

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 17th May 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

0 members of the public

930. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

931. Apologies for Absence

Geof Driscoll (GD)

932. Declarations of Interest

None.

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

None

934. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 5th April 2022 (previously circulated) were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

935. Finance

a. Accounts Balances (already circulated)
Noted

b. Invoices and payments for approval
Approved

c. Consider Accounting Statement 2021/2022

Councillors were satisfied that all requirements of the Statement had been met and the Statement was duly signed by the Chairman and Parish Clerk.

[2022/215]

936. Planning

There were no planning applications to consider.

937. Wig Wag signs

No action has yet been taken. AD has written to Cllr Lee Scott but has not yet received a response.

938. Junction 8/A120 roundabout

J8

This junction is due to close for 6 weekends starting originally on 20th May but subsequently changed to 10th June. A letter from National Highways has been delivered to all households in the village giving closure and diversion information.

A120 roundabout

RG and AD are to have a meeting with the contractors, SISK, regarding the works and date of closure of Birchanger Lane.

939. Meeting with Cllr Lee Scott of Essex County Council

AD met Cllr Lee Scott, Cabinet member for Highways on Thursday, April 7 at the hall. Also present were Ray Gooding (RG) and Geof Driscoll (GD).

AD spoke to him about the wig wags and pointed out the sign which was in the wrong place and the sign on the other side of the lane which, although in the right position didn't have the appropriate signage.

Also discussed was the lack of communication coming from Highways and how frustrating this was. Cllr Scott explained that ECC were short of staff but he hoped that with that communication would improve as new staff are appointed.

They drove round the village and pointed out various problems including the flooding at the corner of the lane and Stansted Road which is exacerbated by the overflowing drain outside number 69, "Birchanger Lake", and various other blocked drains. Cllr Scott said he would arrange for all the drains to be jetted. Cllr Scott asked RG to let him have a list of all the issues.

He was also shown raised ironworks on Birchwood and areas of moss on pavements in Birchwood and Harrisons which were slippery and dangerous when wet. Cllr Scott said that Highways could only deal with safety issues and not those that were purely cosmetic.

The lack of maintenance on the new cycle path was also discussed and is to be added to the list RG was asked to put together. The list is awaited.

940. Allotments/Recreation Ground

- GT has obtained a chain and padlock for the allotments main gate.
- The tap near the rear gate is no longer dripping, GT having changed the washer.
- GT has replaced the other tap.

Repairs to litter bin

TBS Hygiene have quoted an amount of £85.95 plus VAT to repair the bin. JR will inspect the bin to see if he can carry out a repair. If this is not possible the parish council agree to proceed with the repair by TBS Hygiene. He will also inspect the picnic tables as one is reported to be damaged.

941. Review Birchanger Parish Council Policy Documents

- a. **Birchanger Grant Policy (last adopted 04-2018).**
No changes.
- b. **Birchanger Code of Conduct (last adopted 12-2012).**
To be replaced by latest 2020 code.
- c. **Birchanger Complaints Procedure (last adopted 12-2018).**
No changes.
- d. **Birchanger Disciplinary Procedure (last adopted 04-2013).**
No changes.
- e. **Birchanger Sickness and Absence Policy (last adopted 03-2015).**
No changes.
- f. **Birchanger Standing Orders (last adopted 04-2019).**
No changes.
- g. **Birchanger Risk Management Plan.**
No changes.

ST has offered to format all the documents to provide a similar theme.

The parish clerk will contact Ken Wheatley to clarify the current situation regarding data back-up and access to data.

942. Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr Ray Gooding

- RG is arranging a date for a meeting with the contractors SISK, the company carrying out the J8 M11 repairs. AD will also attend the meeting.
- He believes that the Birchanger roundabout works has been delayed until the J8 M11 repairs have been completed.
- He has the list (see above item 936) and is arranging for Highways to prepare this for action. A copy will be sent to AD.

943. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.15 .