

Draft Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 4th July 2023 at 7.30 pm.
In Birchanger Village Hall

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

Keith Williams (KW) – Parish Clerk
County Councillor & District Councillor Ray Gooding (RG)
0 members of the public

1102. Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

1103. Apologies for Absence

District Councillor Nick Church (NC).

1104. Declarations of Interest

GD as District Councillor for another ward.

1105. Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

None.

1106. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 6th June 2023 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

1107. Planning

There were no planning applications to consider.

1108. Traveller’s encampment update

UDC have refused the latest planning application from the travellers although it is anticipated that there will be an appeal.

1109. A120/M11 roadworks

Birchanger Lane is expected to be open on the 10th July.

AD has spoken to Essex Highways. They are not happy with the way Sisk have handled the works, and also their lack of communication with stakeholders, which includes Birchanger Parish Council.

1110. Finance

- a. Account Balances (already circulated).
- b. Invoices and payments for approval.

BIRCHANGER PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE AND PAYMENTS SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2023

1. Account Balances b/f 31st May 2023		
Unity Trust Bank		26080.46
2. Payments due for June 2023		
Ace of Spades	On line	249.60 (grass cutting April 2023)
A&J Lighting	SO	45.90 (lighting charge for June)
Castle Water (Keith Williams)	On line	127.46 (water rates)
Npower	DD	122.86 (electricity for May 2023)
David Debnam	On line	146.00 (new gate post at allotments)
Ace of Spades	On line	249.60 (grass cutting May 2023)
Uttlesford District Council	On line	52.47 (local election expenses)
Keith Williams	On line	483.70 (salary for June 2023)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	On line	120.80 (PAYE for June 2023)
Keith Williams	On line	20.00 (office rent June 2023)
Unity Trust Bank	DD	18.00 (service charge)
Total payments for June 2023		<u>1636.39</u>
Allotment rent		15.00
3. Account Balance 30/06/2023		24459.07

Notes: The payments to HMRC and Castle Water were made by the parish clerk and are being reimbursed. There are two payments for Ace of Spades. The first is for April which they appear to have initially overlooked invoicing. The second is for May.

It was agreed that a direct debit arrangement be made for future Castle Water payments.

1111. Allotments/Recreation Ground

Allotments

Three vacated plots had not been fully cleared and vegetation cut back. It was therefore initially decided to withhold the deposits to pay for clearance. However the former plot holders have now undertaken to clear the plots. It has therefore been agreed that if the plots are fully cleared by 31st July the deposits will be refunded. LP will contact the former plot holders and advise them what action needs to be taken and the time scale. When clearance has been completed Ace of Spades will be contacted to see what further work is necessary.

LP has shown a prospective allotment holder around the site, with a possible start in the Autumn.

It was agreed that the rent would increase to £20 per plot from next year.

Recreation Ground

It was suggested that signs be obtained requesting dog walkers to keep their dogs on leads. GT will investigate.

Reference re-cycled tables. A budget of £2000 was agreed to purchase;

- a. Wheelchair Access Picnic Table with Extended Top.
- b. Round Picnic Table with Earth Anchor.

1112. A & J Lighting rate increase

The new contract was accepted and signed by the Chair.

1113. Reports from County and District Councillors

County Councillor Ray Gooding (RG)

- Within the Adult Safeguarding environment, there are 50-60 cases investigated each year. There have been 8 cases of spouses murdering their partners.
- Many people are reluctant to accept help.
- There have been changes to the Local Highways Panel.

1114. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.36.

[2023/259]