

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 3rd April 2018 at 8.00 pm.
in Birchanger Village Hall**

Present: Angie Driscoll (AD) – Chair
Elizabeth Godwin (EG)
Ken Wheatley (KW)
Linda Pocklington (LP)
Alex Stewart (AS)
Maria Davy (MD)
George Taylor (GT)
John Revell (JR)

Ray Gooding (RG)
Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)

417. Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

418. Apologies and Reason for Absence

Sandy Dowle (SD) – other commitment

419. Declarations of Interest

None.

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

None

421. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 6th March 2018 (previously circulated) were agreed as a true and accurate record, and duly signed by the Chairman.

422. Village Hall Car Park Resurfacing committee.

Work had commenced on the 3rd April.

There is a bollard missing on the road adjacent to the Village Hall and a suggestion was made that the bollards should be replaced by three steel bollards. The contractors had indicated a price of £250 plus vat each, which includes fitting. A proposal was made for agreement for this to proceed. The parish clerk pointed out that this should not be agreed as it was not an item on the agenda and should be discussed at the next meeting. AD acknowledged this but still proposed proceeding, with a budget limit of £1000, to avoid additional costs.

423. Recreation Ground Working Group/Allotments – Glebeland

a. Recreation Ground

Monthly recreation ground inspection report from AS advised that there were no changes from his previous report.

LP had inspected the slide and taken photographs. Whilst there was some slight damage to the chute she did not consider this to be hazardous and did not require repair. She will still, however, contact HAGS with the photographs.

LP had previously circulated examples of possible additional older children/adult exercise equipment. It was decided that further purchases could not be justified and would therefore not proceed.

b. Allotments

No changes.

424. Finance

- a. Account Balances (already circulated)
- b. Invoices and payments

The following payments were accepted and authorised to be made.

1. Account Balances b/f at 28th February 2018

HSBC Community account	£16100.75
HSBC Business Money Manager account	£43209.22
Natwest current account	<u>£13608.65</u>
Total b/f	£72918.62

2. Payments due for March 2018

e-on	DD	£58.25 (electricity for Feb 2018)
A&J Lighting	SO	£41.11(maintenance Feb 2018)
Ace of Spades	Chq 100582	£249.60 (maintenance Feb 2018)
Clerks salary	Chq 100583	£383.21 (salary for Mar 2018)
Office rental	Chq 100584	£20.00 (office rental for Mar 2018)
HMRC	Chq 100585	£95.80 (paye for month 12)
Keith Williams	Chq 100586	<u>£49.55</u> (postage & stationery)

3. Account Balances c/f at 31st March 2018 **£72021.10**

[2018/088]

425. Website update

KW was able to report that the website was now fully functional

426. Planning

1. UTT/18/0544/FUL- Land south east of Rainbow Cottage (change of use).

No objection

427. Reports from County and District councillors

Ray Goddard (RG)

- RG provided aerial photographs overlaid with the proposed alterations to the Dunmow Road exit for HGV's from Welcome Break and the changes to Dunmow Road and the bypass following removal of the roundabout at the top of Birchanger Lane. It would seem that there would be no right turn from Birchanger Lane towards Bishops Stortford and that all traffic (including cyclists) would have turn left and then navigate the M11 J8 roundabout. This would appear to be contrary to the attempt to provide a safe cycle route to and from Stansted Airport. RG feels that this will have be looked at again.
- Bishops Stortford Golf Club is very concerned that the exit road from Welcome Break onto Dunmow Road will be very close to the course. RG feels that Highway Officers should have another look at this scheme and he will refer the matter to Essex Highways.
- The Bradley Common drain overflow problem is apparently caused due to the pipe which extends under Birchanger Lane being narrower than the pipe at the end of Bradley Common which joins the pipe under Birchanger Lane. This could only be rectified by digging up Birchanger Lane and laying a larger pipe.

428. Dog bins

It was agreed that the arrangement with Bin-It Solutions should be terminated and replaced with a new arrangement with TBS Hygeine. The parish clerk will take the necessary action.

429. New HGV exit from Welcome Break onto A1250

This was dealt with under item 11 on the agenda. (See minute 427).

430. Cycle Route 16

The Parish Council had warned the contractors that the signs they had installed indicating the cycle route to Stansted Airport could be misinterpreted by motorists who could follow the signs believing them to be applicable to motorists. Already a taxi had driven down the track and become stuck in the ditch. In addition a number of other cars had taken to the cycle route when the M11 was closed, presumably because they had assumed this was the alternative route. There is photographic and video evidence of both incidents. Mike Newport from the contractors had been notified of the incidents but had not yet responded.

RG requested that the emails to Mike Newport be copied to him and he would take the matter up with Chris Radley of the Cycle Development Group.

431. Employment

This was a closed part of the meeting and RG left the meeting.

It was agreed that 1 point would be added to the parish clerk's salary calculation in accordance with LC1, making a revised total of 24 points. MD will confirm this to the clerk together with confirmation of the revised annual salary.

432. Adoption of Birchanger Parish Council Grant Policy.

This was adopted.

433. Contribution towards cost of World War One anniversary commemorations

Birchanger Social Club in conjunction with Birchanger Parish Council will be organising this event. It was suggested that the Parish Council fund the hire of a brass band which is expected to cost circa £400. AD will refer this to the organising committee for their comments.

434. Items arising from the Annual Parish Meeting

1. Adding "Walkers" to the Cycle and Horse Riding signs.
The parish clerk is to write to Robin Wallbank requesting the addition of "Walkers" to the signs.
2. Reduce the banking along Birchanger Lane between Hillside Cottages and Stansted Road.
The parish clerk is to contact Highways Rangers to request that the banking which is their responsibility be cut back. The parish clerk is also to write to Sion House to request that they cut back the bank adjoining their property.

435. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.16.