

Meeting of Birchanger Parish Council Held in the Church Hall
Birchanger on Tuesday 4th October, 2011
At 7:45pm in the Village Hall

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

Apologies: **J. Devine, E Godwin, K. Wheatley**

<p>66) TIME FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL No matters were raised.</p>	
<p>67) DECLARATION OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
<p>68) MINUTES The minutes of the meeting held on September 6th 2011 were agreed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by LP and seconded by AD. The minutes were then signed by the chairman.</p>	
<p>69) MATTERS ARISING (For Information Only) Clerk reported we have had an e-mail from Highways saying that they would not decrease the speed limit in the village. However, they stated they are running trials elsewhere. When the results of these are assessed, they may look again at Birchanger, but only if it was felt that the speed limit could be enforced. It was noted that the footpath on the Churton bend could not be enforced, as it was considered dangerous; this is despite the council believing it would be dangerous left as it is. MD said she would ask again, as it was noted there was going to be a footpath as per the original plans.</p>	MD
<p>70) PLANNING – M. Davy A) Gypsy Census - There were none to report. Suspicious persons and vans have been spotted near the Highways land at the top of the lane by the roundabout. AS, requested clerk write a note to Highways just to let them know. B) Have Your Say On the Planning System: www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding Details of the proposed changes and consultation documents can be found on</p>	

<p>the above link. Most relevant to local councils are the National Planning Policy framework & Local Planning Regulations. The deadline for responding to this consultation has now passed.</p>																												
<p><u>71) FINANCE</u></p> <p><u>Standing Orders for October 2011</u></p> <table border="0" data-bbox="188 533 965 683"> <tr> <td>E-on electricity – street lighting energy</td> <td></td> <td>£31.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A. J. Lighting</td> <td></td> <td>£39.17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerks monthly salary</td> <td></td> <td>£436.19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strutt & Parker</td> <td></td> <td>£265.00</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Cheques for signing in October 2011</u></p> <table border="0" data-bbox="188 831 965 1048"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Cheque ref</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Veolia Water</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2171</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£44.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Office Rental</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2172</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P. Eldred</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2173</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Petty cash</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2174</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>INCOME:</u></p> <p>The 2nd half of the precept was credited on 20th Sept.</p> <p>It was resolved that it was in order for the above cheques to be signed. Clerk to post out.</p> <p>Clerk will e-mail out date of precept/budget setting meeting. (Arranged for Weds. 16th Nov – agenda to follow.)</p>	E-on electricity – street lighting energy		£31.41	A. J. Lighting		£39.17	Clerks monthly salary		£436.19	Strutt & Parker		£265.00		Cheque ref		Veolia Water	2171	£44.58	Office Rental	2172	£30	P. Eldred	2173	£80	Petty cash	2174	£20	<p>JAP ✓</p> <p>JAP ✓</p>
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<p><u>72) OPEN SPACES</u></p> <p>(A) Highways & Street lighting - Task member report – A. Driscoll</p> <p>AS has completed his traffic survey between 8:15-9:15 am at the bottom of the lane to assess how many vehicles cut through Tot Lane in this period. He noted 25 cars, with 19 leaving Birchanger via this route. During this same period 170 cars left Birchanger at the motorway end of the village. AS confirmed he is going to do further surveys at an earlier time, when there won't be any school related traffic. The Chair asked AS if he could table this data so that we have a complete record for future reference. Clerk had requested Highways also do an independent survey too – however this has not materialized.</p> <p>MD outlined details of an ECC scheme for providing salt for use during the winter. Bags of salt are delivered to a central location in the village and is then</p>	<p>AS</p>																											

<p>distributed by volunteers for use on roads and pavements not served by the gritting lorries. As for this year the salt supply was free, it was agreed that we would try out the scheme. MC to ask Jay Leavers if it would be acceptable for the salt to be delivered to his barn.</p> <p><u>(B) Trees</u></p> <p>It was noted that some work had been done to the trees at Churton Gate. It was noted that correct coppicing does prolong the life of the trees. EG has also been round to make checks.</p> <p><u>(C) Footpaths - Task member report – L. Pocklington</u></p> <p>The problem with Bridleway 18 was raised with ECC and copy of their response was forwarded to the member of public who raised the issue. There were no other problems to report.</p>	JP
<p><u>73 RECREATION GROUND AND ALLOTMENTS – GLEBELAND</u></p> <p>The issue of the basketball hoop is going to stay on hold for the moment as it was decided we should look at investigating whether we can level out the surface of the recreation ground, in order that it is more appropriate for siting new equipment. It was agreed we should look at costs of levelling and landscaping. It was noted that extra funding would be needed and this could be something we could put as a suggestion under the s106 community funding.</p> <p>MC will discuss with allotment holders whether they wish to form an Allotment Society.</p>	MC/JAP
<p><u>74 PUBLIC SAFETY</u></p> <p>Speeding issues particularly at school pick up time were discussed. AS will suggest to the PCSO that she might like to check traffic speeds around this time. Copy of minutes to be forwarded to our local PCSO.</p> <p>It was noted Birchanger does not have a Neighbourhood Watch representative. AS said he would ask the PCSO for some information on what the role of a NW representative is and the likely time commitment, for inclusion in the Village Magazine.</p>	JAP ✓
<p><u>75 BIRCHANGER WOOD TRUST – Linda Pocklington & K. Wheatley</u></p> <p>LP reported that funds are still being successfully raised and work on the second footpath is almost complete.</p> <p>RG commented that he was on the Hatfield Forest Liaison Committee and that help was available. However it was noted that despite his approach to the Wood Trust, there has been no take up. It could be something for the future as much of the work currently undertaken is still being done by one individual.</p>	

<p><u>76 TRANSPORT – K.Wheatley</u></p> <p>Clerk stated she is aware that UDC’s subsidized transport is based in Dunmow with not much around this area. Herts County Council is due to be meeting with UDC shortly to discuss voluntary transport and cross over services. This will hopefully mean that Stansted, Birchanger and Bishops Stortford will be more interlinked. The meeting refers specifically to voluntary rather than commercial services. Ruth Clifford has promised to copy clerk in, if further discussions arise.</p>	
<p><u>77) STANSTED AIRPORT – K. Wheatley</u></p> <p>KW is responding to the Aviation Strategy Scoping document.</p>	
<p><u>78) S106 AGREEMENTS</u></p> <p>(A) Highways,</p> <p>£998,000 is being drawn upon for three schemes being presented to Stansted PC on 13th October to develop a walking route between St. Mary’s primary school and the Church, widen the footpath on Church Road and develop footpaths between the end of the road between Parsonage Farm and the Mountfitchet school. Stansted are also trying to improve the footpath between Water Lane and Station Road, but there are ownership issues to this last proposal.</p> <p>RG reported that the single biggest issue to Birchanger was Tot Lane and the need for appropriate and considered restrictions. RG has written to Mathew Bradley asking him to do a survey and to give us some considerations as to what is the best scheme with possible alternatives. Agreement was signed in 2002/2003 so we are getting close to the 10 year time frame. Clerk will arrange a meeting to discuss Tot lane and the other S106 requests (traffic calming, gates and HGV restrictions).</p> <p><u>(B) Health Centre</u></p> <p>RG reported that he believed the PCT agreement was already out of time. There have been plans for the health centre to be built at the Lotus garage site, but this is only viable if the PCT can take this on and a relevant retail unit is incorporated into the design. There are concerns that the PCT may change format – RG has promised to send the Clerk contact details of someone at the PCT who can be written to. A letter was sent a few months ago and was hand delivered by EG, but no reply to date.</p> <p><u>(C) Community Fund</u></p> <p>Birchanger were not notified of this fund and it has only been filtered down via district councillor level that there is money available. £800,000 has been released– plans being proposed by Stansted PC include upgrading the Crafton</p>	<p>JAP</p> <p>RG/JAP</p>

<p>centre with a new library, police information centre, citizens advice centre etc. EG has informed local groups of this fund and has encouraged groups to apply.</p> <p>If Birchanger want access to this fund then a proposal needs to be put together. It was felt that improvements to the village hall could be proposed as there is no similar facility on the new development, the hall is used by Stansted residents already and it would be beneficial to all if the usage of the hall could be increased. As the hall is owned by the Church, the diocese would have to put forward the case, but the Parish Council could write in support . Clerk to liaise with Pam Lee (Church) , Jeremy Pine and Sue Barker.</p> <p>The levelling of the recreation ground to provide a better park for the younger Birchanger and Rochfords residents will also be put forward as a prospective idea.</p>	<p>JAP ✓</p>
<p><u>79) CORRESPONDENCE/ANY OTHER BUSINESS.</u></p>	
<p>New Homes Bonus Scheme – ref: District Ward Councillors EG as a District Ward Councillor has £1,000 available to be spent on a community facility – suggestions were requested from the council.</p> <p>Proposals were dog bins (It was noted that even though UDC will not empty them), the cost of firms or locals who do this is not significant.</p> <p>Other suggestions include a bench or bus shelter – somewhere near High View.</p> <p>Big Society Fund Essex Again this is a capital expenditure fund and will require match funding. Clerk will keep details as may be an alternative funding source for one of our projects.</p>	
<p><u>CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESS RELEASES</u></p>	
<p>There being no other business the meeting formally ended at 10:00pm. The next monthly council meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st November, 2011 in Birchanger village hall at 7:45pm.</p>	