

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 7th December 2021 at 7.30 pm.
In Birchanger Village Hall**

Present: Angie Driscoll (AD) – Chair
George Taylor (GT)
Linda Pocklington (LP)
John Revell (JR)

0 members of the public
Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)

871. Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

872. Apologies for Absence

Sally Taylor (ST)
Peter Sampson (PS)
Geof Driscoll (GD)
District Cllr Ayub Khan (AK)
County Cllr Ray Gooding (RG)

873. Declarations of Interest

None.

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

None

875. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 2nd November 2021 (previously circulated) were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

876. Finance

a. Accounts Balances (already circulated)

Noted

b. Invoices and payments for approval

Approved

1. Account Balances b/f 31st October 2021

Unity Trust Bank 34813.40

2. Payments due for November 2021

Ace of Spades	On line	249.60 (grass maintenance October 2021)
A&J Lighting	SO	45.90 (monthly maintenance)
EALC	On line	24.00 (Highways briefing-GD)
Essex & Herts Air Ambulance	On line	100.00 (donation-already paid)
Eon	DD	104.01 (electricity October 2021)
Payroo	On line	6.00 (payroll expenses)
Police & Crime Commissioner	On line	23.94 (period 01/07/21-30/09/21)
TBS Hygiene	On line	162.00 (dog bin and rubbish bin emptying)
Keith Williams	On line	441.23 (salary for November 2021)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	On line	110.40 (PAYE for November 2021)
Keith Williams	On line	20.00 (office rent November 2021)

Total payments for November 2021 1287.08

3. Account Balance c/f 30th November 2021

Balance @ 30/11/2021 33526.32
Balance c/f 33526.32

Note 1: The payments to HMRC was made by the parish clerk and is being reimbursed.

877. Planning

UTT/21/3511/HHF – 117 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger
Proposed conversion of garage/store to habitable space.

No objections.

878. Travellers Site

There was a meeting in the Village Hall on 5th November, chaired by Brian Ross and Ayub Khan, to discuss the Planning Inspector's decision to allow the travellers to remain on the site in Birchanger. In attendance was Peter Holt, the new CE of Uttlesford District Council. It was made clear by Mr Holt that although he strongly wished to uphold the restrictions of the Green Belt, and was disappointed with the inspector's decision, nevertheless UDC has decided that they will not be seeking a judicial review. [Note: A full report of the meeting can be found in the December edition of the Birchanger Village Magazine. In addition, the letter from Peter Holt setting out UDC's position can be viewed on the Village website].

879. Footpath 15

The footpath has now been cleared, although some of the cut-down vegetation has been left in situ. There is some concern that after heavy rain this could cause a blockage. The clerk will contact Robin Wallbank and ask that the vegetation be cleared.

880. Junction 8 roundabout improvements

The current plan is the same as previously in that, when the roundabout at the top of Birchanger Lane has been removed, residents will be allowed to cross the A120 in the direction of Dunmow Road. This crossing will be controlled by traffic lights.

David Sprunt of Essex Highways has offered to attend a meeting with the parish council to explain the full plan.

881. Allotments and Recreation Ground

Estimates for repair to both sites have been received.

It was suggested that the allotment gate be secured with a coded padlock. The code would be given to allotment holders. This was agreed and a suitable lock will be purchased.

882. Motor Cross track off Forest Hall Road

An area of land off Forest Hall Road is being used as a motor cross track normally for a period of 14 days each year. The secretary of the local residents group has advised that the track has been used many more times than this and has asked the Parish Council if it could intervene.

ADS has contacted Sarah Marshall of Enforcement at UDC. She has responded advising that there had been staffing issues within the Planning Enforcement Team. The officer who covered the area in which this site falls, left in April of this year and the vacancy was only filled in September. As such there have been delays in dealing with cases such as this. The case has now been reallocated to the new case officer, Oliver Sear, who will be attending the site to view the situation.

883. Donation to Royal British Legion

A donation of £35 was agreed. AD will give details of the recipients to the parish clerk.

884. UDC Local Plan – technical consultation

This has now been submitted and the parish council awaits the outcome. The next consultation is scheduled for March 2022.

885. Reports from County and District Councillors

None

886. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.35.

[2021/203]