

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 6th September 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)
Geof Driscoll (GD)

County Councillor Ray Gooding (RG)
District Councillor Melvin Caton (MC)

One member of the public
Keith Williams (KW) – Parish Clerk

976. Chairman’s Welcome
The Chairman welcomed all those present.

977. Apologies for Absence
None

978. Declarations of Interest
None

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

A resident pointed out that when approval was given for the traveller’s site, it was a requirement that a site development plan be submitted within three months. A plan was submitted but was not approved. The travellers signed a declaration that the site is not visible from the road, which is disputed. If the requirements are not met then UDC reserves the right to review their decision. Could the Parish Council please take up these issues.

The incorrect submission by the travellers that the site is not visible from the road has been brought to UDC’s attention by two residents.

980. Minutes of the last meeting

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

981. Traveller’s encampment update

AD has been in touch with UDC Planning Enforcement since the travellers had arrived in July 2018. Their original SDS was refused in February 2022. They have submitted another application which still did not meet the requirement of ECC SuDS and AD is aware that the 11month deadline for a decision to be made was imminent. AD emailed Sarah Marshall 3 times in July and August each time asking what action will be taken if the outstanding information was not forthcoming in time. The eventual reply stated that if UDC did not receive a response from the travellers by 9th September they would review the situation and provide the parish council with a full update on what action will be taken.

[2022/226]

982. Finance

BIRCHANGER PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE AND PAYMENTS SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 2022

1. Account Balances b/f 31st July 2022

Unity Trust Bank	23919.09
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2. Payments due for August 2022

A&J Lighting	On line	45.90 (lighting maintenance)
George Taylor	On line	71.87 (reimbursement allotment)
Npower	DD	109.74 (electricity July 2022)
Keith Williams	On line	449.27 (salary for August 2022)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	On line	112.40 (PAYE for August 2022)
Keith Williams	On line	20.00 (office rent August 2022)
TBS Hygiene	On line	129.60 (Dog bin emptying)

<u>Total payments for August 2022</u>	<u>938.78</u>
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Account Balance c/f 31/08/2022	22980.31
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Allotment income	<u>82.50</u>
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Balance at 31/08/2022	23062.81
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Note 1: The payment to HMRC was made by the parish clerk and is being reimbursed.

983. Planning

a) UTT/22/2347/HHF – 226 Birchanger Lane

Extended covered entrance porch and step etc.

This is the response from the Parish Council.

The replacement dormer window should have obscured glass as with the existing window.

984. Adoption of policy documents

a) Grant Policy

Adopted

b) Personal Data Breach Policy

Adopted

c) Subject Access Request Policy

Adopted

985. Resignation of Community Special Constable

PS said the CSC had found that with his other duties, patrolling Birchanger was too much and that he had decided to stand down. It was agreed that the Parish Council should seek to obtain a replacement. PS will take the necessary action.

[2022/227]

986. "20's Plenty" presentation

PS attended a seminar regarding this topic. It would appear that Essex Highways is the only relevant authority that does not accept "20's Plenty" as a default. This means that there is no obligation on the part of Essex Highways to accept applications for this measure. RG advised that ECC is looking into the issue.

PS questioned whether the Council should wait until ECC have responded or to proceed immediately with an application.

GD feels that the Council should be pursuing a 20mph speed limit rather than "20's Plenty". This could be policed with speed cameras and action taken via the Local Highways Panel. PS did point out that the Council has tried previously to arrange a 20mph speed limit but without success. Further discussion on this subject will be deferred to a future meeting.

987. A120 roundabout

The lane closure will now be from 3rd November 2022 to 17th February 2023.

988. Allotments/Recreation Ground

LP circulated the following report to councillors.

Allotments.

- a) To date the new padlocks (main gate and lower gate) are being used and appreciated by the allotment holders.
- b) There has been no response from allotment holder, plot 8. The deadline given for a response to the parish council of either email or physical tidying of the plot has now gone by.
- c) I have noticed an area of damage on the boundary fencing, plot 3. It appears to be a cut slit and should be easy to repair with a length thin wire.

Recreation Ground.

- a) The most noticeable change has been the developing cracks in the ground due to the recent heatwave and exceptional dry weather. The affected areas being the football pitch, picnic tables and bench.
- b) I have been asked by a local dog owner if anything more can be done by the parish council to prevent dog mess being left in situ at the recreation ground. In the meantime could it be mentioned in the next Parish Magazine please.

a. Zip Wire maintenance contract

GT said that there had still been no response from HAGS. He will chase them again.

b. Pigeon preventative measures on Recreation Ground swings

PS suggested that flexible plastic spikes be fitted to the bar above the swings as a pigeon deterrent. This was agreed and a budget of £50 was approved.

989. Reports from County and District Councillors

District Councillor Melvin Caton

- He has received an email from a concerned parent that the no 7 bus was not picking up all children in Bishops Stortford to bring them home. RG will take this up with ECC.
- The Local Plan Leadership Group will be meeting on 21st September to publish the Local Plan. He understands that there is no development site proposed for Birchanger.
- The Chief Executive of UDC Peter Holt has self-referred the council to the Regulator of Social Housing as he believes there may have been some breaches of the Home Standard by the company who manage social housing on behalf of the council.

County Councillor Ray Gooding

- There is now access direct to Birchanger from Bishops Stortford at the roundabout works.
- Essex has been appointed to administer Thurrock Council.

990. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.50.

[2022/229]