

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7.30 pm.
In Birchanger Village Hall**

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

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

1078. Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

1079. Apologies for Absence

None.

1080. Declarations of Interest

GD as District Councillor of another parish.

1081. Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

None.

1082. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 4th April 2023 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

1083. Planning

UTT/23/0948/HHF – 3 Hillside End, Birchanger Lane

Demolition of existing veranda and conservatory. Construction of single storey flat-roofed rear/side extension.

No objections.

Wren’s application for distribution centre at Great Hallingbury.

The Parish Council agreed to support Great Hallingbury’s comments on the proposed development.

1084. Traveller’s encampment update

The correspondence between Uttlesford Planning and the Birchanger Residents Association had been circulated. The Planning Committee is due to consider the latest application on 7th June.

[2023/251]

1085. A120/M11 roadworks

AD, GD, ST and GT attended the presentation hosted by SISK, who are the contractors.

Birchanger Lane should be open by the end of May/beginning of June and the traffic lights removed from the A120. However, residents of Birchanger will only be able to turn left at the junction of Birchanger Lane and the A120 until completion of the works at the roundabout and commissioning of the traffic lights. The contractors were asked if temporary traffic lights could be installed at this point to assist motorists from Birchanger Lane joining the A120 traffic. Initially this was turned down but Highways have been asked to look again at the request. Their response is awaited.

There is a proposal to close the bottom end of Birchanger Lane for remedial drainage work. AD queried this with Essex Highways and SISK. RG is to follow this up with Highways Officers to see if this can be delayed at least until the top end of the Lane is open.

1085. Finance

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

BIRCHANGER PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE AND PAYMENTS SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2023

1. Account Balances b/f 31st March 2023		
Unity Trust Bank		20831.73
2. Payments due for April 2023		
A&J Lighting	SO	45.90 (lighting maintenance)
EALC	On line	294.04 (affiliation fee)
Npower	DD	96.44 (electricity for March 2023)
Payroo	On line	6.00 (payroll expenses)
HAGS	On line	546.00 (Recreation ground inspection)
Birchanger Church Hall	On line	60.00 (hire of village hall)
Keith Williams	On line	483.70 (salary for April 2023)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	On line	120.80 (PAYE for April 2023)
Keith Williams	On line	20.00 (office rent April 2023)
TBS Hygiene	On line	129.60 (dog bin emptying)
		<u>1802.48</u>
3. Account Balance 30/04/2023		19029.25
UDC Precept		<u>10100.00</u>
Balance c/f @ 30/04/2023		29129.25

Note 1: The payment to HMRC was made by the parish clerk and is being reimbursed.

c. Consideration of Annual Audit return - Section 1: Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

Parish Councillors confirmed that they are satisfied that all requirements of this section of the Annual Governance Statement have been met. This was signed by the Chairman and Clerk. The Accounting Statements Section 2 were also approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk (as Responsible Finance Officer). The Certificate of Exemption was signed by the Chairman and Clerk (as Responsible Finance Officer). [2023/252]

1086. Allotments/Recreation Ground

Allotments – There are currently four vacant plots. One person is interested in taking on a plot. The clearance of recently vacated plots is awaited.

LP said that she would like to proceed with trimming of the overhanging oak tree. It was agreed that as this is bird nesting season this should be delayed to later in the year. LP will contact Ace of Spades to arrange for them to carry out the work at a suitable time.

Recreation Ground – GT has circulated details of possible replacement picnic tables. The options are for metal tables costing approximately £1000 or recycled wood/plastic tables at £400-£600. GT will continue to investigate.

Consideration needs to be made for wheelchair access.

GT will continue to look for play equipment replacements.

HAGS have quoted an amount of £2165 to fully renovate the zip wire, and have recommended that a full inspection be carried out each year. It was agreed to proceed with the renovation.

1087. Renewal of Parish Council insurance policy

It was agreed to proceed with renewal of the existing policy at the quoted premium of £1995.01.

1087. Reports from County and District Councillors

County Councillor Ray Gooding (RG)

RG had nothing further to add to his earlier comments.

1088. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.33.

[2023/253]