

Draft Minutes of virtual Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 at 7.30 pm.
via Zoom.

Present: Angie Driscoll (AD) – Chair
Peter Sampson (PS)
George Taylor (GT)
Geof Driscoll (GD)
Sally Taylor (ST)
John Revell (JR)
Linda Pocklington (LP)

Ray Gooding (county councillor) (RG)

Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)

768. Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

769. Apologies for Absence

None

770. Declarations of Interest

None.

771. Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

None.

772. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 1st December 2020 (previously circulated) were agreed as a true and accurate record, and will be duly signed by the Chairman.

773. Flooding in Birchanger Lane

The flooding at both ends of the Lane has been reported. It is understood that Highways has inspected the area by Bradley Common but does not consider it serious enough to warrant immediate action. It will be added to their list of actions to be taken.

It seems that the drainpipe taking water away is not large enough to cope with large quantities of water. JR also suggests that some chippings left over from the re-tarmacking of the Lane may be causing some of the blockage.

774. “Wig Wag” signs

It has been agreed that two “wig wag” signs may be installed, at a cost of approximately £10,000 which includes the installation. Although the cost will be met by the Parish Council, Highways has to allocate a start date which is unlikely to be before the end of the current financial year.

[2021/175]

775. Defibrillator

The new pads were installed on the 8th January. They will need replacing in two years time, unless they are used in the meantime when they will need to be replaced immediately.

776. Update on Travellers Site

Nigel Brown from UDC had sent an email with an update on the current situation, which was circulated to councillors. The email was also posted to the Birchanger Website where it can be read in full. It is his intention to visit the site again to ensure that the occupants are adhering to agreed procedures. He will then report back.

777. Recreation Ground/Allotments-consideration of estimate from David Debnam for replacement of posts

David Debnam has provided an estimate of £510 for labour and materials to replace the boundary posts and chicken wire which need replacing on the allotment site. The estimate was agreed. The parish clerk is to instruct David to proceed.

The Play Inspection Co annual report had been received and circulated to councillors. GT commented that not much had changed from the previous report. Some of the wooden structures do you need to be looked at for potential repair. In fact, GT said that all the wooden equipment will need reviewing eventually. GT will liaise with JR, who has agreed to carry out the assessment.

778. Planning

1. UTT/21/0126/HHF – 18 Harrisons

Demolish existing rear extension and erection of single storey rear extension. [Note: this is revision to a previously approved application **UTT/20/2403/HHF**].

No further comments.

2. UTT/20/3332/HHF – Sion House, Birchanger Lane

Erection of outbuilding.

No comments.

3. UTT/21/0101/FUL – 21 High View, Birchanger

Demolition of existing conservatory and garden wall. Construction of a new two storey three bed dwelling attached to 21 High View.

The plan shows the new house will be built inside the present hedge boundary of 21 Highview. However, the 2 parking spaces are outside this boundary. It's not clear if this land is owned by 21 Highview. If not, the two parking spaces would remove amenity space/grass verge. In either case, the vehicles would need to be driven across the footpath via a dropped kerb and thus removing on street parking space. There is already insufficient parking space on Highview with some residents having to park on Birchanger Lane along a section where, because of the amount of parking in a narrow area of the lane, it is only possible to drive on one side around a blind bend. Birchanger Lane is on a bus route and parking along this section can already impede the bus.

4. CC/UTT/09/21/PRE-Birchanger Primary School

Pre-application documents appertaining to proposed development at Birchanger School.

This is only a pre-application advice for information only and comments are not invited at this stage. ST did have concerns that the proposal for replacement structures was not on a like-for-like basis and that the plans were poorly produced and contained some errors. ST will send her comments to RG who will investigate.

779. Finance

1. Account Balances b/f 31st December 2020

Unity Trust Bank	49445.05
Less donation to BSSC for Xmas tree	130.00
Less bank charges	<u>18.00</u>
	49297.05
Plus allotment rent (December 2020)	<u>50.00</u>
Balance b/f @ 31/12/2020	49347.05

2. Payments due for January 2021

Ace of Spades	On line	249.60 (grass cutting December 2020)
Defib Store (Keith Williams)	On line	114.00 (new pads for defibrillator)
TBS Hygiene	On line	129.60 (dog bin and rubbish bin emptying)
A&J Lighting	SO	45.90 (monthly maintenance)
e-on	DD	90.50 (electricity for December 2020)
AVG (Keith Williams)	On line	74.99 (renewal of antivirus software)
Keith Williams	On line	441.23 (salary for January 2021)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	On line	110.40 (PAYE for January 2021)
Keith Williams	On line	20.00 (office rent January 2021)
Payroo	On line	6.00 (payroll expenses)
The Play Inspection Co	On line	81.00 (annual playground inspection)

Total payments for January 2021 1363.22

3. Account Balance c/f 31st January 2021

Unity Trust Bank a/c no 20419053	47983.83
Plus allotment rent (January 2021)	<u>200.00</u>
Balance c/f @ 31/01/2021	48183.83

Note 1: The payments to HMRC, Defib Store and AVG were made by the parish clerk and are being reimbursed.

780. Stansted Airport expansion plans - update

GD provided the following update.

The airport appeal is now set to run for approximately 29 days, from 12 January 2021, reduced from 40, this is because the Inquiry is being held remotely without the inspectors, legal representatives and witnesses being present in person. Also, SSE have forwarded a lot of their evidence in writing.

Uttlesford District Council is still 100% looking to win the appeal as the legal team have briefed the Members on several occasions. UDC were required by the Inspectors to submit the Condition 15 paper before the hearing began. Should the Inspectors be of a mind to grant the appeal the

paper is there as a backup alternative to the main objections which would if necessary and if agreed by the Inspectors oblige MAG/STAL to comply with very strict emissions and carbon requirements etc before being able to proceed as they propose. UDC can check on compliance with any conditions at each stage.

Philip Coppel QC, the barrister acting for UDC, has been asked why the district council have not teamed up with SSE. This is not allowed, as UDC and SSE must make their own cases. Furthermore, UDC can only defend their case on the 4 points listed in their refusal notice, whereas SSE can submit evidence and points of view on as many topics as they wish under Section 6 of Planning Act 2008 (108 (b) the Secretary of State thinks that, as a result of a change in circumstances since the national policy statement was first published or (if later) the statement or any part of it was last reviewed, all or part of the statement should be reviewed before the application is decided).

781. Ditch alongside Birchanger Club field

The flooding problem occurs because an underground pipe at the far end if the ditch has been blocked or removed and when there is substantial rain the water has nowhere to go. The responsibility for clearing the ditch lies with Birchanger Sports and Social Club (BSSC).

A quote has been obtained for £2280 to remedy the problem. Unfortunately, BSSC does not have the financial resources to finance this work, and RG has been trying to obtain some funding for it. Regretfully he has been unsuccessful. However, County Councillors are given a Locality Fund which they can award to projects in their ward. RG has £1,500 remaining but, having taken legal advice, this money cannot be given direct to BSSC as the Club is considered a commercial operation.

The proposal therefore is that the Locality Fund be paid as a grant to the Parish Council. BSSC will then be invited to apply for a grant from the Parish Council for the whole amount of £2280 and the Club will then be responsible for arranging for the work to commence. The parish clerk and RG are to discuss this to ensure that this is a suitable method.

782. Reports from County and District Councillors

Report from County Councillor Ray Gooding (RG).

A Winter Emergency Fund of £2000 has been made available to the Uttlesford Food Bank. However the Food Bank currently has sufficient stocks of food so it is hoped that the funding can be directed towards help with fuel costs.

783. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.37.

[2021/178]