

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT  
PARKERS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE, DELENTY DRIVE, RISLEY  
ON TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012**

**PRESENT:** Councillor M. Hearldon in the Chair  
Councillors Allman, Balding, Evans, Fitzsimmons, T. Hearldon, Liz Hearldon, and Higgins

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, Nelson and Spencer

**It was RESOLVED THAT:**

**The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council which took place on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 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.

406/2012 **RECESS**

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

PCSO Davies gave Members a brief update on policing activity in the area since last month. She circulated copies of statistics for the previous month (up to 24<sup>th</sup> September) which, for comparison, detailed the statistics for various areas of Warrington East, including Birchwood.

Members were informed by PCSO Davies that whilst the majority of bike thefts during August had been from the Business Park, those in September had also included thefts from residential areas of Birchwood and the shopping centre. She added that two males had been arrested with regard to the theft of bikes from the Business Park.

PCSO Davies noted that the Town Council had reported the theft of the skip which is used to dispose of bulky waste collections. She also informed Members that Birchwood Golf Club had experienced the theft of the lead off the roof of their building. With the severe weather that has occurred recently, this has meant that a number of their rooms have been severely water damaged and events have had to be cancelled.

In both the above cases, CCTV footage will be viewed to see if there is any information that can be gathered to help Police with their enquiries.

Councillor Balding asked whether PCSO Davies thought there might be any general ongoing threat to residential properties regarding the theft of lead.

PCSO Davies replied that it is impossible to say at present; but if a spate of lead thefts did start to occur then it would be investigated to see if there was any pattern.

It was noted by Members that the Golf Club is in a fairly secluded position and it is likely that the only 'witness' to the crime would be CCTV footage.

PCSO Davies informed Councillors that PCSO Pickering had now left the area as he has joined the Police Force. A replacement for his PCSO role is being considered, but it is not yet confirmed who will fill the vacancy in the area.

PCSO Davies also informed Members that another bike marking event will be taking place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September at Birchwood Leisure Centre, between 9.30am and 2.30pm. The number of bike marking kits available is limited, so bikes will have to be marked on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Councillor Liz Hearldon stated that although she had her bike security marked, it was still stolen.

PCSO Davies stated that it is still worth getting bikes marked as sometimes they are recovered still in good condition and when that happens, they can be returned to the owner.

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 PCSO Davies for attending the meeting.

(b) **Request for Assistance Re: Planning Application 2012/20645 - Heathfield House Nursery**

*Councillor Higgins left the room as he is on the Borough Council's planning committee*

Two residents attended tonight's meeting to ask that the Town Council considers supporting their objections to a new planning application that has been received relating to Heathfield House Nursery on Delenty Drive in Birchwood.

The residents reminded Members of the history relating to a series of planning applications relating to both this and another nursery on Delenty Drive, over the last 22 years.

The residents also reminded Members that in the past it has been the Town Council's policy to support them with regard to their objections to applications relating to Heathfield House; which on the last occasion went to appeal.

One of the residents stated that objections made last time included that it appeared that the applicant seems to be trying to achieve their aim for the number of nursery places to be increased to 50 (ref: planning application 2007/09872) by using incremental applications.

The new application proposes an increase in places for an additional nine babies. This will require an additional two new members of staff. This increase in child places would bring the number to just three short of the 50 that the applicant originally requested on application 2007/09872 – which was a variation of planning permission 95/338000 (for the total number of children attending the day nursery not to exceed 20 at any time to the total number not to exceed 50 at any time). Application 2007/09872 was refused.

Other applications made between then and now have resulted in an increase in numbers of nursery places at Heathfield House Nursery, which currently stands at 38.

The residents had a number of concerns, many of them identical to the objections they have made to previous applications relating to a potential increase in noise levels and an increase in vehicular activity and on-street parking (whilst children are dropped off at, or collected from the nursery). One resident commented that he was almost hit by a car that was pulling up behind him onto the pavement as he was walking along. The residents circulated a photograph to Councillors showing a car park wholly on the pavement next to the nursery.

In addition the residents noted that it is proposed that an additional parking space will be added in the front garden, which they believe will spoil the visual amenity of the property; particularly given the local historical interest in the property, which is one of the places that groups of school children are shown when the Rangers take them on 'history walks' in Birchwood.

Another concern the residents have is that only a few local properties have been copied in to the planning application and those who have will not necessarily be aware from the proposal: *'Proposed single storey extension to rear of building to replace outbuilding and provide additional nursery accommodation'* that the application is also seeking to increase the number of nursery spaces, not just increase the size of the property and space available for those already attending. The residents believe this is misleading as the detail of additional places, etc. can only be found by going online to look at the application in depth.

The residents asked whether the Council would support them in their objections. They also asked whether the planning officer at the Borough Council could be asked to amend the proposal for clarity and send the application to additional properties in the area.

The residents also asked that the Town Council request that the application goes to committee if planning officers are minded to approve the application; but are happy for it to be dealt with under delegated powers if it is recommended for refusal.

The residents stated that they are not opposed to the replacement of the outbuilding per se, but to the proposed increase in child numbers and the fact that the front garden will need to be used for one parking space.

The residents also asked whether the Town Council would be able to contact Ofsted on their behalf regarding the way in which the nursery is registered with them, as Ofsted should ensure that nurseries comply with all planning regulations; however Ofsted has registered the nursery for more children than the current planning conditions allow for.

Members discussed the application and the residents' concerns in some detail. They were particularly concerned that the prediction made at the time of the last application about incremental applications for increases in the number of child places is proving to be correct.

Councillors agreed that the Town Council should not become involved in any dispute with Ofsted.

However, Members agreed that they would again support the residents in their objection to the proposed increase in numbers and also regarding the use of part of the front garden for an additional parking space.

Members also asked the Clerk's office to ask the Borough Council planning officer dealing with the application if it could be sent out again with the proposal worded more clearly; so that it is obvious that the application includes an increase in child places and the front garden being used for one parking space. In addition they would like more properties to be included in the distribution of letters notifying local residents of the proposals.

**Action** Clerk's office to contact the Borough Council's planning officer dealing with the Heathfield House application.

The residents thanked Members and left the meeting.

*Councillor Higgins was invited back in to the meeting.*

#### 407/2012 **ADOPTION OF NEW CODE OF CONDUCT/REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

The Clerk informed Members that, despite being requested several times, we are still waiting to receive the completed new Register of Interest documents from one Councillor. 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.

#### 408/2012 **PARKING AND LANDSCAPING ISSUES ON WHINCHAT DRIVE**

*Councillors Allman and Evans declared an interest as they are residents of Whinchat Drive*

Two residents had attended the June meeting, to inform Members about ongoing parking problems being experienced by residents of Whinchat Drive and to ask for the Council's help in trying to encourage Frontis to change the landscaping to allow for more parking spaces, as has been done in other Frontis areas, such as Talbot Close.

At the July meeting, the Clerk reported that, as requested she had contacted Frontis regarding this matter. Frontis has agreed that they will undertake a radical cut back of the hedges on Whinchat Drive.

At tonight's meeting, the Clerk reported that Frontis has cut back the shrubbery. However, with regard to parking Frontis has stated that any changes would be subject to financial constraints. They do not yet know if there will be enough funding in next year's budget to allow for any additional parking spaces.

#### 409/2012 **POWELL AVENUE UNDERPASS DRAINAGE ISSUES**

The Clerk reported that the cutting 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 the planting of additional shrubbery to help catch silt washdown does not yet appear to have been done.

The Clerk stated that she has also emailed Dave Vasey again regarding the installation of a grit bin, but we have not yet heard whether or not this can be actioned.

The Clerk added that Colin Jenkins seems to believe that the problem has been resolved, but she believes that it remains ongoing. WBC consider that they have monitored over a reasonable period of time and are waiting until the end of October to do some further work.

Councillor Evans commented that one of the grids is still flooding and a block is still out in the underpass pavement.

The Deputy Clerk stated that she did report the missing block to the Borough Council but that Craig Bailey has stated that he cannot find it.

Councillor Balding suggested sending a photograph of the missing block to the Borough Council.

**Action** Clerk's office to continue to liaise with the Borough Council regarding this matter and to send a photograph of the missing block to Craig Bailey.

#### 410/2012 **SPEEDING ISSUES – LOCKING STUMPS LANE**

At the July meeting, Councillor Balding asked whether statistics from the speed monitoring exercise undertaken by Warrington Borough Council could actually identify the type of vehicle that was doing a specific speed.

At tonight's meeting the Clerk said that she has asked about the breakdown of the statistics. Apparently it can be done, but is not done as a matter of course. We will try to obtain more detailed information from the most recent speed monitoring exercise.

**Action** Clerk's office to request more specific details from the statistics.

#### 411/2012 **FLYTIPPING ON SILVER LANE**

This matter remains ongoing. There was no further information presented at the meeting.

#### 412/2012 **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 Land Registry does not operate a membership option. They suggested making requests on a case by case basis.

**Action** Clerk's office to contact the Land Registry to request information about this footpath.

#### 413/2012 **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 M. Hearldon attended the surgery on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012. No one attended.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to the Manager at Asda to ask if the store had a more conspicuous space available to hold the surgeries; in order to encourage more residents to come to speak to either the PCSOs or the Councillors. We are still awaiting a reply.

Councillor Higgins suggested asking if a poster could be put on the main shopping centre notice board adjacent to the newsagents (Martins) opposite Asda's display window.

Councillor Higgins added that when he attends surgeries elsewhere quite often no one attends. This is taking PCSOs from all areas that hold surgeries off the streets for an hour and a half, which he believes is a waste of PCSO time when they could be out patrolling the streets.

**Action** Clerk's office to ask the shopping centre if a poster could be put on the board.

414/2012 **FRONTIS WALKABOUTS**

At the June meeting Councillor Liz Hearldon said that a walkabout encompassing the back of Nightingale Close might be useful as a lot of flytipping goes on in that area; and the Clerk reported that Bernadette Bell from Frontis would be happy to meet with Councillor Liz Hearldon to visit the areas of concern.

At tonight's meeting, Councillor Liz Hearldon stated that due to other commitments she had not yet had chance to contact Bernadette, but confirmed that she would speak to her directly.

**Action** Councillor Liz Hearldon to contact Bernadette to arrange a meeting.

415/2012 **BULKY WASTE COLLECTIONS**

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

416/2012 **PLANTERS**

The Clerk reported that additional plaques are being ordered to put on the planters.

417/2012 **UPDATE ON PLANNING MATTERS**

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

*Councillors Fitzsimmons declared an interest*

We have still not received any formal update regarding this matter.

- (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.**
- (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 (b) (c) and (d) above; we do not yet have any further information and no date has yet been decided for the applications to 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 is on the agenda for consideration at the Borough Council's Planning Applications Sub-committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012.

418/2012 **WILDFLOWER MEADOWS**

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.

Councillor Evans suggested that the Town Council does not pay to have the meadows seeded next year, but leaves them to see what, if anything happens.

Councillor Balding asked if they need a fallow year.

The Clerk stated that she had asked Kevin McCready if he thought this might be the case as the first year of planting the seeds was the best show for all the areas of Warrington that are taking part in the wildflower meadow schemes. She reiterated that Kevin had stated that if he had not seeded some of the areas personally, he would not have believed they had been done.

The Clerk asked Members if they would allow her to negotiate on the charges on behalf of the Town Council due to the poor displays.

Members agreed to allow the Clerk to negotiate the best discount she could.

Councillor Fitzsimmons stated that he has visited many different local towns around the country and some of them have wonderful railing planters that do not seem to suffer from vandalism; others have huge tiered planters – much larger than the one in Gorse Covert. He suggested that if we have a fallow year then perhaps the Council could consider installing other planters.

Councillor Higgins commented that the very large tiered planters would be not only expensive to purchase, but would cost a lot to keep filled with plants.

Councillor Liz Hearldon stated that we would have to be careful where planters were placed in order not to impede sightlines.

Any installation of planters has to be undertaken in conjunction with Warrington Borough Council which would also have to award a licence.

Councillor Fitzsimmons thought that it would be a good idea to try a fallow year.

**Action** Clerk's office to negotiate with regard to the costs for this year's wildflower meadows.

#### 419/2012 **BUILDING WORK AT BIRCHWOOD PARK**

The Clerk reported that we have received confirmation that all the planting that was agreed at the time of the application being approved was in place. We are awaiting confirmation that it is growing as expected.

However, a resident has requested that the Town Council encourages MEPC to plant additional mature evergreen trees to try to further block the view of the offices from Fernbank Close.

At tonight's meeting the Clerk stated that the only other evergreen trees that she could find that would grow quickly would be leylandii. She confirmed that MEPC has stated that all the planting that was approved at the time the planning application was made, has been put in place. The landscape architects will be asked to ensure that the planting is growing as requested, but MEPC cannot give us a timescale as to when that will be done.

Councillor Fitzsimmons suggested contacting Planning Enforcement at the Borough Council to 'double check' that all the agreed planting that was proposed on the plans is in place.

**Action** Clerk's office to contact the Borough Council regarding the above and to update the resident on the actions being taken.

420/2012 **RISLEY LIAISON MEETING/BIFFA WASTE**

The Clerk reported that the next Risley Liaison meeting is on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 4pm, Rixton Old Hall.

421/2012 **CORRESPONDENCE WITH MCDONALD'S RE: LITTER BINS**

At the June meeting, the Clerk reported that a follow up letter had been sent to McDonalds asking whether they might consider funding some new litter bins for the area; as we been unable to make contact with the relevant representative over the last few months.

At both the July and tonight's meeting the Clerk reported that she has chased up this matter but we are still awaiting a reply.

Members asked that McDonald's be contacted again. It was suggested that photographs be sent to them of waste from their premises left around the wider Birchwood area (not just in the vicinity of their local outlet). Members would be agreeable to the waste bins carrying a McDonalds' logo or sponsorship plaque (this might have to be agreed with landowners if bins are placed on their land).

**Action** Clerk's office to contact McDonalds again.

422/2012 **FRONTIS**

(a) **Big Clean Up Event**

The Clerk reported that the next event will be taking place on Redshank Lane on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

Councillor Evans hopes to be able to attend this event.

The Clerk's office has contacted the local primary schools to ask if they would be able to get their pupils involved in some way. The Clerk reported that Gorse Covert Primary School has not responded yet.

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.

Members asked that he be sent a letter of thanks when he leaves; offering the Town Council's best wishes for his future.

**Action** Clerk's office to continue to liaise with the local primary schools.

(b) Correspondence has been exchanged relating to work needed to repair the fence of Frontis tenants who live on Renown Close and whose properties back on to Town Council land.

The Clerk reported that the majority of this fencing of one property was taken down today and should be replaced by the end of tomorrow.

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

423/2012 **ADDITIONAL ITEMS RELATING TO CLERK'S REPORT**

A list of additional items relating to Clerk's Report to the Council September 2012 was circulated to Members in their papers. These are items that relate to matters that arose during Recess and/or events that took place between the July and September meetings.

The paperwork for the (following) items was not copied in the main papers and they were not listed again on the Clerk's Report. Details were copied to Members via email during Recess (hard copies are available to view in the office).



**(a) Warrington Borough Council**

- (i) Received – August Neighbourhoods Bulletin
- (ii) Received/sent – Correspondence relating to the replacement of the Havisham Close nameplate and Deanwater Close nameplate; both have been ordered by WBC.
- (iii) Received – Details of the Green Flag Presentation Event (8<sup>th</sup> August 2012). Councillor Evans attended.
- (iv) Received – Details of the Tour of Britain Cycle ride passing through Culcheth (10<sup>th</sup> September 2012).
- (v) Received – Details of Warrington Public Rights of Way Forum (29<sup>th</sup> August 2012).

**(b) Birchwood Forum**

- (i) Received – Information regarding the ‘GrowthAccelerator’ programme – aimed at 26,000 of England’s brightest businesses.
- (ii) Received – Information relating to Olympic events for business in the North West.
- (iii) Received/sent – enquiry relating to business networking; which was forwarded on to Birchwood Forum.
- (iv) Received – Details of some ‘Herbalife’ table top events. (29/8/12, 4/9/12, 12/9/12).
- (v) Received – Invitation to a Warrington Wolves Business Patron launch event (13<sup>th</sup> September).
- (vi) Received – Business News e-bulletin from Warrington Borough Council.

**(c) Miscellaneous Correspondence**

- (i) Received – Poster for two Friends of Gorse Covert Mound Events (both on 19/8/12) – posters were displayed on our boards.
- (ii) Received – Details of a meeting re: the formation of a new ‘Oakwood Community Association’ (12/9/12).
- (iii) Received – ‘Thank you’ message from a resident re: the new planters in Locking Stumps
- (iv) Received – ‘Thank you’ message from a resident re: a collection of bulky waste.
- (v) Received – Programme re: annual meeting of Cheshire & Warrington Sustainability Alliance (13/9/12) and subsequent notice that the event has been cancelled.
- (vi) Received – Contact list for Warrington Voluntary Action, details of a ‘Briefing on Supporting Families with Complex Needs’ (11<sup>th</sup> September) and information re: Warrington Wolves Olympic Summer Sport Camp (29<sup>th</sup> August).
- (vii) Receive/Sent – Correspondence with Great Sankey PC re: community activities for young and old people.
- (viii) Received – ‘Parklife’ e-newsletters; August 2012 and September 2012.
- (ix) Received – Details of Warrington Wolves new ‘Business Market’ (8<sup>th</sup> September 2012).
- (x) Received – Details of Warrington Time Bank – Trading Day (30<sup>th</sup> August 2012).
- (xi) Received - Poster for Friends of Gorse Covert Mounds Group meeting (on 19/9/12) – poster was displayed on our Gorse Covert board.

**(d) iCAN Alerts** *(for information)*

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

- (i) Warning of a scam email claiming to be from HM Revenue and Customs titled 'Recalculation of your tax refund' – do not reply – it is a scam.
- (ii) Warning of a 'Puppy for Sale' or 'Free to a good home' scam. Expenses are requested (for insurance and transport) – in one instance this was £240, it may be more or less. The 'seller' asks for the money to be sent by Western Money Transfer; this is the same as a cash transaction and the recipient cannot be traced nor the money retrieved. The puppy never arrives – it is a scam.
- (iii) Trading Standards has received information from Cheshire Police that a number of Cash Machine scams have recently been reported in the Borough.

A gentleman attempted to draw money from a cash point but when the transaction failed he also found he could not retrieve his card from the machine. A man standing close by told the gentleman that he needed to enter his pin three times and then press cancel. The stranger then walked away having watched the gentleman try to recover his cash card without success.

When the gentleman contacted the bank to say his card had been retained he was told a transaction had taken place and £300 had been withdrawn. It is assumed that the machine had been tampered with and the card retrieved once the gentleman had left the cash point.

Card traps work by jamming your debit card in the machine allowing a fraudster to retrieve it at a later date - never assume your trapped card is safe over the weekend, call immediately to cancel.

**(e) Frontis**

- (i) Received – Newsletter 'The Link Local' – Summer 2012.
- (ii) Received – letter to Phil Hargreaves c/o BTC. Letter was scanned and forwarded to Frontis. Bernadette Bell has been dealing with it whilst Phil is away.

**(f) Society of Local Council Clerks**

Received – SLCC e-bulletin (25<sup>th</sup> July 2012) including a letter relating to the Localisation of Council Tax Support.

**(g) Cheshire Police**

- (i) Sent/Received – Correspondence relating to anti social behaviour and vandalism occurring within Birchwood Forest Park.
- (ii) Received Birchwood News Bulletin – August 2012.
- (iii) Received – Information regarding arrests made relating to the recent bike thefts in the area.

**(h) Cheshire Association of Local Councils**

- (i) Received – e-bulletin (3<sup>rd</sup> August 2012)
- (ii) Received – Reminder of a Councillor Workshop (27<sup>th</sup> September).

(i) **PLANNING ITEMS**

**Warrington Borough Council**

- (i) Received – Notifications re: the Planning Applications Sub-Committee meetings on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August, 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

There were no items of specific relevance to Birchwood on the agendas for discussion.

- (ii) Received – Notification re: the Development Management Committee meeting on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2012.

There were no items of specific relevance to Birchwood on the agenda for discussion.

**Cheshire Association of Local Councils**

Received – Notification of a Legal Topic Note that has been issued relating to Neighbourhood Planning (LTN 83). This sets out the procedure for declaring a Neighbourhood Area and for seeking a Neighbourhood Development Plan or a Neighbourhood Development Order.

**Planning Enforcement:** *(for information only)*

- (i) Ref: ENF/12/03611 – Alleged unauthorised sign/advert at the Turf and Feather, Glover Road, Locking Stumps. An initial investigation and site visit (where required) will be carried out by the Planning Enforcement Team to establish further details surrounding the alleged breach of planning control.
- (ii) Ref: ENF/12/03610 – Alleged unauthorised use and illegal signs advertising the Hand Car Wash at Birchwood Shopping Centre. (The query made was regarding the signs on Dewhurst Road – not those on the shopping centre’s own land).

**Planning Decisions:** *(for information only)*

- (i) Application No. 2012/19696 Birchwood Business Park, WA3 6BU. Application to extend time limit for implementation of permission 2006/07641 (offices, industrial and warehousing development). **Approved with conditions**
- (ii) Application No. 2012/20233 2 Sovereign Court, Birchwood, WA3 7NA. Proposed addition of single storey utility room to existing bungalow (resubmission of 2012/19915). **Approved with conditions**
- (iii) Application No. 2012/20341 21 McCarthy Close, Birchwood, WA3 6RS. Application to extend time limit of permission 2009/14851. **Approved with conditions**
- (iv) Application No. 2012/20241 Land at Birchwood Way, Birchwood, WA3 6FW. Proposed removal of existing 14.7m high monopole and installation of replacement. **Approved with conditions**
- (v) Application No. 2012/20305 36 Falstone Close, Birchwood, WA3 6SU. Application for a lawful development certificate for a proposed garage conversion. **Planning permission not required.**

**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/](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/home/transport_planning_and_environment/Planning/Search_planning_applications/)

- (i) Application No. 2012/20414 61 Applecross Close, Birchwood, WA3 6XB. Proposed single storey front extension and additional hardsurfacing to driveway.
- (ii) Application No. 2012/20406 61 Applecross Close, Birchwood, WA3 6XB. Proposed single storey rear extension.
- (iii) Application No. 2012/20377 Cambrian Homes Ltd, Birchwood One Business Park, Dewhurst Road, WA3 7GB. Proposed change of use of ground floor from offices (use class A2) to veterinary surgery (use class D1).
- (iv) Application No. 2012/20480 66A Woodhouse Close, Birchwood, WA3 6QP. Proposed single storey side extension.
- (v) Application No. 2012/20458 10 Ashdown Lane, Birchwood, WA3 6TE. Proposed first floor side extension over existing garage.

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

#### 424/2012 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Received – Details of woodland management works to be undertaken in the Oakwood area from mid September 2012 and April 2013. A poster will be displayed in community buildings in Oakwood and affected residents will receive a letter explaining the works.  
  
The Clerk reported that the Borough Council will also be undertaking an extensive letter drop to residents who will be affected, to inform them about the work.
- (b) Sent – Request for repeater speed limit signage on Ordnance Avenue. WBC replied: *'The Department of Transport does not permit the use of 30mph repeater signs on street lit roads such as Ordnance Avenue as it is their view on such matters that motorists should not travel above 30mph unless informed they may do so by the appropriate speed limit signage.'*
- (c) Sent/received – emails relating to a sycamore tree in Pennant Close, tree issues around Fieldfare Close and overgrown shrubbery in Mansfield Close.
- (d) Received – correspondence between a resident and the Borough Council re: the resident's request for a pedestrian crossing or traffic calming measures on Admirals Road, near Curlew Grove. The resident has asked for the Town Council's assistance with his request.

The Clerk emailed Craig Bailey re: this request to enquire about Section 106 funding previously pledged re: planning developments within the area.

Councillor M. Hearldon stated that she has waited for nearly 20 minutes on one occasion to try to cross at that point on her mobility scooter.

Councillor Evans stated that a lot of learners from the high school use this point to cross.

Members discussed the matter and agreed that they would like the Town Council to pursue the matter. They believe the crossing point could come under the 'Safer Routes to School' scheme.

**Action** Clerk's office to contact the Borough Council with regards to the above.

- (e) Sent – Email to Kevin McCready asking if the Borough Council could arrange for a large agricultural flail to cut back shrubbery along Birchwood Way. A reply was received stating that he will let us know when it can be programmed in to the WBC work schedule.

- (f) Received – Email asking for potential dates for a Parish Liaison meeting and suggestions for topics in addition to issues relating to the Localism Act.

The Clerk reported that an email had been received confirming that the Parish Liaison meeting will be held on Thursday, 1 November 2012 at 5.30 pm. The agenda is to follow.

- (g) Received – Invitation to Regimental Sunday – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

As the Chair is unable to attend on that date due to prior commitments; Councillor Evans will represent the Town Council at this event.

- (h) 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. We are awaiting a response.

- (i) Sent/received – emails re: land ownership of Admirals Square in Oakwood and continuing issues re: the area being unsightly and a potential health and safety risk.

The Clerk reported that Warrington Borough Council is again looking to see if it has any powers that it can use to have the area maintained by the private landowner. This is an ongoing problem that has been highlighted again recently when a resident tripped and hurt himself.

The BAFO informed Members that we have passed on the contact details of a London address that we last had for the landowner; but over the years they have not responded to any correspondence sent to them regarding Admirals Square.

- (j) Received/sent – Correspondence relating to a sign on Copperfield Close.

- (k) The Clerk reported that a number of telephone calls had been received regarding flooded footpaths. The details had been passed on to the Borough Council.

- (l) Received – Agenda for the Warrington Public Rights of Way Forum taking place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012; with minutes of the previous meeting attached.

- (m) Received – Papers for September’s East Neighbourhood Board meeting.

- (n) The Clerk reported that a telephone call had been received from a gentleman who wanted to know what the grass cutting dates are for Kinsale Drive and if the concrete bollards will be replaced. This has been passed on to the Borough Council. He also stated that now the road is not accessible by car a lot more dog walkers use the route and there is an increase in the amount of dog fouling that is not being cleaned up by the pet owners.

Councillor Fitzsimmons stated that he does not believe there are any plans to remove or replace the bollards, but as the route is a dead end it was not used by cars previously.

Councillor Evans suggested that stencils could be marked on the ground regarding dog fouling, similar to ones that have been used previously near Redshank Lane.

The BAFO said that Phil Ramsden at Warrington Borough Council would be the best person to contact with regard to dog fouling matters.

**Action** Clerk’s office to contact Phil Ramsden to enquire about stencilling.

425/2012 **BIRCHWOOD FORUM**

- (a) Received – Details about the action that the PCSOs have taken regarding bike thefts in the business area.
- (b) Received – Details of the September meeting.

426/2012 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received –. Details re: ‘The Academies Show’ taking place in Birmingham in November, 2012. It is free to attend, but attendees must register online.
- (b) Received – Notice that ‘Direct Hygiene’ has changed its name to ‘direct365’.
- (c) Received – Courses information from Myerscough College.
- (d) Received – Customer satisfaction survey from Copyrite Services (re: the photocopier) – a response has been sent.
- (e) Received – Autumn 2012 Warrington Nature Conservation Newsletter.
- (f) Received – Re: upcoming Police and Crime Commissioner elections – invitation to meet John Dwyer on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm in Knutsford; and a Parish Council Survey sheet.

Members stated that if he is elected the Town Council will respond to the survey.

- (g) Invitation from Birchwood Lions to the Service of Remembrance being held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012, 10.30am at the shopping centre Memorial. Confirmation of attendance requested.

A number of Members stated that they will attend the service.

**Action** Clerk’s office to contact Birchwood Lions regarding the service.

- (h) Birchwood Park – Newsletter – Parklife September 2012.
- (i) Warrington Voluntary Action – Newsletter.
- (j) Received – Poster advertising local blood donation sessions. Placed on our notice boards.

427/2012 **iCAN ALERTS**

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

- (a) Alert received regarding a number of scam emails and websites claiming to be sent and operated by the UK Border Agency and of calls made by people posing as Border Agency staff.
- (b) Notice received that Refuge has won a two year contract to run the new Warrington Independent Domestic Violence and Abuse Service. They can be contacted on 01925 243359 or by email at [warringtonidvaservice@refuge.org.uk](mailto:warringtonidvaservice@refuge.org.uk)
- (c) Information received stating that the eligibility criteria for Warm Front will change from 12<sup>th</sup> September. Some people who did not previously qualify for assistance may now do so. For further information telephone the Save Energy Advice Service on 0800 043 0151.
- (d) Alert received that a company called BBBO Grants is claiming to offer access to Regional Growth funds. These claims are false and the company has no connection with the Government’s Regional Growth Fund.

428/2012 **FRONTIS**

- (a) Received – Details of the Birchwood Youth and Community Centre AGM, at the Centre on Delenty Drive, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm – 8pm. Posters displayed on our boards.
- (b) Received/sent – email correspondence regarding a tree on Strawberry Close.
- (c) Received – Additional information regarding the clean up on Redshank Lane on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012, 10am to 12 noon; followed by lunch then sports from 1pm to 3pm.

429/2012 **SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS**

- (a) Received – E-bulletin August 2012.
- (b) Received – Notice of AGM – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
- (c) Received – News bulletin – including an article about the Government’s response to the concerns of local Councils regarding localising support for the Council Tax (England).  
Revised proposals are to leave Band D calculations as they are for Town and Parish Councils and to only apply the changes to Borough Councils. Councils have until 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012 to respond to the revised proposals.  
Members agreed that they wish to support the revised proposals.

**Action** Clerk’s office to respond regarding the above.

430/2012 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Sent/received – emails relating to anti social behaviour and reports of people camping on Birchwood Forest Park. Residents are reminded to telephone the Police on 101 if they wish to report non-emergency incidents of anti social behaviour.
- (b) Received – News Bulletin – September 2012.
- (c) Received – Cheshire Police Authority newsletter – Edition 7: September 2012.

431/2012 **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

- (a) Received – E-bulletin from NALC – July 2012.
- (b) Received – Details relating to the NALC Direct Access Scheme. The Clerk asked Members if they wanted the Town Council to sign up for the scheme; this will not incur extra costs.  
Members decided that it would be worthwhile to sign up for the scheme.

**Action** Clerk’s office to make the necessary arrangements to sign up for the scheme.

- (c) Received – Notification of ChALC Annual Meeting with details of items that will be included on their agenda; 25<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm at Cheshire Fire & Rescue HQ.

432/2012 **PRESS ARTICLES**

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

433/2012 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

LGC – 19/07/12, 26/07/12-08/08/12, 09-22/08/12, 23/08 – 05/09/12, 13/09/12  
LCR – Autumn 2012,  
Clerks & Councils Direct – September 2012,  
The Clerk – September 2012  
The Playing Field – Summer 2012

434/2012 **MEMBERS' REFERRALS MADE VIA THE CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING**

*Councillor M. Hearldon and T. Hearldon declared an interest*

Councillor T. Hearldon had submitted a late Member's referral relating to traffic issues on Kestrel Lane and Goldfinch Lane in Oakwood. He declared an interest as he lives on Goldfinch Lane.

Councillor T. Hearldon stated that residents of Goldfinch and Kestrel Lane continue to experience a number of problems relating to vehicles being unable to pass each other, the lack of footpaths on these lanes causing safety issues for pedestrians and concerns over sight lines at the T-junction.

Councillor T. Hearldon asked, given the ongoing problems, whether the Town Council would lend support to a proposal for Kestrel and Goldfinch Lane to become a one-way system. This is an issue that has been raised in the past.

Councillor Fitzsimmons recalled that a survey was going to be undertaken regarding this matter.

The Clerk stated that on a previous occasion that this was raised, the matter was passed to Frontis to take over, but it appears that no additional progress was made after that.

Members discussed the matter in some detail. It was agreed to contact the Highways department at the Borough Council to see if it is technically a possibility and something they would consider doing; and to liaise with Frontis as the lanes are on their estate, before consulting with residents who would be affected if the proposal was to be made and approved.

**Action** Clerks office to contact the Highways department at Warrington Borough Council and Frontis regarding the above.

435/2012 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

(a) **Planning Decisions:**

- (i) Application No. 2012/20484 17 Inglewood Close, Birchwood. Proposed garage conversion. Lawful development certificate. **Planning permission not required**
- (ii) Application No. 2012/20237 31 Ringwood Close, Birchwood. Proposed 1.5 storey side extension. **Approved with conditions**
- (iii) Application No. 2012/20289 Hamnett Court, Birchwood. Lawful development certificate. **Approved**

(b) **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/](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/home/transport_planning_and_environment/Planning/Search_planning_applications/)

- (i) 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).
- (ii) Application No. 2012/20366 Risley Landfill Site, Silver Lane, Warrington, WA3 6BY. Application for variation of conditions 1 and 2 on permission 2008/13753 to allow 18 month extension to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012 for the completion of waste disposal operations and a further one year to complete restoration of the site by the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013 (in accordance with the approved restoration scheme as amended by permission A02/44982).



- (iii) 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 in accordance with the approved scheme.

The above three applications were received during Recess. We requested a time extension, to allow all our Members the opportunity to discuss the applications fully at our September meeting, but were advised that Borough Council Planning Officers were minded to recommend them for approval under delegated powers.

Using powers delegated at the July meeting relating to actions necessary to be taken during Recess, the Clerk's office consulted with our Chair, Vice Chair, Leader of the Council and Councillor Bowden; and it was decided that a letter of objection be sent encompassing all three applications and asking that they be considered at a Development Management Committee.

A letter of objection has been sent.

On 17/09/12 a Notification of Planning Application Reference 2012/20366 ((b) above) was received relating to Risley Landfill Site, Silver Lane, Warrington.

This correspondence is to inform the Town Council that the description of the above application has been amended to:

*'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.'*

The Clerk reported that the Biffa Waste, Risley Landfill site applications are on the agenda for the Development Management Committee meeting scheduled for 4th October 2012. The meeting commences at 6.30 pm.

Councillors Bowden and Fitzsimmons will be attending this meeting.

- (iv) Application No. 2012/20596 23 Jay Close, Birchwood, WA3 6QJ. Proposed removal of existing garden wall with a replacement fence in a different position.
- (v) Application No. 2012/20647 20 Adlington Court, Birchwood. Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (planting plan) and 4 (car parking plan) on permission 2012/19999.

There were no objections from the Town Council to applications (iv) and (v) above

- (vi) Application No. 2012/20645 Heathfield House, Delenty Drive, Birchwood, WA3 6AP. Proposed single storey extension to rear of building to replace outbuilding and provide additional nursery accommodation.

This application was discussed during Recess (see Minute 406/2012 (b)).

**Action** Clerk's office to contact the Borough Council's planning officer dealing with the Heathfield House application.

**The meeting concluded at 8.35pm**