# Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 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 Edgeworth (KE)

1 member of the public

Keith Williams (KW) – Parish Clerk

#### 1143. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

#### 1144. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Ray Gooding (RG)

#### 1145. Declarations of Interest

GD as District Councillor for another ward.

# 1146. Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

A resident of Stansted wished to bring to the attention of the parish council the initiative to create a cycle path to run on the footpath between Wood Lane, Birchanger and Stansted, and hoped for support from Birchanger Parish Council.

[This was noted and would be discussed under item **15:Footpaths** on the agenda. Discussion of item **15** was brought forward to follow this representation].

#### 1147. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

#### 1148. Planning

The draft Local Plan Regulation 18 was discussed. The Parish Council will send a response to this consultation.

## UTT/23/1109/HHF-27 Harrisons

Convert garage into annexe to include single storey extension.

There are a number of inconsistencies and inaccurate statements within the submitted planning documentation in particular the Supporting Planning Statement. 27 Harrisons is a 4-bedroom link detached house, not 3, as stated in the Supporting Planning Statement. It is linked by the garage to the adjoining property. This proposal would cause a change from link detached to semi-detached. It makes no mention of a Party Wall agreement with the adjoining property. The plan involves the loss of a garage with the consequent loss of parking. Harrisons is a compact estate, parking is difficult, and the roads are congested.

## [2023/266]

The submitted photographs are not an accurate representation. The conversion would provide a 5-bedroom house with 2 parking spaces. This is in breach of parking standards. Parking Standards Design and Good Practice 2009 states a 4+ bedroom property should have a minimum of 3 parking spaces. The application form states no trees are impacted; the block plan shows two mature trees being removed. Birchanger Parish Council has concerns about the viability of this planning application. It is over-development of the site and will have a detrimental effect upon the neighbouring locality. The Council therefore opposes this planning application.

### 1149. Traveller's encampment update

AD attended a meeting with UDC representatives, which was also attended by Brian Ross on behalf of the Birchanger Residents Association. Nigel Brown of UDC stressed that he and his colleagues were keen for the land to revert to Green Belt.

#### 1150. A120/M11 roadworks

Rissa Long of the contractors SISK had asked if SISK representatives could attend the December Parish Council meeting to discuss the roadworks plans. AD did not feel that this was a good idea as space in the meeting room was limited and there would be insufficient time for all those in the village who might like to discuss the issue to attend. It would be better if SISK could arrange a separate meeting in the Village Hall and suggested that Rissa should contact the Hall to arrange a suitable date.

Rissa had also said that SISK would like to help the Village in some way. It was suggested that perhaps SISK be asked to help to cut back and improve various footpaths, clear unused allotment plots and also to finance replacement fencing around the allotments.

### 1151. Birchanger Bus Service

There is concern amongst some residents that the village may lose the bus service. Support for the service is guaranteed for a further two years but after that date if demand is uneconomical and it is possible that the operator may withdraw the service.

An app is now available called Travel Essex to be downloaded from AppStore to mobile phones. This tracks buses which are fitted with suitable tracking devices which will advise the present position of the bus.

#### 1152. Finance

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

# BIRCHANGER PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE AND PAYMENTS SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2023

### 1. Account Balances b/f 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Unity Trust Bank 26950.36

## 2. Payments due for October 2023

Ace of Spades On line 249.60 (grass cutting September 2023)

Npower DD 161.78 (electricity for September 2023)

NBB Recycled Furniture Already paid 1518.00 (picnic tables)

Payroo On line 6.00 (payroll services for September 2023)

Keith Williams On line 483.70 (salary for October 2023)

#### [2023/267]

HMRC (Keith Williams)	On line	120.80 (PAYE for October 2023)
Keith Williams	On line	20.00 (office rent for October 2023)
TBS Hygiene	On line	142.56 (dog bin emptying October 2023)
A&J Lighting	SO	45.90 (lighting maintenance)
Diocesan Glebeland	On line	90.00 (balance of Glebeland rent)
Birketts	On line	732.00 (legal fees for Glebeland lease)

Total payments for October 2023 3570.34

Allotment rent 0.00
Account Balance 31/10/2023 23380.02

Notes: The payment to HMRC was made by the parish clerk and is being reimbursed.

#### 1153. Allotments/Recreation Ground

#### **Allotments**

- A quotation had been received for replacement fencing at the allotment grounds. It was decided not to proceed with this work at this time.
- There is clearance work needed on the site. The clerk will contact Ace of Spades (AOS) to ask them to quote for the work.
- Three oak trees at the rear of the site need trimming back. GD suggested contacting arboriculturists to obtain quotations for the work.
- The recently vacant plots have still not been cleared and it was decided that the deposit would be forfeited.

#### **Recreation Ground**

LP confirmed that AOS had carried out the work to the stile entrance and main entrance.

## 1154. Royal British Legion – donation for "Poppy Appeal" wreath

A donation of £40 was agreed.

#### 1155. Vegetation clearance in Birchanger Lane

The quotation from Ace of Spades (AOS) was approved and the clerk will instruct AOS to proceed. A budget of £300 was agreed.

#### 1156. Fly-parking

There has been some concern expressed regarding airport and fly-parking within the village. GD attended a seminar which discussed various issues concerning parking. GD gave a presentation of the issues discussed. However with regard to the specific subject of fly-parking, if vehicles are parked legally and are not causing an obstruction, then it is perfectly legal for the cars to be parked in the village. The police would be unable to take any action. But fly parking should be reported on the Stansted Airport website for data purposes. The more cars that are reported the more chance we have of getting funding for No Airport Parking signage etc.

## [2023/268]

## 1157. Footpaths

The cycle path has now been cleared but not the sand track along which several trees fell down last year. These are now lying alongside the track.

The Stansted proposals presented under minute 1146 were discussed. It was pointed out to the representative from Stansted that the cost of creating a cycle path from Wood Lane to Stansted would be prohibitive, as Birchanger knows from the cycle track which was created in the village by Essex Highways. The speaker did not know who owned the land or if permission would be given. He was asked to update the Council if he had any more information.

## 1158. Reports from County and District Councillors

## County Councillor Ray Gooding (RG) (in his absence)

A new cabinet member has been appointed for Highways.

The standing water at the junction of Birchanger Lane and the B1383 was due to some subsidence which had damaged the surface water drains. Investigation and repair were planned but no date given.

## 1159. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.27.

[2023/269]