

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 7th June 2016 at 8.03 pm.
in Birchanger Village Hall**

Present: Angie Driscoll – Chair (AD)
Maria Davy (MD)
Elizabeth Godwin (EG)
Linda Pocklington (LP)
Sandy Dowle (SD)

Ray Gooding (RG) – County Councillor
Thom Goddard (TG) – District Councillor

2 members of the public

Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)

169. Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

170. Apologies and Reason for Absence

Alex Stewart (AS) (illness)
Ken Wheatley (KW) (work commitments)
Matt Zych (MZ) (work commitments)

171. Declarations of Interest

The Parish Clerk declared an interest as co-owner of the property to be discussed under agenda item 8 (Spider Cottage, 317 Birchanger Lane).

MD declared an interest in agenda item 8 as spouse of the architect employed to provide drawings for the proposed extension at Spider Cottage, 317 Birchanger Lane.

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

A member of the public commented that the village website was at present not functioning. Could the council advise when this would be rectified? AD will pass this on to Ken Wheatley.

173. Minutes of the last meeting

Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2016 was proposed by SD and agreed as a true and accurate record, and duly signed by the Chairman.

174. Recreation Ground Working Group/Allotments – Glebeland

a) Quotation of £585.60 plus VAT for resurfacing - was accepted on a proposal from AD, seconded by LP.

b) New recreation ground equipment – LP provided 2 brochures for consideration and had marked out some suggestions for possible apparatus. LP suggested that repainting rather than replacing the swings may be a better option. This was agreed. LP will look further into alternative slides.

c) Repair of slide steps – in the absence of AS there was nothing at this stage to report.

175. Highways

a) Update on footpath 23

- There had been no further response from Highways to the question of reinstatement of the bank.
- Some signs had been put up, it was thought, not by Uttlesford District Council.
- Following the legal advice previously circulated by the Parish Clerk to all councillors, it was agreed that the Parish Council would not take any action to repair or intervene in any way with regard to reinstatement of the bank by footpath 23. Parish Clerk will continue to pursue the matter.

b) Further reports

AD reported that following heavy rain a drain had overflowed causing extensive flooding at the Village Hall. AD further reported that she had received a telephone call from Highways to invite her to a meeting in Birchanger with an engineer who will look at the various areas of concern. Date to be confirmed.

176. Planning application UTT/16/1320/HHF – Spider Cottage, 317 Birchanger Lane.

[The Parish Clerk left the room at this point].
There were no objections.

177. Dogbins

There had still been no response from the landowner's agent. The Parish Clerk will continue to pursue this.

178. Insurance renewal with Hiscox (via Came & Co).

The quotation to renew was accepted.

179. Finance

a) Account balances –previously circulated.

b) Invoices and standing orders for payment – were approved.

c) The Barclays account had now been closed and the funds had been transferred.

d) The Accounting Statements 2015/16 were agreed and signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer. A suitable "thank you " would be presented to the internal auditor Bryan Reed.

180. County/District Councillors reports

Thom Goddard

- The new Chief Executive Dawn French had settled in.
- For the Local Plan, sites were being investigated for consideration in the second phase.
- On the 26th July the council will decide if further building development will be incremental or a new settlement. A further 4600 houses will be required by 2030.
- Including a rollover from the last financial year, Thom has £4500 of grant money available.
- There will be a SSE press conference on Friday 10th June regarding airport compensation for local householders.

Ray Gooding

- Devolution within the unitary authority is working quite well.
- In order for Essex to join the unitary authority there has to be an elected Mayor of Essex.
- If Essex joins the unitary authority the government will release funding of £30m to spend on infrastructure.
- 3 of the 12 districts are reluctant to join.

181. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.06.

[2016/042]