

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting  
held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 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)  
Linda Pocklington (LP)

Ray Gooding (RG) – County Councillor  
Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)

**663. Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

**664. Apologies for Absence**

Geof Driscoll

**665. Declarations of Interest**

None

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

None.

**667. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 (previously circulated) were agreed as a true and accurate record, and duly signed by the Chairman.

**668. Recreation Ground/Allotments/Glebeland**

**Recreation Ground**

There has still been no response from Play Maintain and it was agreed that the council should cease efforts to employ this company and try to find an alternative. The parish clerk has posted a request to the EALC "E Bulletin" for any recommendations from other parishes for recreation ground maintenance companies. GT will also investigate alternatives.

The stile has been replaced by JR, who is looking into the possibility of repairing the roundabout.

**Allotments**

LP had circulated the allotment report whose contents had been noted. The following is a summary.

**[2019/150]**

Linda Pocklington met Peter Wilton, chairman of the association on Saturday 12th October 2019. This is the third of the four meetings that are planned annually.

Points noted:

- All allotments are occupied.
- Footpath 13 that divides the allotments is accessible but requires attention regarding nettles/long grass growing along the chicken wire boundary fence.
- The finger post for Footpath 13 is covered in ivy, the sign barely readable. Requires a cut back.
- Bramble that is growing through the chicken wire boundary fencing to an allotment needs attention.
- Oak branches that overhang an allotment are going to be assessed and a quote given for the removal of the branches.

## 669. Finance

a. Account Balances (already circulated) – noted.

b. Invoices and payments

### 1. Account Balances b/f at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019

HSBC Community account	£55001.46
Received precept payment	9788.00
Paid Glebeland rent	<u>325.00</u>
Balance at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	£64464.46

### 2. Payments due for October 2019

Ace of Spades	Chq 100740	£249.60 (maintenance for September 2019)
A&J Lighting	SO	£45.90 (monthly maintenance charge)
e-on	DD	£87.68 (electricity for September 2019)
TBS Hygeine	Chq 100741	£86.40 (emptying of dog bins)
Birchanger Church Hall	Chq 100742	£10.00 (hire of hall)
Payroo	Chq 100743	£6.00 (payroll 6/9/19-5/10/19)
UALC	Chq 100744	£5.00 (renewal of membership)
Clerks salary	Chq 100745	£421.30 (salary for October 2019)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	Chq 100746	£105.20 (PAYE for October 2019)
Royal British Legion	Chq 100747	£30.00 (donation)
Keith Williams	Chq 100748	£20.00 (office rental for October 2019)
Payroo	Chq 100749	£6.00 (payroll 6/8/19-5/9/19)
John Revell	Chq 100750	£520.00 (new stile at Recreation Ground)

Total payments for October 2019 £1592.98

### 3. Account Balance c/f 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019

HSBC Community account 51624067 £62871.48

Note: The cheque payments to Payroo for payroll software are made out to parish clerk, Keith Williams. Payroo make a charge if payment is made by cheque. The parish clerk therefore pays online from his own bank account and is reclaiming the payment. This also applies to the payment to HMRC for PAYE as only payments from a debit account are free.

**c. Change of bankers to Unity Bank**

This was agreed and the parish clerk was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

**d. Agree donation of £30 for purchase of wreath for Royal British Legion.**

This was agreed.

**670. Planning**

There were no planning applications to consider.

**671. Community Speed Watch**

- Birchanger Community Speed Watch Training is scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> November.
- It was agreed to spend up to £1200 for purchase of the speed gun and accessories.

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

**Report from RG.**

- The Japanese knotweed was being dealt with.
- The debris along the sand track has still not been cleared. RG has spoken to the lady who rents the arena. She is arranging for a skip to be delivered to the site and she will remove the debris.
- The works in Elsenham are due to finish on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and bus routes 7 and 7a can resume their normal routes.

**673. Closure of meeting**

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19.57.

**[2019/152]**