

Meeting of Birchanger Parish Council Held in the Church Hall
Birchanger on Tuesday September 6th, 2011
At 7:45pm in the Village Hall

Present: M. Davy – Chairman
 J. Peachey – Clerk
 M. Crossley
 A. Driscoll,
 L. Pocklington
 A. Stewart
 K. Wheatley
 R. Gooding

Apologies: J. Devine, E Godwin,

<p><u>52) TIME FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL</u> No matters were raised.</p>	
<p><u>53) DECLARATION OF INTEREST</u> MD declared an interest in planning B) Harrisons. AD declared an interest under finance where a request for funds from the CAB had been submitted.</p>	
<p><u>54) MINUTES</u> The monthly minutes of 5th July 2011 were agreed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by AD and seconded by KW. The minutes were then signed by the chairman.</p>	
<p><u>55) MATTERS ARISING</u> Chair stated that the playground repairs hadn't yet been done but were planned. Quotes for the painting of the football posts are still needed..</p>	JAP ✓
<p><u>56) PLANNING</u> A) Gypsy Census - During the first week of the summer holidays gypsies settled in the field opposite Meadowview on Stansted Road. Five or six caravans turned up early evening on Friday 29th July at 5:00 o'clock and left the following Thursday. Police were notified as was the landowner. The landowner has now dug up earth near the access point making the area more secure. B) UTT/1496/11/FUL - Erection of two storey front extension and canopy - 28 Harrisons Birchanger – no objections submitted C) UTT/1510/11/FUL - M11 J8 Birchanger Motorway Depot Start Hill Dunmow</p>	

<p>Road - Proposed erection of salt storage building. No objections submitted</p> <p>D) UTT/1516/11/FUL - Proposed porch on front elevation - 21 Newell Road Birchanger -Mr & Mrs Barnardt No comments</p> <p>E)Tri-sail Water Circle Elsenham Meadows – Elsenham. Comments to be made by 1st Sept 2011 – Further objections were submitted. See below:-</p> <p><i>The proposed development is in breach of planning policies designed to protect the countryside from coalescence with the airport (Policy S8 - countryside protection zone). Approval would set a precedent against these adopted policies that would destroy this rural area.</i></p> <p><i>Despite the reduction in height of the proposed towers the development is still completely inappropriate for this rural location. It will be highly visible from all directions particularly at night and during the winter months. The built form will overwhelm the existing buildings in this area.</i></p> <p><i>The proposal refers to employment opportunities. However these appear to be directed principally at the high end financial and business sectors and so it is to be anticipated that although there would be opportunities for local residents, the majority of employees would have to travel in from a far wider area. It is naive to assume that many 'high earning' employees would travel to the site by bus, particularly if they are not on a bus route, which is highly likely to be the case in a rural area. The number of car parking spaces also suggests that car travel would be the expected mode of transport. The impact on traffic outside the immediate vicinity of the site has not been addressed. Access to Elsenham is difficult enough already, especially for drivers who have to go through Stansted. In addition, the proposed road improvements would urbanise the area considerably. There are no safe routes for cyclists or pedestrians.</i></p> <p><i>It was noted that Mr. Michael Johnston's points (representing the developer) were raised – the chair highlighted his points of the shuttle bus (route depending on need) and the No 7 bus and how he had hoped to reduce the light pollution by automatic blinds. However once his points were discussed the council did not feel the need to change original comments.</i></p> <p>F) UTT/1611/11/FUL - 267 Birchanger Lane Birchanger - Erection of single storey rear extension – No objections</p>							
<p><u>57 Finance</u></p> <p><u>Standing Orders for August 2011</u></p> <table data-bbox="188 1832 906 1944"> <tr> <td>E-on electricity – street lighting energy</td> <td>£31.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A. J. Lighting</td> <td>£39.17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerks monthly salary</td> <td>£436.19</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>No Cheques were signed in August 2011</i></p>	E-on electricity – street lighting energy	£31.41	A. J. Lighting	£39.17	Clerks monthly salary	£436.19	
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Standing Orders for September 2011

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Cheques for signing in September 2011**Cheque nos:**

Audit Commission Invoice	2162	£162.00
BT (internet & phone bill)	2163	£145.50
'A. J. Lighting Solutions	2164	£110.34 Annual inspection
Petty cash:- (Aug & Sept)	2165	£23.00
Ace of Spades	2166	£168.00 (2 cuts in May ref: inv 1927)
Ace of Spades	2167	£546.00 (2 cuts July & hedge cut inv 1991)
Ace of Spades	2168	£84.00 (1 cut in August ref: 2021)
Office rental (Aug & Sept)	2169	£60.00
CPRE	2170	£29.00

The external audit form has been returned with no problems noted. The advertising of the year end audit to take place in due course.

Income

£10.00 cash was handed over at the meeting for Mr. Paul Sarjantson allotment.
Clerk to bank

JAP ✓

It was resolved by all, it was in order for the above cheques to be paid. Clerk to send out

JAP ✓

Requests For Funds

The citizens advice bureau have put in a request for donation
A letter from air ambulance also arrived today also requesting a donation.
It was agreed both should be put on the March Agenda for consideration as this is closer to our financial year end.

Agree Formally The Change of Bank Account

It was formally proposed by MD and agreed by all that we change our bank accounts from Barclays to HSBC. It was agreed that all councillors should ideally be able to sign which will mean eventually everyone will have to go down the bank individually with their mandate. Clerk to go to bank

JAP ✓

<p><u>Finance Officer</u></p> <p>It was noted a new finance officer is required. It was agreed MC would speak to JD about the role.</p> <p><u>Precept Setting</u></p> <p>The Precept meeting is yet to be set, but generally we do this around November.</p>	JAP ✓
<p><u>58 OPEN SPACES</u></p> <p><u>(A) Highways & Streetlighting - Task member report – A. Driscoll</u></p> <p>A J. Lighting have completed the annual inspection. Lamps at Junction of Duck End, (Col 37), outside Moorswood (Col 38), outside No 246 Village Green Col. 29) have all had maintenance undertaken. Col 29 has also had a new cell fitted. All the street lights have also been cleaned.</p> <p>It was also noted that A. J. Lighting hadn't fixed the light at Churton as it is suspected it has been damaged by the contractors and A. J. Lighting thought it was likely to happen again. Clerk to report to Planning to see if the developers will reimburse in any way.</p> <p>AD also highlighted that the kerb on the side of Churton hadn't been done and that it was a dangerous place to cross. He will discuss with our PCSO. It was agreed that MD speak to EG and enforcement about the issue, as there was a footpath on the plans.</p> <p>AD also highlighted that a traffic survey hasn't been carried out in respect of a 20mph limit. Clerk reported that we did get correspondence from highways to the effect that a 20 mph limit would be very difficult to impose through the village. However at the time we did ask for a traffic survey. This has not been done.</p> <p>Clerk had also suggested a traffic survey through the S106 agreements, however again this has yet to happen. Clerk will write again.</p> <p>AC is going to do an independent traffic survey at the bottom of the lane to count how many vehicles cut through Tot Lane etc.</p> <p><u>(B) Trees</u></p> <p>A partially fallen tree by the river in the recreation ground has been mentioned to Jay Levers. However there is some work involved. It was suggested therefore we should look to get a formal quotation.</p> <p>Following a recent request from a resident that trees could be planted on some</p>	<p>JAP ✓</p> <p>MD/EG</p> <p>JAP ✓</p> <p>AC</p> <p>MD</p>

<p>of the grass verges, it was noted that a licence is needed as the trees may obstruct views for both pedestrians and drivers. Resident has been informed.</p>	<p>JAP ✓</p>
<p>(C) Footpaths - Task member report – L. Pocklington</p> <p>Footpath issues raised with Bridleway 18 – this is the one that goes up to motorway. A resident had reported a recent horse and cyclist incident where both parties had a scare. With a ditch on one side and a wire fence on the other, there is the potential for injury. It was questioned if the wire fence could come down. Clerk will put to ECC footpaths as they deal with the legalities and technicalities of this sort of thing.</p>	<p>JAP ✓</p>
<p>59) RECREATION GROUND AND ALLOTMENTS – GLEBELAND</p> <p>MC is going to send an e-mail attachment of the exact location he proposes the basket ball hoop could be sited. The problems he foresees in the existing park is that it may be imposing on younger users of the park and the area needs to be both quite flat and far enough away from the road.</p> <p>Mr. Paul Sarjantson has requested a 2nd allotment plot – there are spare available at this time so it was agreed this was acceptable. New allotments and old allotment at bottom have been sprayed by Jay. A box advert in the village magazine was proposed by MC in the next issue of the village magazine.</p> <p>No painting of equipment has occurred yet, but is planned now that the school holidays have finished.</p>	<p>MC/EG</p>
<p>60 PUBLIC SAFETY</p> <p>AS raised the issue of pedestrian safety around Churton, as detailed in 58 (A) above.</p>	
<p>61.) BIRCHANGER WOOD</p> <p>Letter from Birchanger Wood Trust re: planning application for compound by water tower was discussed. The Wood Trust would like Birchanger Parish Council to apply on their behalf for a proposed compound by the water tower. The planning fee would be effectively halved to approx. £335 if submitted by a Parish Council.</p> <p>Clerk has pre-checked with UDC that it is appropriate and they have confirmed in this instance it would be appropriate for the parish council to apply on their behalf if this is what the council agreed.</p> <p>Councillors discussed and it was resolved they would help by applying for planning permission on the Wood Trusts behalf subject to them reimbursing the planning fee. Clerk to report back to the Wood Trust.</p> <p>It was highlighted that some money had been put aside in the budget last year</p>	<p>JAP ✓</p>

<p>for the Wood Trust. It was left this would be discussed at a further date when we have another finance officer in place and had time to analyse yearly expenditure.</p> <p>Copies of the sketches were handed out for further review. It was noted the building would have no utilities ie electricity/gas and that it would be for the storage of equipment, wood, sapling trees, wire fencing etc. It would be sited directly adjacent to the water tower. AD questioned the security of the building. It was noted however, that wood is currently being stolen anyway so this would be better than nothing.</p> <p><u>Feedback on whether in theory Birchanger supports the building of a bridge across the A120 to link the wood up</u></p> <p>It was requested if we could add this question to our agenda by Councillor Woodward of EHDC. The council discussed and agreed that, in principle, the building of a bridge is supported, but we would have to see the proposals before making any formal comment. Concerns are whether a ramp construction would take up too much gradient impinging or damaging the wood. There is no funding available from either ECC or HCC at this time so unlikely to be looked into any further.</p> <p>Greenbelt land to the end of the A120 was also bought up as a site that may be looked into as a potential site for a cemetery by Councillor Woodward. Birchanger Parish Council were against this suggestion owing to the fact that it is not in Hertfordshire, the pollution it would cause, the fact it was located next to Homebase, traffic and parking issues and that a chapel of rest would have to be built as well as associated plaques, gravestone and furniture associated with the proposal. Planning permission would not be granted as this is not part of National Policy. Countryside Properties currently have rights to the land – but Uttlesford have already highlighted this area as not only protected greenbelt but an area that prevents coalescence between neighbouring parishes.</p>	
<p><u>62. TRANSPORT</u></p> <p>It was noted that Bishops Stortford Minibus Trust have got their funding of £70,000. We have been asked if there are any groups in Birchanger village who would like to utilize the service – but have not to date been given any fine detail such as contact numbers, whether there is a specific day it can be used, if a driver is supplied etc. Clerk is looking to ascertain further details.</p>	JAP
<p><u>63. STANSTED AIRPORT</u></p> <p><u>STANSTED AIRPORT – K. Wheatley</u></p> <p>SSE waiting for statement from Government's Department of Transport. KW will be drafting something ref: consultation</p> <p>Ref: invitation to councillors to go to airport and see demonstration of planes re-fuelling to show vapours cannot escape – in light of resident complaints that they smell kerosene. MD & MC expressed an interest in attending.</p>	

<p>64.) CORRESPONDENCE/ANY OTHER BUSINESS.</p> <p>Angie Driscoll's proposals ref: Jubilee celebration were discussed. Clerk/RFO highlighted that we would not be able to support this venture financially as there isn't an act of parliament that allows this sort of expenditure. It was left that we would look at grants rather than direct precept as there may be an organization like BAA who may have funding available for this sort of venture.</p> <p>Section 106 – the footpath between the ForestHall development and the schools are considered the main priority. Tot lane options are still under consideration.</p>	
<p>65.) CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESS RELEASES</p> <p>There being no other business the meeting formally ended at 10:00pm. The next monthly council meeting will be held on Tuesday October 4th 2011 in Birchanger village hall at 7:45pm.</p>	