have to licence the land to The Birchwood Partnership, which may then raise other issues.

The Clerk said that Esstta has been asked by Warrington Borough Council to obtain specifications from the Quantity Surveyor to ascertain what the bid costs were based on as the Borough Council is querying the costs.

The Business and Finance Officer stated that Warrington Borough Council fear that the lowest tender might not have included enough money to include the ground clearance on the outside of the Walled Garden, which the Borough are now insisting is done as part of the first phase of the works.

The Clerk added that it had previously been our understanding that the first phase bid would encompass this, but instead it was to be built into the Biffa bid which would be for phase two. The Borough are now unhappy with this, although it is only recently that they have told us that they wanted this external ground clearance included in the first phase of works.

Councillor Fitzsimmons stated that there are a lot of organisations supporting The Birchwood Partnerships' proposed rejuvenation of the Walled Garden, including Birchwood Town Council, Warrington Borough Council, Frontis, the voluntary sector, the Police and Birchwood Forum.

Councillor Nelson remarked that the rejuvenation would return an important historical part of Birchwood back to the wider community, for many more people to enjoy.

The Clerk stated that the work to put in a revised bid is ongoing and we remain hopeful that it will be successful.

374/2010 **PLAYGROUND PLANS FOR THE CENTRE OF OAKWOOD**

Councillor Nelson declared an interest

The Clerk reported that the second phase of the playground was formally opened as part of the Fun Day event that took place on Saturday 31st July 2010; and which was attended by a number to Town Councillors. Both areas of the park continue to be very well used.

Councillor Nelson said that the Friends of Oakwood Local Park are still looking at developing the area further; one suggestion being for a memorial garden to be developed on the site. This may mean that a different site might be needed for the annual Fun Day.

Cllr Fitzsimmons suggested that the Village Green on Ainscough Road would be an ideal place to hold the Fun Day next year.

375/2010 **ABANDONED SHOPPING TROLLEYS**

The Clerk informed Members that a meeting planned for a date in September regarding abandoned shopping trolleys had to be postponed, but it is hoped that one can be convened with all the relevant parties for some time in October.

Councillor Higgins stated that this problem has been an issue for at least the ten years that he has served on the Town Council. He believes that the Town Council now needs to take a much firmer stance as the matter is once again becoming increasingly worse.

Councillor Ratcliffe commented that he has been sympathetic to ASDA in the past, as they do not want people to remove trolleys from the site and have tried schemes to prevent it happening. However, the clearance of reported abandoned trolleys is now very slow and even the shopping centre car parks are sometimes 'littered' with them all over the place.

It was noted that when people go to get a trolley from inside the ASDA store, they are quite often still wet if it is raining and many have litter in them, making them unappealing to use.

376/2010 **PROGRESS ON PLANNING MATTERS**

Heathfield House Nursery

Re: Application No. 2010/16677 - Proposed mono pitch roof to rear and internal alterations (amendment to previously approved 2010/16232) has been **withdrawn**.

Re: Application No. 2010/16277 - Proposed variation of condition 3 on approval 2007/10942 to increase the total number of child places from 32 to 38. An **appeal** has now been made regarding this application which had been refused – Appeal ref: APP/M0655/A/10/2134559.

377/2010 **PARKING ISSUES**

The Clerk reported that we received a reply from the Chief Executive of Harvest Housing regarding the suggestion that the basketball court on Chatfield Drive would make an ideal 'overspill' car park for high school staff.

The reply indicates that Frontis believes that any proposal to turn the court into a car park would be subject to a formal customer consultation process and planning application. There may also be an issue with finding a suitable entrance to any proposed car park as the court is located just after a sharp bend in the road.

Frontis does not have the funds to undertake any such work, but would consider selling or transferring the land to the school or local authority, if this is an option they wish to consider.

Councillor Nelson stated that many of the residents who have raised concerns and are being put at risk are Frontis customers.

Councillor Fitzsimmons said that one car is now regularly parking up on the grass verge.

Councillor Evans remarked that cars are still parking on the bend.

The Clerk commented that students at the newly opened college may have their own transport which would not help the situation.

Councillor Fitzsimmons suggested that we should contact the high school regarding this matter, now that Frontis has indicated that it would be willing to consider transferring the land to the school. The other Members present agreed with this suggestion.

Action Clerk's office to contact the high school regarding the issue.

378/2010 **DOG FOULING**

The Clerk reported that an awareness campaign event was held on 17th September at Birchwood Shopping Centre, which a number of Town and Borough Councillors attended. Woolfie was also there and the Challenge Cup was brought along for people to see – this attracted people to the stall.

Councillor Evans said that he thinks people are starting to take notice of the efforts being made to encourage dog owners to pick up after their pets, if they don't already do so.

Councillor Fitzsimmons said the 'any bin will do' slogan is a good idea, to make people aware that the waste can be put in a normal bin, especially as in Birchwood, the Town Council was instructed by the Borough Council that we had to remove our dog waste bins as, unless it is co-mingled, dog waste is classed as hazardous waste.

Councillor Nelson suggested contacting Phil Ramsden from the Borough Council, who had also been at the event, to ask for stickers to put on the bins which indicate that both normal and dog waste can be disposed of in the bin.

Action Clerk's office to contact Phil Ramsden re: stickers for waste bins.

379/2010 **DANGEROUS TREE MAINTENANCE AT A PRIVATE DERELICT PROPERTY**

This is an ongoing issue and we have been regularly asking the Borough Council to contact the owner of the land/trees again regarding this matter.

The Police have also raised their concerns with us, as they see the trees as a significant safety issue and we sent their request for action on to the Borough Council, asking for something to be done as a matter of urgency.

We believe the issue currently rests with Highways at the Borough, with a view to them undertaking the work necessary to make the site safe so that anyone either on foot or in a vehicle passing by the site is not put at risk. The Borough could then recharge the landlord. We will keep chasing the matter up with the Borough Council.

Action Clerk's office to continue to monitor the situation.

380/2010 **FRONTIS WALKABOUT**

The Clerk reported that the next walkabout will be taking place on Monday 4th October around Locking Stumps.

Councillors Evans and Fitzsimmons said they would take part.

381/2010 **BIRDS AND BUS SHELTERS**

At the April meeting it was reported that there had been several instances of deceased birds being found next to glass bus shelters. It is believed that the birds think that they are flying through open space, but unfortunately they fly into the bus shelters and perish as a result.

As agreed by Members at the July meeting, some stickers have been ordered which when put on the glass of the bus shelters are supposed to deter the birds from flying in to the glass.

It may be prudent to wait until next year, during the nesting season when the majority of bird deaths seemed to occur, before we put them on the specific bus shelters that the birds appeared to be flying into.

A significant number of bus shelters throughout Birchwood are currently without glass panels due to the theft of glazing bars that hold the glass panel in place.

Councillor Fitzsimmons stated that the theft of these bars has apparently been happening all over the Borough – not just in Birchwood.

382/2010 **PROPOSED WARRINGTON AREA MEETING**

The Clerk reported that there is a meeting taking place for Clerks on 3rd November 2010, which she hopes to attend. A separate meeting will be arranged for Councillors.

383/2010 **ALLOTMENTS**

The Clerk reported that following the receipt of letters from seven local residents who expressed an interest in owning an allotment in Birchwood, we had sent a letter and passed their requests on to the Borough Council.

As stated in 'Local Council Administration' by Charles Arnold-Baker, used as the point of reference for all Local Councils in England and Wales, '*A local council must formally consider any written request by six or more electors to operate the Allotments Acts and, in addition, if it is of the opinion that there is a demand it is bound to provide allotments but the duty is restricted to the provision of allotment gardens.*'

The 'local council' referred to would be Warrington Borough Council in this instance.

The Clerk informed Members that we have received a detailed response from Warrington Borough Council which states, in summation, that: '*the Council does have some statutory responsibility to meet the increased demand for allotments, but no time scale is set out in the various statutes. The nature and size of the increase (in demand) has been such that there is no easy solution to the problem, although we will take what measures we can in the short-term. We are addressing the issue, but as implied above, (in the main body of the letter received) a full solution will only happen in the long-term.*'

The letter also states that the Borough Council is working to try to identify sites that are in Council ownership, which could be converted to allotment use, but there are financial implications that have to be taken into consideration and it advises residents to apply for an application form from the Borough Council in order to be placed on their waiting list.

Councillor Nelson said that there is a patch of land at the back of the Birchwood C of E Primary School that might be suitable for allotments.

Councillor Fitzsimmons noted that the land at the site would probably have to undergo a contaminated land site survey and asked who would be expected to pay for such surveys if we identify areas of land we consider to be potential plots. He added that the issue of allotments is on the agenda for discussion at a Warrington Borough Council Scrutiny meeting this week.

Action To continue to monitor the situation.

384/2010 **LOCKING STUMPS SKATE PARK**

We are still waiting for an update on the outcome of the consultation.

385/2010 **SILVER LANE FLYTIPPING**

This issue remains ongoing.

386/2010 **BULKY WASTE COLLECTIONS**

The Clerk reported that we have not received any notification of the tip is closing so we are currently still arranging bulky waste collections.

387/2010 **BIRCHWOOD COLLEGE**

The Clerk reported that we understand that there has been a delay in the formal handover of the college from the contractor, which is currently working through snagging lists.

Councillor Evans said that Headteacher Anne Bright had spoken with him recently and will email the Town Council shortly, if all goes well, with a view to arranging a tour for Members of the new facilities and the invitation to hold a future Council meeting at the college.

Action Clerk's office to continue to liaise with the high school regarding the above.

388/2010 **TOWN COUNCIL FLAG**

At the June meeting the Clerk stated that it had been reported to us that the Town Council flag was no longer flying at the shopping centre. She spoke to Gary Jones, the Centre Manager, who said that the flag flying in its place was the result of a school competition. This new flag will be flown on a monthly rota basis with the Lions and the Town Council.

At the July meeting Councillor Fitzsimmons asked the Clerk to find out how much it would cost to have an additional flag pole erected at the shopping centre so that all flags could be flown together.

At tonight's meeting the Clerk reported that the shopping centre management are not in favour of an additional flag pole being installed to fly the extra flag.

Councillor Fitzsimmons suggested asking whether the shopping centre would consider attaching an additional yard arm to the flag pole already in situ.

Action Clerk's office to contact the shopping centre again regarding the yard arm proposal.

389/2010 **TRIANGULAR FLOWERBED OPPOSITE THE POACHER IN GORSE COVERT**

The Clerk reported that since we last contacted the Borough Council about this raised flowerbed which is in a dangerous and poorly maintained condition, we have been advised that the Borough Council plans to remove it by the end of October.

Councillor Fitzsimmons asked whether there were any plans to deal with the flowerbeds outside the Spar shop in Gorse Covert as they are also poorly maintained.

Action Clerk's office to ask the Borough Council whether they plan to improve or remove the flowerbed outside the Spar shop.

390/2010 **TREE MAINTENANCE AT REAR OF INGLEWOOD CLOSE IN GORSE COVERT**

At the July meeting correspondence was received from a resident (which was forwarded on to the Borough Council) regarding some trees in an area of land at the back of some properties on Inglewood Close, Gorse Covert.

The Maintenance Team Supervisor had been out to look at the job which he believes is too big for the Town Council to undertake; we would not be able to deal with the trees and we do not have a chipper at present to deal with any arisings. In addition, we are not able to access the area with anything other than hand held equipment, which we have done in the past to keep the footpath open.

We have asked the Borough to respond directly to the resident and to keep us updated.

Councillor Bowden said at the July meeting that he has spoken to Gordon Haslam about the trees and has been told that the trees are not deemed to be a threat to property and so the Borough will not be taking any action.

At tonight's meeting, the Clerk reported that during some recent high winds a large bough came down off one of the trees and landed across the fence of a neighbour of the resident. Our Maintenance Team went out to deal with it.

Councillor Bowden stated that he has a letter from Gordon Haslam stating that unless the matter is one of health and safety, people will not be able to have trees pruned. He is concerned that the Borough may not maintain the trees because of limited resources but by that time damage may have been done, resulting in an insurance claim.

391/2010 **FINANCIAL INCLUSION MEETING**

The Clerk reported that a mini convention to promote financial inclusion would take place on 30th September 2010 at the Woodlands Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

Councillor Evans has been asked to attend and Councillor T. Hearlton will be attending in his capacity as a representative of SSAFA. A number of other organisations that can counsel people regarding a variety of financial matters will also be in attendance.

392/2010 **'BEING A GOOD EMPLOYER' BOOKLET**

At the July meeting, Members authorised the Clerk to obtain a new booklet, 'Being a Good Employer' that is being offered by ChALC. It is a free booklet, but there was a £3 charge for the postage.

The Clerk stated that since the last meeting we have automatically received, for free, a copy of the booklet inside one of the publications we regularly receive.

393/2010 **WALTON GARDENS/WALTON HALL**

At the July meeting Members expressed concern over the proposed development for a luxury hotel at Walton Gardens.

Since then, the situation has changed considerably; the proposals have been withdrawn and we understand that a committee has now been formed to consider and consult with the public and other relevant parties on any future proposals regarding the Hall and Gardens.

ITEMS RAISED UNDER CLERK'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

New Items

394/2010 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Received – Correspondence from Kim Bate, Assistance Regeneration Officer, enquiring what level of support the Town Council may need from her this year regarding the development of project ideas or grant funding.

The Clerk stated that she had spoken to Kim last year regarding possible funding streams for projects but it turned out we were not eligible. At the present time the Town Council doesn't have any specific proposals that may require Kim's advice. We will contact Kim should anything arise during the course of the year.

- (b) Received – Invitation from the Mayor and Mayoress for the Chair to attend a Civic Mass on 12th September 2010. Apologies were sent as Councillor Evans was unable to attend.
- (c) Received – Draft agenda for the next Public Rights of Way Forum meeting.
- (d) Received – Weekly reports from Lead Warden.

- (e) Received – Poster for ‘Let’s Celebrate’ event taking place on 1st October 2010. This was displayed on our notice boards.
- (f) Received – Details of an event taking place in Warrington, ‘Get Sorted’ – aimed at young people during October half term –looking at exhibiting different career opportunities and pathways to inspire young people and their families.
- (g) Received – Warrington Youth Support Service – Update July 2010.
- (h) Received – Funding Bulletin – August 2010.
- (i) Received – News that the Stronger Together Neighbourhoods in Warrington Service has been successful in gaining the Community Empowerment Award.
- (j) Received – Information that the Treasury has published further details re: the ‘Review of alcohol taxation and pricing’.
- (k) Received – Invitation for the Chair to attend the Green Flag celebration event in September at Walton Hall. Councillors Evans and Bowden attended.
- (l) Received – Details of the Warrington Half Marathon.
- (m) Received – Details of Big Society & Community Activists Conference 2/9/10.
- (n) Sent/Received – Email re: damage to bus shelters throughout the area. A number of bus shelters will be without glass for the immediate future because of the theft of metal securing railings and the subsequent danger of falling/smashed glass panels.
- (o) E-mails sent to Warrington Borough Council following correspondence with residents regarding tree maintenance in an area of Keyes Close and lack of street lighting at the end of Woodhouse Close – the lighting columns appear to have been removed but not replaced. We are currently awaiting replies.
- (p) E-mail sent to Warrington Borough Council following correspondence with a resident regarding the keeping of chickens in Birchwood – we are currently awaiting a reply.
- (q) Received – Poster advertising ‘BOOST’ – Birchwood Opportunity Outreach Support & Training – Advice or information available on education, employment, finance or housing. Free drop-in sessions every Wednesday from 4th August 1pm to 3pm in the community room at the Encounter Centre (back of Birchwood Shopping Centre).
- (r) Received – Details of the launch of the Stronger Together Neighbourhood Area Plans which will take place on 29th September 2010.
- (s) Received – Correspondence regarding the 2011 Register of Electors.

We have requested that we receive the information this year by data file.

- (t) Received – Poster detailing the next Birchwood Stronger Together Community Meeting, taking place on 5th October at Oakwood Neighbourhood Centre at 7pm.

- (u) Received – papers for East Area Board Meeting - 22nd September 2010. Councillor Evans attended the meeting.
- (v) Received – Invitation from the Mayor to attend Regimental Sunday – 3 October 2010.
- (w) Copies of correspondence regarding dangerous trees on Delenty Drive seeking update from Warrington Borough Council.
- (x) Received – some information about some upcoming events and initiatives from NHS Warrington Health Improvement – including a press release about the ‘Older Peoples’ Day’ and a reminder for those in ‘at risk’ groups that they should be considering having the seasonal flu vaccination.
- (y) Received – Programme of activities, September – December 2010, for The Woodlands Centre on Admirals Road in Oakwood.

395/2010 **BIRCHWOOD FORUM**

- (a) Received – Link to the latest issue of Business in Warrington e-magazine.
- (b) Received – Copy of e-mails regarding Birchwood Area Travel Plan.
- (c) Received – Invitation to Quiz Night – Thursday 30 September 2010, 7 pm.
- (d) Received – Email confirming that next month’s Forum meeting date has changed and will now take place on 20th October 2010.

396/2010 **BIRCHWOOD PARTNERSHIP**

- (a) Received – Youth Matter! - July Bulletin and State of the Sector Annual Survey.
- (b) Received – Details of the Birchwood Partnership community meeting.
- (c) Received – Information that Birchwood Shopping Centre and Dewhurst Road have been listed on a website that lists the cheapest available parking in an area. Esstta points out that the £1 parking at the shopping centre is meant to be for people using the station.
- (d) Received – Update from www.birchwood.org.uk
- (e) Received – Change of meeting details – The Birchwood Partnership SG meeting is now pencilled in for 1st October, 3pm, venue Parkers Farm.
- (f) Received – Details of training opportunities for community groups – September 2010.
- (g) Received – Details of available Youth Federation training.
- (h) Received – Youth Matter! – September newsletter with attachments; including details of Warrington Wolves Foundation Training Autumn 2010.
- (i) Received – notification regarding Community Meeting on Wednesday 29th September 2010 at 6 pm, Parkers Farm, Delenty Drive. Topic – the Work of the Ranger Service.
- (j) Received – Current list of ‘What’s on in Birchwood’ with a request to send any additional information for inclusion to Bernadette Bell at Frontis.

397/2010 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – A number of posters advertising various fun days and family events, taking place over the summer holiday period. These were displayed on notice boards.
- (b) Received – Details of the LGC Awards 2011, along with various updates regarding extended entry deadlines.
- (c) Received – E-mail from Warrington Disability Partnership asking for nominations for the Positive Action Awards 2010.
- (d) Received – E-mail regarding the publication of the EiP Panel Report from the Partial Review of RSS.
- (e) Received – E-mail ‘introducing’ Clerks to the iCAN network. The Town Council is signed up for iCAN alerts. We also received a number of iCAN alerts, including scam Paypal emails and a reminder that people should not be tricked by phone calls from someone pretending to be from their bank, asking them to confirm account details.
- (f) Received – ‘Contact’ August 2010 – newsletter from Warrington CVS.
- (g) Received – Letter asking for support for a campaign against new nuclear power stations.

Members did not believe that it is within their remit to respond to this correspondence.

- (h) Received – Details from Chaplins re: the three shows they are offering this year.
- (i) Received – Correspondence from ‘Friends of Carrington Close Community Area’ – giving an update on progress regarding concerns about some land bordering onto the golf club and the role local residents wish to have in maintaining the area.

Councillor Evans was asked to attend an event to draw the raffle prizes and was asked to pass on the thanks of the group to the Town Council for all its support to date.

The Clerk stated that we have been led to understand that the ownership of part of the land is still being disputed. The group still wishes to press ahead with their proposal for Village Green status for the part of the land that the Borough Council has agreed they can maintain.

- (j) Received – Warrington CVS General Update – August 2010.
- (k) Received – Email from Brainwave regarding a 5K Santa Dash taking place on Sunday, 12th December 2010 in aid of the Warrington Brainwave Centre. Closing date for entries is 25th October 2010 £10 for adults, £5 for children. Entry fee includes a Santa hat for children and a 3-piece Santa suit for adults. All entrants will receive a goody bag. For further information contact Joannefreeman@brainwave.org.uk
- (l) Received – Invitation to an open day at Brainwave in Birchwood.

- (m) Received – Invitation from Birchwood Lions to the Birchwood Service of Remembrance 2010, taking place on Saturday 13th November at the Memorial outside the main entrance to Birchwood Shopping Centre. A confirmation of attendance has been requested.

Councillor Fitzsimmons asked that his apologies and Councillor Spencer's apologies been sent as they are unable to attend the event this year due to other commitments.

Councillor Evans and the other Members present said they hoped that they would be able to attend.

Action Clerk's office to send acceptances and apologies.

- (n) Received – Invitation reminder re: the NWDA Annual Conference and AGM 2010, Whitworth Hall, University of Manchester, Wednesday 13th October 2010.

398/2010 **FRONTIS**

Received – Petition circulated by Frontis re: dog fouling - asking for help in encouraging the Borough Council to take more action against irresponsible pet owners. A copy is posted on the internal office notice board at the Town Council offices if people wish to sign it. A poster regarding dog fouling was also received and is displayed on our notice boards.

399/2010 **CHESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY**

- (a) Received – 'July 2010 Update' for the Birchwood area.
- (b) Received – 'Grapevine' – July 2010.
- (c) Received – 'What We've Done' – August 2010 update.

This update mentioned a number of hoax calls are being made from a telephone box on Redpoll Lane, however, Members are unaware of a telephone box on Redpoll Lane – although there may be one close by.

- (d) Received – Correspondence asking whether Cheshire Constabulary can keep contact details of the Town Council on its website. Reply sent.
- (e) Received – Warrington East Neighbourhood Policing Unit Newsletter – September 2010.
- (f) Received – 'The Crimebeat Reporter' – Summer 2010.

An article in this newsletter reported on a grant of £720 that had been awarded by Crimebeat for Birchwood Community High School to work in partnership with Thomas Risley Church, Birchwood Community Church and Birchwood C of E Primary School to work on seven projects as part of the Hope Challenge, which is a church initiative.

- (g) Received – information regarding an increase in the number of ‘car & key’ type burglaries across the Northern area – there have been three instances in the Warrington East area recently and people are being asked to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to Cheshire Police (0845 458 0000)

400/2010 **CHESHIRE COMMUNITY ACTION**

Received – Invitation to the 2010 AGM on 27th October in Chester and details regarding the retirement and re-election of trustees.

401/2010 **SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS**

- (a) Received – Email regarding NEC Substitute Election with relevant documentation attached.
- (b) Received – Details of the 36th National conference taking place in October.
- (c) Received – August 2010 Branch Newsletter.

402/2010 **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC)**

- (a) Received – July and August 2010 NALC e-bulletins.
- (b) Received – E-mail including correspondence from the NALC Chief Executive, John Findlay, regarding a consultation about the ‘top slicing’ of funding. The correspondence encourages local Councils to make comments about the proposals.

Members were in agreement with all the points raised and asked that we send a letter in response to the consultation echoing the points raised by NALC.

Action Clerk’s office to send a letter regarding the Town Council’s position on ‘top slicing’.

- (c) Received – Correspondence regarding Local (Parish and Town) Council Elections 2011 and the potential impact that the bill currently before Parliament on holding a referendum on changing the UK voting system may have on the 2011 local elections.

Any changes may have potential cost implications for local Councils.

- (d) Received – Email from NALC asking for comments regarding the Council’s engagement or involvement with the Fire and Rescue Service and other emergency services.

This information is being collected by NALC and Communities and Local Government (CLG) to feed into the forthcoming Fire Futures Review of the Fire and Rescue Service in England.

A reply has been sent.

- (e) Received – NALC Events Bulletin.

403/2010 **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (ChALC)**

- (a) Received – ChALC September newsletter with attachments – includes more about the RSG ‘Top Slicing’ consultation and details regarding the Government’s proposals to end the default retirement age – the key proposals of which are subject to another consultation which runs until 21st October 2010.

The Business and Finance Officer noted that any proposals to end the default retirement age may have a future impact on the Town Council.

- (b) E-mail from ChALC regarding the new Development Officer – Linda Davenport who has taken over from Ian Jones.
- (c) Received – Copy of letter regarding Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Progress sent to the Chief Executives and Planning/Development Portfolio Holder for Cheshire West & Chester and Cheshire East.

404/2010 **PRESS ARTICLES**

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

405/2010 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

LGC – 29/07/10, 05/08/2010, 02/09/10,09/09/10, 16/09/10

Clerks & Councils Direct – September 2010

The Clerk – September 2010

LCR – Autumn 2010

The Playing Field – Summer 2010

406/2010 **MEMBERS’ REFERRALS MADE VIA THE CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING**

There were no Members’ referrals made prior to this meeting.

407/2010 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

Warrington Borough Council

- (a) Received - Notification of the Development Management Committee which took place on Thursday 26th August 2010. There were no items of specific relevance to Birchwood on the agenda. However, there was a lot of documentation relating to ‘Proposed Revisions to Checklist for Validation of Applications’ included on the agenda.
- (b) Received – Agenda for the Planning Applications Sub-Committee meeting which took place on 15th September. There were no items of specific relevance to Birchwood on the agenda.

- (c) A number of e-mails have been received and sent to various parties following a complaint from a resident regarding the blocking of a crossing point which occurred when the Peacock public house was built, at the corner of the shopping centre site near the ASDA petrol station.

The Clerk reported that Mr Burrows, Principal Engineer (Transport Development Control) Warrington Borough Council met the resident on site to fully assess the situation and three possibilities had been looked at.

At this stage the preferred option would be to create a new crossing point on Dewhurst Road which would result in the loss of one parking space at the shopping centre.

This proposal has been discussed with Gary Jones, the Shopping Centre Manager who has no objections.

This matter will be ongoing as Mr Burrows now needs to report back to the Borough Council and make enquiries regarding the funding of any alterations.

Councillor Fitzsimmons stated that there should be money available to meet any costs incurred in rectifying this matter as several Section 106 conditions had been put in place in relation to various local developments from which the money should still be available to use locally to improve crossing points.

- (d) Received – Letter regarding the Local Development Framework – Core Strategy.

408/2010 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

- (a) Application No. 2010/16443 Land adjacent to Birchwood Way, Birchwood Park. Application for consent to display two non-illuminated advertisement units on an 11.65m high illuminated freestanding unit. **Approved with conditions**
- (b) Application No. 2010/16713 Land at Ainscough Road/Dewhurst Road, Birchwood. Proposed non-material amendment to previous approval 2009/15103 for single storey 30-bed care home (use Class C2). **Approved**
- (c) Application No. 2010/16648 2 Hapsford Close, Birchwood. Proposed raising of roof height to accommodate new first floor (revision of application 2010/16152). **Refused**
- (d) Application No. 2010/16677 Heathfield House Day Nursery, Delenty Drive, Birchwood. Proposed mono pitch roof to rear and internal alterations (amendment to previously approved 2010/16232). **Application withdrawn**
- (e) Application No. 2010/16725 46 Dove Close, Birchwood. Proposed first floor side extension. **Approved with conditions**

409/2010 **PLANNING APPEAL**

- (a) Appeal Ref. APP/M0655/A/10/2134559. Heathfield House, Delenty Drive, Warrington. Proposed variation of condition 3 on approval 2007/10942 to increase the total number of child places from 32 to 38.

The Clerk asked Members to approve a draft letter outlining their concerns which is to be sent to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the appeal to be added to the Town Council's previous comments regarding the application.

Members considered the letter and approved it with a small amendment.

Action Clerk's office to send the letter to the Planning Inspectorate.

410/2010 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- (a) Application No. 2010/16868 88 Armstrong Close, Birchwood. Proposed first floor side extension, garage conversion and new porch/hall roof.
- (b) Application No. 2010/16801 49 Deanwater Close, Birchwood. Proposed two storey side extension.
- (c) Application No. 2010/16919 5 Whitworth Close, Birchwood. Proposed change of use of land to residential, two storey side extension and adaptations to house.
- (d) Application No. 2010/17022 Fox Wood School, Chatfield Drive, Warrington. Proposed mobile classroom.
- (e) Application No. 2010/17002 69 Mansfield Close, Birchwood, WA3 6QN. Proposed single storey side and rear extension including integral garage.
- (f) Application No. 2010/17009 Leacroft Road, Risley. Proposed 17.5m high telecommunications mast and associated equipment cabinet.
- (g) Application No. 2010/17049 844 Birchwood Boulevard, Warrington, WA3 7QZ. Proposed change of use from business (B1)/general industry (B2) to transport operations to include private hire/community service booking office.
- (h) Application No. 2010/17060. 109 McCarthy Close, Oakwood, Warrington. Proposed 2 storey rear extension.

The meeting concluded at 8.05pm