

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting  
held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 8.00 pm.  
in Birchanger Village Hall**

**Present:** Angie Driscoll (AD) – Chair  
Maria Davy (MD)  
Elizabeth Godwin (EG)  
George Taylor (GT)  
Peter Sampson (PS)  
John Revell (JR)  
Linda Pocklington (LP)  
Ken Wheatley (KW)

Ray Gooding (RG)– County Councillor  
Helen Morris (HM) – Essex County Council  
Malcom Barrell (MB) – Uttlesford Community Travel

3 members of the public  
Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)

**563. Chairman’s Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

**564. Apologies for Absence**

None

**565. Declarations of Interest**

None

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

None

**567. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (previously circulated) were agreed as a true and accurate record, and duly signed by the Chairman.

**568. DART transport bus for Birchanger**

RG advised that Essex County Council (ECC) had an issue with the current reliability of routes 7/7A which serve Birchanger. Only the morning and late afternoon buses makes money. There had also been considerable disruption to the service due to road works, with the service often cancelled. There is a possible alternative and he invited HM and MB to address the council with their proposals.

According to HM, 85% of the bus network is commercial which means that the Council has little control over their operations. There is also a limited budget for bus travel. HM said that there are three options to be considered.

**[2019/124]**

- a. Diverting the existing services, but there are many different demands from existing users.
- b. Utilising Essex Transport Services, which is a more local and personal service.
- c. Stansted have a budget for maintaining public transport services to the airport and college. Stansted Airport invites propositions for uses of the budget. There is a working group for assessing projects.

MB then provided details of the Uttlesford Community Travel scheme, which is a charitable organisation to help provide transport for those people for whom public transport is not always viable. There is an individual membership fee of £10. A member may then book transport for their needs. This can be Book-a-Ride, which provides door to door minibus services (for which there would be a charge, currently £3.30 per mile) or the Hospital Car Service which provides volunteer car drivers to take members to hospital appointments. There is currently a charge of 45p per mile for this service.

## **569. Recreation Ground Working Group/Allotments/Glebeland**

### **1. Recreation Ground (report from LP)**

With regard to the equipment repairs, GT had met with Play Maintain on 18<sup>th</sup> February to discuss cost of repairs but at the time of the meeting there had been no response. The picnic tables have been repaired (with thanks to John Revell) and the roundabout painted. The bins have not been emptied. LP will contact Debbie Crouch to find out what is happening. There is still apparently some church-related rubbish being deposited in the bins.

### **2. Allotments (report from LP)**

LP had already provided the following report, which had been circulated, on a meeting with the chairman of the Allotments Holders' Association, Peter Wilton, on Saturday, 23rd February. This is the first of the four meetings that are planned annually.

With just a few exceptions the plots look well managed. A few empty plots remain. Peter Wilton is to contact Peter Sampson re: an article in the Birchanger magazine. Fifteen plots have been taken on. Peter has received rent from all allotment holders' for the year beginning 1st January 2019. Peter Wilton would like Birchanger Clerk to confirm this. [This has been done].

One plot has been vacated, the holder having moved to Oxford before clearing the plot. Peter will ask the other allotment holders' if they can make use of the wooden pallets and other items that litter the plot.

Footpath 13, dividing the allotments, is accessible. Although the finger post is covered with ivy, the sign is readable for the moment.

The mixed native hedge (roadside) is growing well and looking more dense, less spindly, since the recent clip.

[LP] will also approach Dave Debnam to obtain a quote for removing debris from vacated plots.

### **3. Amendment to rules re: deposit.**

LP had asked Peter Wilton to make a report with any suggestions, and this has been received. A deposit is supported in principle by the parish council but it is suggested that Peter Wilton be given the opportunity to discuss this with plot holders. [KW] will prepare amended rules and [LP] will discuss again with Peter Wilton.

[2019/125]

**570. 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 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019**

HSBC Community account	£38272.71
Account adjustment	0.08
Allotment income	167.50
VAT rebate	<u>5042.15</u>
	£ 43482.44
Transfer of funds from NatWest	<u>£ 13608.65</u>
	£ 57091.09

**2. Payments due for February 2019**

A&J Lighting	SO	£45.90 (monthly charge)
e-on	DD	£79.40 (electricity for January 2019)
ICO	DD	£40.00 (Data Protection fee)
SLCC	Chq 100673	£106.00 (renewal of membership)
Affinity for Business(K Williams)	Chq 100674	£42.65 (Water rates)
TBS Hygeine Ltd	Chq 100675	£77.76 (dog bin emptying)
SSE	Chq 100676	£20.00 (renewal of membership)
Clerks salary	Chq 100677	£395.65 (salary for February 2019)
Office rental	Chq 100678	£20.00 (office rental for February 2019)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	Chq 100679	£99.00 (paye for month 11)
Ace of Spades	Chq 100680	£249.60 (grounds maintenance)

Total payments for February 2019 £1175.96

**3. Account Balance c/f 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

HSBC Community account 51624067	£55915.13
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**571. Planning**

**UTT/19/0211/HHF – 17 Bradley Common**

**Demolition of existing side conservatory and erection of single storey side extension.**

No comments.

**572. Neighbourhood Watch/Speedwatch/CSC initiative**

**CSC Initiative**

PS Has forwarded required material (photo of church and description of the village) for advertising for a CSC to Les Hawkins (Specials Supported Policing Coordinator) and awaits finished artwork for advert approval.

**Community Speed Watch (CSW);**

Training and initial operations to start mid-March.

**Neighbourhood Watch (report from PS)**

Uttlesford Neighbourhood Watch leaflet is now with the Printers and will be distributed in Birchanger early March.

The first Birchanger Neighbourhood Watch meeting was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> February at the church hall. 12 people attended (2 people were unable to attend) where I outlined the aims of NhW, Speedwatch and the CSC initiative. Very positive discussions.

Essex Fire service will make a block visit to Birchwood bungalows to offer Fire safety advice and will supply or replace fire alarms free of charge on the 4<sup>th</sup> March.

I visited two residents and also met their son who declined my offer of a visit from the Fire Service or from the community agents. They said they already had these services in place.

I am also in touch with the Community Agents who will visit and support older people including their informal carers, promoting health and independence and provide information.

NhW will supply a mobile exhibition stand for the Birchanger Fete September 7<sup>th</sup>.

**573. Stansted Airport**

Nothing further to report.

**574. Annual Parish Meeting**

7<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

**575. Parish Council elections**

The parish clerk, having attended a recent briefing in which he collected nomination packs, handed the packs out to existing councillors. There are further packs for other nominations. Nominations must be submitted to UDC by 4.00pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> April

**[2019/127]**

**576. Reports from County and District Councillors**

**From RG.**

1. With regard to the forthcoming works to remove the roundabout, preparatory work has been completed to assess ground conditions. When work on the A120 starts this will inevitably encourage "rat runs" through the village although work on Birchanger Lane should help to mitigate this. The contractors have not as yet agreed any other mitigating measures.
2. At a full Essex County Council meeting a 3.99% increase in council tax was agreed.
3. £1m is to be allocated to mental health issues.
4. £500,000 will allocated towards county lines issues.

**577. Closure of meeting**

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.14.

**[2019/128]**