

**Draft Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 1st October 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)
Geof Driscoll (GD)
Linda Pocklington (LP)

Ray Gooding (RG) – County Councillor
Ayab Khan (AK) – District Councillor
Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)

649. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

650. Apologies for Absence

None

651. Declarations of Interest

None

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

None.

653. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 3rd September 2019 (previously circulated) were agreed as a true and accurate record, and duly signed by the Chairman.

654. Recreation Ground/Allotments/Glebeland

Recreation Ground

GT has still not heard from PlayMaintain since their email of 18th September. He has chased them again. GD will ask other parish councils which contractors they use for Recreation/Playground maintenance and repair work. Although it is considered not practicable to change this year, the alternatives could be considered for next year.

LP advised that some tables still need attention. JR said that he had repaired one table today. The stile is made from oak and JR thinks that the likely cost for a replacement of similar timber could be around £600. GT is to produce a sign saying the stile is unsafe. The roundabout has a couple of damaged timber members. GT confirmed that this is on PlayMaintain's repair schedule.

Allotments

There is an overhanging oak tree. LP will ask Jay Leavers to quote for cutting back.

655. 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 August 2019

HSBC Community account	£56412.98
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2. Payments due for September 2019

A&J Lighting	SO	£45.90 (monthly maintenance charge)
Ace of Spades	Chq 100733	£249.60 (maintenance for August 2019)
e-on	DD	£90.50 (electricity for August 2019)
A&J Lighting	Chq 100734	£139.02 (repairs to street light)
PKF Littlejohn	Chq 100735	£240.00 (audit fee)
Clerks salary	Chq 100736	£421.10 (salary for September 2019)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	Chq 100737	£105.40 (PAYE for September 2019)
Keith Williams	Chq 100738	£20.00 (office rental for September 2019)
Essex & Herts Air Ambulance	Chq 100739	£100.00 (donation)

<u>Total payments for September 2019</u>	<u>£1411.52</u>
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3. Account Balance c/f 30th September 2019

HSBC Community account 51624067	£55001.46
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c. Discuss changes to banking arrangements, permitting BACS payments.

The parish clerk is to provide some reviews on Unity Trust Bank, including EALC, which is the potential new bank being considered.

656. Planning

There were no planning applications to consider.

657. Community Speed Watch

Birchanger Community Speed Watch Training

Speed watch training has been booked for Wednesday 6th November at 13.00 for two hours at the village hall. 12 volunteers have been invited. Two sites have been approved

Training is given by the following agency:

Liam Collins AMRSGB
Road safety Technician
Mob. **07720097196**



658. VE Day Celebration

Birchanger Sports and Social Club has requested that a volunteer from the Parish Council join their organisation committee. AD volunteered.

659. SSE

GD had provided an update. There were no questions.

660. Completion of External Auditors Report and Certificate

The parish clerk reported that the external audit was now completed, and the auditors had issued the certificate. There had been a minor issue regarding display of notices which was noted for future audits.

661. Reports from County and District Councillors

AD started by thanking RG for digging out the trapped water by the Social Club.

Report from RG.

- The ditch in front of the Club is full of silt. He will discuss this with the Club.
- The Community Transport Services bus service is unlikely to be introduced at this stage. The question of concessionary bus passes has still not been resolved.
- A cross-party group is looking into the question of children missing education, which currently numbers 2300.
- In the nominations for annual awards there is now a category for young carer.
- He will discuss with Robin Walbank of ECC regarding the Japanese Knotweed which is still flowering.

Report from AK.

- Apologies for not attending previous meetings.
- The Planning Committee was collating evidence for the Stansted Airport application.
- A report on the Local Plan from the inspector is expected within the next two weeks. If the entire Local Plan is accepted then speculative development should cease.
- An Investment Board had been set up to consider all future investments.
- UDC currently has a cabinet system but may move to a committee system. This is being looked at by a working group to decide which works best for residents.
- A amount of £2000 is being made available via district councillors for local groups.

662. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.445.

[2019/149]