

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting  
held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 8.30 pm.  
in Birchanger Village Hall**

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

Ray Gooding (County councillor)  
Terry Farthing (District councillor)  
Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)

**323. Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

**324. Apologies and Reason for Absence**

None

**325. Declarations of Interest**

JR declared an interest as brother of the provider of cost indication for works under agenda item 10.

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

There were no representations from the public.

**327. Minutes of the last meeting**

Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017 was proposed by EG and agreed as a true and accurate record, and duly signed by the Chairman.

**328. Recreation Ground Working Group/Allotments – Glebeland**

**a) Recreation ground report from AS (already circulated)**

LP advised that Debbie Crouch had found some drug bags amongst the general litter. Other items were reported such as graffiti.

**b) Consider quotation from Ace of Spades for clearing allotment area.**

This was agreed and the parish clerk was asked to contact AOS and ask them to proceed.

**c) Repairs to recreation ground equipment**

Some minor equipment damage had been reported. AS pointed out that, unlike larger councils, Birchanger does not have an “in house” handyman who can be called upon to address every issue as it arises. He therefore proposed that he waits until there are a number of issues requiring attention before contacting David Debnam. Obviously if a serious matter comes to light which requires immediate attention, then this would be dealt with accordingly. This was accepted.

AS had mentioned in his report that the zipwire was making a grating noise and wondered if repair or maintenance was required. The clerk advised that he had already contacted the suppliers, HAGS, to enquire about regular inspection and maintenance and was awaiting a reply.

**329. Adopt Employment Committee Terms of Reference (previously circulated)**

MD advised that she would be adding a Sickness and Absence clause. The terms of reference were adopted subject to the additional clause.

**330. Planning application UTT/17/2257/HHF – Forest Hall Barn**

No comments.

**331. Finance**

- a. Account Balances (already circulated).
- b. The payments were accepted and authorised to be made.

**332. Discuss budget for re-surfacing Village Hall car park**

The council was satisfied that this was a valid project within the terms of s137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The clerk was asked to obtain two further estimates for consideration.

**333. Discuss possible grant to Birchanger Social Club**

The council was not satisfied that this was a valid project within the terms of s137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The grant application was therefore declined. The clerk was asked to write to the Social Club to advise them of the decision.

**334. Reports from county and district councillors**

**Terry Farthing**

- In the next couple of years there will be a shortfall in revenue due to a reduction in government funding. Uttlesford District Council has created a commercial operation called Aspire. It has purchased a 50% interest in the science park at Great Chesterford and it is hoped that the revenue which this generates will help cover this shortfall.

**[2017/070]**

- Uttlesford District Council is creating a state-of-the-art sports facility at Carver Barracks. There has already been considerable interest in the use of these facilities.

**Ray Gooding**

- A new bus contractor is now operating the 7/7a route. There have been complaints from some Elsenham residents that bus drivers are driving too fast.
- The “Birchanger Lake” drain has cleared again following recent flooding.

**335. Closure of meeting**

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.15.

[2017/071]