

Draft Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 7.30 pm.
In Birchanger Village Hall

Present: Angie Driscoll (AD) – Chair
Peter Sampson (PS)
Geof Driscoll (GD) (arrived at approx 20.00 hrs).
Keith Edgeworth (KE)
Linda Pocklington (LP)

0 members of the public
Keith Williams (KW) – Parish Clerk

1295. Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

1296. Apologies for Absence

Sally Taylor (ST)
George Taylor (GT)

1297. Declarations of Interest

GD as District Councillor for another ward.

1298. Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

None

1299. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 5th November 2024 had been previously circulated. They were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

1300. Land between Stansted and Birchanger

A consortium called City and Country (C&C) had circulated a leaflet in which they proposed developing a considerable area of Green Belt land between Stansted and Birchanger with the aim of building a substantial number of houses. PS, AD and GD had attended a drop in organised by City and Country to present their plans.

AD, GD and ST attended a meeting with Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council and C&C. No assessments have yet been carried out and the sites identified had previously been submitted for planning under the Local Plan Call for Sites and all refused by UDC. City and Country hoped to have some of the land re-designated from Green Belt to Grey which, they hoped, would make planning permission more likely. Their intention is to produce actual plans and meet with the two parish councils some time next year.

1301. Planning

UTT/24/2554-5/HHF – Duck End Farmhouse

Retrospective application for cement render replacement etc.

No objections.

[2024/306]

1302. Village Green

It is suggested that the Green should be registered. ST will be asked to consult Open Spaces for advice. Easement rights relating to the Green have already been investigated and none found.

1303. Dog Bins

The new dog bin and post have been purchased and a contractor has been retained for installation. An amount of £314.40 was quoted for labour and materials. This quotation was agreed. AD will instruct the contractor to proceed.

1304. Membership of Open Spaces Society

It was agreed to proceed with membership of this organisation.

1305. Finance

- a. **Account Balances (already circulated).**
Noted
- b. **Invoices and payments for approval.**
Approved

1. Account Balances b/f 31st October 2024

Unity Trust Bank **29984.34**

2. Payments due for November 2024

A&J Lighting	SO	45.90 (lighting maintenance)
Npower	DD	191.88 (electricity for October 2024)
George Taylor	Already paid	83.94 (nets for recreation ground)
TBS Hygiene	Online	178.20 (dog bin emptying November)
Val Evans	Online	106.00 (internal auditors fee)
Defib Store (Keith Williams)	Already paid	156.00 (defibrillator pads)
Payroo	Online	6.00 (payroll expenses October)
Glasdon (Keith Williams)	Already paid	359.41 (dog bin)
Open Spaces Society	Online	45.00 (subscription)
Uttlesford Assoc of Local Councils	Online	5.00 (subscription)
Keith Williams	Online	714.73 (salary for Nov 2024 inc back pay)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	Online	178.80 (PAYE for November 2024)
Keith Williams	Online	20.00 (office rent for November 2024)
EALC	Online	96.00 (PROW Training)

Total payments for November 2024 **2186.86**

Account Balance 30/11/2024 **27797.48**

Notes: The payments to HMRC, Defib Store and Glasdon were made by the parish clerk and are being reimbursed.

- c. **Agree Parish Clerk's increase in salary and back pay.**

The new rates had been calculated and distributed by GT, and were agreed by the Parish Council.

d. Agree Precept for 2025-2026

GT had previously circulated his recommendation of £24545 as the Precept for 2025-2026. This was agreed and the Parish Clerk will advise UDC.

1306. Allotments/Recreation Ground

Allotments

The original contractor will not be completing the trimming of the trees due to ill health. GD has given LP details of an alternative. LP will obtain separate quotes for trimming the oak tree and the other trees.

Recreation Ground

In the absence GT there is nothing to report.

1307. Reports from County and District Councillors

None.

1308. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.24.

[2024/308]