

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

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

Ray Gooding (RG) – County Councillor
Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)

469. Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

470. Apologies and Reason for Absence

None

471. Declarations of Interest

None

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

None

473. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 5th June 2018 (previously circulated) were agreed as a true and accurate record, and duly signed by the Chairman.

474. Recreation Ground Working Group/Allotments – Glebeland

a. Recreation Ground

Dave Debnam has already submitted an estimate for the work required, which has been approved, and will be given instructions to proceed with the remaining work shortly.

b. Allotment report

LP reported that Debbie Crouch (DC) rang to tell her of a sleeping bag, with lots of burn marks, that was found in the shelter. Also a large picnic style seat that she also found around the shelter area. DC came from the rec' to her house with the bags of rubbish, including the two items. LP also noticed cellophane wrapped dead flowers. LP took some photos, DC took the rubbish away, apart from the seat, just in case it had been removed from the allotments.

LP has sent Peter Wilton an email regarding the seat and has suggested a quarterly meeting at the allotments.

475. 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 2018

HSBC Community account	£21202.25
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2. Payments due for June 2018

SSE	Chq 100603	£500.00 (Donation – already paid)
Angie Driscoll	Chq 100604	£41.00 (reimbursement – already paid)
Ace of Spades	Chq 100605	£249.60 (maintenance May 2018)
e-on	DD	£73.30 (electricity for May 2018)
Birchanger Church Hall	Chq 100606	£10.00 (hire of hall – 1/5/18)
Jean Williams	Chq 100607	£16.00 (plants for Duck End triangle)
Clerks salary	Chq 100608	£395.85 (salary for June 2018)
HMRC	Chq 100609	£98.80 (paye for month 03)
Office rental	Chq 100610	£20.00 (office rental for June 2018)
TBS Hygeine	Chq 100611	£38.88 (dog bin emptying May 2018)

<u>Total payments for June 2018</u>	<u>£14443.43</u>
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3. Account Balances c/f at 30th June 2018

HSBC Community account 51624067	£19758.82
HSBC Business Money Manager account	£43216.68
Natwest current account	<u>£13608.65</u>
	£74584.15

476. Footpaths

KW had not yet had the opportunity to discuss footpath matters with LP and SD but they hope to meet shortly, and will then report back to the parish council. He did remind councillors of the earlier response from Robin Wallbank.

“Dear Mr Wheatley

Thank you for your email and I apologise for the delay in replying to your earlier email with your very thorough and well explained report. I am working with my PROW Inspector in order to fully apprehend the information contained within your detailed report. Though at this point I won't go through each point in turn in this email, I thought I might provide certain notes in order for you to respond to the Parish Council.

With regard to cross-field compliance by landowners and farmers, these should be noted on the internet recording system and they can be dealt with by our PROW inspector and or our Enforcement Officer. The Enforcement Officer can provide Legal Notices to carry out work and go through Court proceedings, though this one the last resorts. I am aware some parish councils who have landowners on their council board or are friends of the parish, have kept the certain issues of not reinstating cross fields paths within their group. However, noncompliance of the law may or could affect any rural payment they currently hold or about to receive. The non compliance of the cross –field paths have been noted and I will put through our system and ask the PROW Inspector to speak to the landowners in question.

With regard to the Footpath 22 Birchanger; this footpath was being looked at by the Definitive Map team along with Highways England as this path was supposed to be dealt with under the various Side Road Orders when the M11 was built. I have contacted our Definitive Map Team again about this path in order to remind them of the need to deal with it.

With regard to your report where you mention Footpath 27 Birchanger, you may be referring to Footpath 29 Birchanger. There are issues with this footpath that I have made to our Highway Records Team, the Definitive Map Team and to those carrying out works to the works to the footbridge. I will press upon the definitive map team and others about the legal line and advise you further when I know more. The main issue is that the actual route on the ground may need to be claimed or the original diverted to its current line. Please see the map extract below, which shows the location of the steps.

The County Council budgets for Public Rights of Way, as you may have already guessed is very minimal and may only get smaller in the coming years. Certain activities have to be prioritised across the whole County and the whole service and some activities are not a high priority. Although signage at the end of a footpath, where it meets a metaled road is a legal requirement, there is no legal time frame associated with the work. However, I have made a note of those issues you raise and will add them to the list of works required. Some activities can be carried out by volunteer groups or local volunteers, especially where our budgets won't permit. You mention volunteers in your report and Essex County Council do have a volunteering scheme, especially for Parish Councils. The scheme is called the parish paths partnership (3P's) and the usual work undertaken by volunteers is clearance, small bridge building, step building and waymarking. Further information on the scheme can be found our web pages which may be of use to you.

When I have further information to offer on the above and your report, I will contact you again

Kind Regards

Robin Wallbank”

[2018/101]

477. Highways

Work has commenced on the Churton Bend footpath and on the new street lights. JR advised that he had seen what appeared to be a survey vehicle from UDC in the village but is not aware of its purpose.

What looks like cameras have appeared on lamp-posts at Churton Bend and Birchwood. RG will make enquiries as to their purpose.

During the road obstructions whilst the work is being carried out it is expected that buses will turn round at Birchanger Club

478. Local Plan

EG advised that the plan was out for consultation and urged all residents to submit their comments by 13th August. The parish clerk will submit the comments of the parish council.

There have previously been development applications from landowners in Birchanger which, so far, have been refused as the developments would be in Green Belt.

479. Cycle Path

EG reported that following a meeting with Mike Newport and Phillipa Saunders on 21st June, the following changes/alterations have been agreed.

- The sign at Duck End is too close to the road and will be moved back.
- Two of the signs along the lane will be removed.
- The sign at the start of bridleway 18 house will be replaced with a purpose-built wooden sign.
- Reflectors on gates, which a safety audit had shown to be missing, will be reset on the marker posts.
- Removal of the wooden fence would be made easier to allow for farm vehicles.
- There will be an additional sign on the bridge to warn of the possible presence of horses.
- Care signs will be fitted on the bridge (using old signs from the Lane).
- Slow marking on the road surface.
- Additional multi-use signs.
- More topsoil will be applied to the entrance to the Lane.
- The sign at the roundabout will be reduced in size.

- The sign at the hotel entrance will not be removed.
- The airport directional signs at the roundabout will not be reduced in size.

The contractor has already been given instructions to proceed and it is hoped that work will commence within a month.

480. Car park resurfacing

JR reported that there is still some remedial work to be done.

481. Speed reduction signs in Birchanger Lane

Rissa Long has not responded to previous enquiries about speed reduction signs. RG will make contact and ask her to expedite. The VAS signs cost approximate £6500 each. The matter will be discussed further when Rissa Long has responded.

482. Reports from County/District councillors

Ray Gooding

1. 1926 children have been removed from schools in the county for home schooling. There is a particular issue regarding children with special needs. This is an issue that Essex County Council is trying to address. They have no power to intervene. There will be national consultation.
2. The County Council is trying to encourage residents to take more exercise in an effort to combat type 2 diabetes. This is a condition which can be avoidable through exercise.

483. Parish visit from Uttlesford Rangers

The parish council considers this a good idea. The parish clerk to contact the Rangers for suggested dates.

484. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.49.