

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 2nd July 2019 at 7.30 pm.
in Birchanger Village Hall**

Present: Angie Driscoll (AD) – Chair
Elizabeth Godwin (EG)
George Taylor (GT)
Peter Sampson (PS)
John Revell (JR)
Linda Pocklington (LP)
Geof Driscoll (GfT)

Melvin Caton (MC)– District Councillor
Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)

620. Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

621. Apologies for Absence

None.

622. Declarations of Interest

EG declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8.1 as a governor of Birchanger Primary school.

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

None.

624. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 4th June 2019 (previously circulated) were agreed as a true and accurate record, and duly signed by the Chairman.

625. Recreation Ground/Allotments/Glebeland

Recreation Ground

1. GT advised that Play Maintain, having received instructions to proceed, will try to prioritise the works but cannot give an actual start date at this stage.
2. LP attended the Volunteer Playground Inspection Course on June 21st 2019 and advised that inspection records taken have to be kept for 21 years.

A picnic table had minor damage to the table top, a wedge of wood is missing and one of the wooden slats on the table top is slightly raised and needs to be hammered down. [JR has offered to carry out this repair].

Footpath 13 is accessible. However the grass and other vegetation is still growing around the chicken-wire boundary fence. Ace of Spades, at this time, have not sprayed.

Footpaths report from LP –

This is the time of year when all the footpaths are overgrown. However some well-meaning person has cleared a way through F.P 15 making it accessible again. Unfortunately some of the Japanese Knotweed has also been cut back, but thankfully none of the cuttings have been removed from site. This is getting more serious by the day.

Footpath 11. From the Stansted Road, running through the field is very overgrown. As is Footpath 8. that should go through the field and come out in Tot Lane. Both are the responsibility of the farmer(s). Footpath 11 has since been cut.

3. Agree payment of £6650.61 + VAT to Play Maintain.
This was agreed.
4. The allotment rule relating to livestock is to be amended to read;
“You may not keep livestock of any kind on your plot”.

It was agreed to ask David Debnam to proceed with the allotment work at a cost of £255. The parish clerk will instruct him accordingly.

GT will assist LP in following up the Public Rights of Way report prepared previously by Ken Wheatley.

626. Finance

a. Account Balances (already circulated) – noted.

b. Invoices and payments

The following payments were accepted and authorised to be made.

1. Account Balances b/f at 31st May 2019

HSBC Community account	£60524.79
Allotment rent	£7.50
	£60532.29

2. Payments due for June 2019

A&J Lighting	SO	£45.90 (monthly maintenance charge)
Ace of Spades	Chq 100705	£249.60 (maintenance for May 2019)
e-on	DD	£90.50 (electricity for May 2019)
Birchanger Church Hall	Chq 100706	£10.00 (hall hire for May 2019)
Clerks salary	Chq 100707	£421.30 (salary for June 2019)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	Chq 100708	£105.20 (PAYE for June 2019)
Office rental	Chq 100709	£20.00 (office rental for June 2019)
TBS Hygiene	Chq 100710	£86.40 (dog bin emptying June 2019)

Total payments for June 2019 £1028.90

3. Account Balance c/f 30th June 2019

HSBC Community account 51624067	£59503.39
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627. Planning

1. UTT/19/1250/FUL-Birchanger Primary School

Proposed replacement of high level windows to existing school

No Objections

2. UTT/18/1114/FUL – Sion Park, Birchanger Lane

Appeal for retrospective change of land use to retain parking facility.

[2019/141]

The Parish Council reiterated it's previous objection, as follows;

- a. This is an unsuitable development within green belt.
- b. There is a danger that this could be a business development by stealth, as a business of this nature was never anticipated.
- c. The car rental company which uses the car park also rents out vans and trucks which, together with cars, may be collected from any point (according to their website). As a result of this, car/van transporters are frequently being used to transport vehicles. As the transporters do not seem to be able to negotiate the entrance to Sion Park they are unloading vehicles on the B1383 near the junction with Birchanger Lane. This has already been reported to enforcement.
- d. Global Self Drive offers vehicles for sale on it's website. It must be established that vehicle sales are not permitted from the Sion Park base.

The company continues to use car transporters to unload vehicles near the junction of Birchanger Lane and the B1383. In addition a recent delivery of unregistered Mercedes cars has been noted which creates concerns that the company is using the site for storage of new vehicles for sale. (See item d. above). Would you please instruct the company to cease using the area for unloading vehicles and to remove any vehicles which are for sale.

Additional objections are -

- It is noted that car transporters are parked in the lay-by obstructing views of oncoming traffic.
- The site is on Green Belt and development is unnecessary. Birchanger Parish votes against development on Green Belt each year at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- The Uttlesford District Council Local Plan is against development of any sort in the Green Belt.

This unnecessary development in Green Belt must be refused.

628. Community Speed Watch

PS reported;

- The Training for CSW has been put back again. Now expected to be July 2019.
- The council decided to purchase a speed gun from CSW after training has been given. CSW Recommend: Genesis GHD Hand-held Radar Full List Price £994.50 – **CSW price £895.00**

629. Community Special Constable (CSC)

PS reported;

Advertising for the appointment of a CSC has been placed as follows:

Media:

- Birchanger Residents (Facebook page) Every two weeks
- Birchanger.com Every two weeks
- Councillor members Facebook Pages Every two weeks asking friends to share
- B.S. Independent Newspaper (Advert) 4 weeks in the job section and 1 week on their face book page.

PS has heard nothing from B.S. Independent Newspaper regarding the Press Release despite sending several emails to them.

[2019/142]

630. VE Day contribution

A contribution of £500 towards the celebrations being organised by Birchanger Social Club was agreed.

631. Highways – update on J8/A120

CLlr Ray Gooding had sent the following report;

“The following timetable for the project is as follows: -

- Aug 2019 will be when tender documents are completed,
- Jan 2020 contract award,
- Start asap after that.

I have, as I have previously explained, been advised that given the nature of the work there will be significant traffic management involved to ensure the free flow on this busy junction and that will obviously include measures to protect Birchanger Lane from unwarranted use during the various stages of the work.”

The Parish Council has requested that Highways consults with the council to discuss their mitigation proposals prior to any work commencing.

632. Reports from County and District Councillors

Report from MC.

- The recent extraordinary meeting of the UDC Council voted overwhelmingly to refer the planning application from MAG to increase permitted passenger numbers at Stansted Airport back to the Planning Committee.
- The Uttlesford Local Plan has been submitted to inspectors. It is likely to be several months before their response is received.
- A UDC working party is to look at the structure of the Environment Committee.

633. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.30.

[2019/143]