

**Minutes of virtual Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 6th October 2020 at 7.30 pm.
via Zoom.**

Present: Angie Driscoll (AD) – Chair
Peter Sampson (PS)
George Taylor (GT)
Geof Driscoll (GD)
Linda Pocklington (LP)
Sally Taylor (ST)

Melvin Caton (district councillor) (MC)
Ayab Khan (district councillor) (AK)
Ray Gooding (county councillor) (RG)

Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)

734. Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

735. Apologies for Absence

John Revell (JR)- unable to log in.

736. Declarations of Interest

None

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

None.

738. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 1st September 2020 (previously circulated) were agreed as a true and accurate record, and will be duly signed by the Chairman.

739. Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Appeal

A donation of £100 was agreed.

740. Letter from Kemi Badenoch – re Planning for the Future

The parish clerk had circulated the letter to councillors. The Parish Council has already submitted a response to both issues.

741. Recreation Ground

GT said all the signs were now up. The cost was £270 plus a few pence.
He would like JR to look at the picnic tables sometime before next Spring.

742. Finance

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

The parish clerk confirmed that the payment to Strutt and Parker for Glebeland rent was by direct debit.

1. Account Balances b/f 31st August 2020

Unity Trust Bank	53028.67
VAT rebate	855.85
Balance at 31/08/20	53884.52

2. Payments due for September 2020

A&J Lighting	SO	45.90 (monthly maintenance)
Ace of Spades	On line	249.60 (grass cutting August 2020)
e-on	DD	90.50 (electricity for August 2020)
TBS Hygiene	On line	115.20 (dog bin and rubbish bin emptying)
Strutt & Parker (Diocese)	DD	325.00 (Glebeland rent Oct-Mar 2021)
Keith Williams	On line	421.10 (salary for September 2020)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	On line	105.40 (PAYE for September 2020)
Keith Williams	On line	20.00 (office rent September 2020)
Unity Bank	DD	18.00 (service charge)

Total payments for September 2020 1390.70

3. Account Balance c/f 30th September 2020

Unity Trust Bank a/c no 20419053	
Precept receipt – 1 st instalment	5107.50
Balance at 30/09/2020	57601.32

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

743. Planning

UTT/20/2403/HHF – 18 Harrisons, Birchanger

Demolition of existing rear extension and erection of single storey rear extension.

There is a small half a width of the property extension there at present. The plan is to demolish this and create what is going to be a very large extension to the rear going right across and it is large in depth as well. The house is semi-detached and this must impact upon the neighbour although the neighbour's house is set back more and may have been extended already. We would query the size. There used to be a guideline on the proportionality of an extension and this could exceed it. The gardens are large so that is not the problem. We would simply comment that the extension is very large and there are concerns about the impact of this upon the neighbouring property.

744. Reports from County and District Councillors

Report from District Councillor Ayab Khan (AK)

There is due to be a full council meeting this week. One motion will be a response to the new planning proposals. It is anticipated that there are likely to be unplanned speculative developments.

Report from County Councillor Ray Gooding (RG)

- 92.5% of children have returned school. This compares with the national average of 88%.
- A number of people have taken the decision to home educate their children. There is a recommendation that a national register be kept of the children being home educated.
- There is an increase in children going into care.
- There has been an increase in the rate of Covid-19 cases in Uttlesford, to 60 per 100,000. The population of Uttlesford is 90,000.
- The best option to deter parking along Birchanger Lane past the ambulance station is to create a clearway. This will prevent parking on the verge. RG will investigate ownership of the land behind the verge.

RG has looked at the expanse of water adjacent to Gower Barn after the recent heavy rain. There is some concrete obstruction which is causing water to back up. He has reported the problem.

[NB: County and District Councillors were asked to leave the meeting at this point as the next item is considered to be confidential].

745. Parish Clerk's salary increase

GT said the clerk's performance had been satisfactory and recommended a scale point increase of 1 point to 17. This was agreed.

746. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19.59.

[2020/170]