

**Minutes of virtual Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 2nd March 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)
Melvin Caton (district councillor) (MC)

Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)

784 Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

785. Apologies for Absence

Ayab Khan (district councillor)

786. Declarations of Interest

None.

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

None.

788. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 (previously circulated) were agreed as a true and accurate record, and will be duly signed by the Chairman.

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

- a. Subject to provision of a suitable licence by IconWaste, it was agreed that IconWaste should proceed with clearance of the mixed waste material at the Allotments at the quoted price of £120 plus VAT. The parish clerk is to instruct the contractors accordingly.
- b. GT advised that PlayMaintain had reported on the condition of the wooden playground equipment, which is showing signs of wear. This will need addressing. JR has looked at the equipment and is of the opinion that there are signs of deterioration but there is no need for immediate replacement. He will get quotes for the materials which will be required when work does commence.

JR quoted a sum of £210 to replace the worn parts on the picnic tables, including weather-proofing. This quotation was approved. He further indicated an amount of £50 each to replace the timber spars. These are currently still serviceable.

GT advised that there were some areas where the ground was dropping away, which could create a hazard. He will provide details to the parish clerk who will ask Ace of Spades to assess the damage and quote for reinstatement.

790. SSE – renewal membership

The parish council agreed to renewal of membership at the amount of £10.

791. Planning

UTT/21/0332/FUL – Land at Tilekiln Green, Start Hill.

This is the response from Birchanger Parish Council.

Development of the site to create an open logistics facility with associated new access, parking areas and ancillary office and amenity facilities.

The impact on the rural village of Gt Hallingbury of this proposed distribution centre would be devastating, not just to the neighbouring properties but to the whole village. The site is not on an industrial area and the character of the surrounding area would be destroyed by this site. The increase in traffic movements to around 500 a day will cause excessive emissions. The 24 hour operation will also create unacceptable levels of noise and light pollution.

The proposed widening of the entrance to Tilekiln Green will do nothing to alleviate the inevitable extra holdups to traffic coming onto the B1256 from the M11. This will be caused by the excessive amount of traffic, both HGVs, vans and cars, turning into Tilekiln Green to enter the site. This junction on the M11 is already over capacity and holdups are suffered on a daily basis. The impact will be widespread and felt by Birchanger residents trying to get onto junction 8 of the M11 plus those from Bishops Stortford and traffic entering/exiting the service area.

Furthermore, traffic exiting the site and turning right will drive through rural lanes which in some places have no footpaths. This will be extremely dangerous for pedestrians and other road users.

Birchanger Parish Council fully support Great Hallingbury Parish Council and all the residents have raised objections to this totally inappropriate proposed development.

792. Finance

a. Accounts Balances (already circulated)

Noted

b. Invoices and payments for approval

Approved

1. Account Balances b/f 31st January 2021

Unity Trust Bank 48183.83

2. Payments due for February 2021

A&J Lighting	SO	45.90 (monthly maintenance)
Ace of Spades	On line	249.60 (grass cutting January 2021)
e-on	DD	90.50 (electricity for December 2020)
Police & Crime Comm	Online	30.00 (Period 01/10/20-31/12/20)
TBS Hygiene	On line	162.00 (dog bin and rubbish bin emptying)
SSE	On line	10.00 (renewal of membership)
Payroo	On line	6.00 (payroll expenses)
David Debnam	On line	510.00 (replace posts at allotments)
Keith Williams	On line	441.43 (salary for February 2021)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	On line	110.20 (PAYE for February 2021)
Keith Williams	On line	20.00 (office rent February 2021)
ICO	DD	35.00 (renewal of data protection cert)

Total payments for February 2021 1461.03

3. Account Balance c/f 28th February 2021

Allotment income 12.50

Balance c/f @ 28/02/2021 46735.30

Note 1: The payments to HMRC was made by the parish clerk and is being reimbursed.

793. New Parish Council laptop computer

GT had circulated details of a replacement laptop computer. He also recommended the inclusion of Microsoft 365 software at a cost of £60 pa, plus the use of a suitable back-up device. A budget of £750 was agreed. GT will provide the parish clerk with a schedule of the required items, who will then make the necessary purchases.

794. Grant application from Birchanger Sports and Social Club

The application for a grant of £2280 for extending a drain to allow flood water to drain away properly had been circulated to councillors. On a proposal from GT the grant was approved.

795. Reports from County and District Councillors

Report from District Councillor Melvin Caton (MC)

- MC has agreed to donate £400 to the Village Magazine for next year.
- It is coming towards the end of the Stansted Airport appeal.
- AD asked if UDC had been approached by the police regarding the installation of security cameras in Birchanger Woods to monitor and try to identify the persons responsible for the missiles which are being thrown at passing vehicles. MC replied that there had been no approach to date.
- The UDC budget had been set. There will be a 5% increase in Band C Council Tax.

Report from County Councillor Ray Gooding (RG).

- He has been in touch with the police on more than one occasion regarding the status in Birchanger Woods. He is still awaiting some action from the police.
- At the ECC budget meeting a 1 ½% increase in the Social Care precept was agreed.
- £1m has been allocated to mental health care.
- An Education Task Force has been formed to look at support in schools.
- An amount of £1/2m has been allocated to help fight gang culture.
- An amount of £2m has been allocated to support businesses.

A question was raised regarding an increase of 12% in funeral costs. RG advised that this was from Chelmsford only and not ECC.

RG was asked if the road could be swept of residue stones following repairs to the Lane. He will look into this.

796. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.34.

[2021/182]