

Draft Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 7th June 2022 at 7.30 pm.
In Birchanger Village Hall

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

County Councillor Ray Gooding (RG)

Keith Williams (KW) – Parish Clerk

1 member of the public

944. Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

945. Apologies for Absence

Geof Driscoll (GD)

946. Declarations of Interest

None.

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

A resident asked why there had been no response to his query regarding the obscured road sign. RG will ask if Rangers can clear the overhanging growth. The parish clerk will ask Ace of Spades if they can clear.

948. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 17th May 2022 (previously circulated) were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

949. Finance

a. Accounts Balances (already circulated)

Noted

b. Invoices and payments for approval

Approved

c. Submission of annual return to external auditors

The parish clerk confirmed that the full return had been submitted to the external auditors.

[2022/218]

950. Planning

1. UTT/22/1500/FUL – 351 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger

Proposed change of use from garden to dog field including the construction of a temporary seating shelter and permeable hardstanding parking area.

The Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds;

- a. The development is in Green Belt.
- b. This is a commercial operation on Green Belt land.
- c. There is a concern regarding access. The entrance to Duck End is situated by a sharp blind bend. An increase in road use would therefore significantly increase risk. Although the application says that a maximum of five cars would be allowed at any one time, there could potentially be a stream of cars throughout the day.
- d. There is an issue regarding noise. Additional vehicle use, customer access and dog barking will all increase ambient noise.

951. Wig Wag signs

Lee Scott of Essex Highways has spoken to LHP. He has been advised that the matter is being progressed but is awaiting actual dates.

RG will check the current position.

952. Junction 8/A120 roundabout

J8

The closures have been put back until 10th June 2022.

A120 roundabout

Work has commenced and some soil has been removed. There is no date yet known for the closure of Birchanger Lane.

953. Allotments/Recreation Ground

- GT has been trying to obtain a report from HAGs on the zip wire but there has been no response to date.
- JR has repaired the litter bin with a zinc plate.
- LP has spoken to Zoe about the new locks.
- Some allotments are overgrown. Zoe will investigate.

954. Donation to Birchanger Wood Trust

Before agreeing any amount LP will obtain some details of the Trust's operating costs.

955. Footpaths

- A member of the public advised that Footpath 15 had now been cut.
- ST has walked several of the footpaths. There could be problems for people with mobility issues as some paths are quite narrow.

[2022/219]

956. Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr Ray Gooding

- A Highways contact will be coming to the village on the 17th June to assess the various problems.
- Drain covers are being stolen across the county so replacement of broken covers can be a problem.
- There is a problem with support for persons leaving hospital who require ongoing care. Previously ECC was allowed to have social workers within the hospital but this is no longer allowed. This can result in there being a time gap between a patient leaving hospital and the arrangement of home care.

957. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.30 .

[2022/220]