

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 1st March 2016 at 8pm.
in Birchanger Village Hall**

Present: Angie Driscoll – Chair (AD)
Alex Stewart (AS)
Michelle May (MM)
Matt Zych (MZ)
Maria Davy (MD)
Elizabeth Godwin (EG)
Linda Pocklington (LP)
Ken Wheatley (KW)

1 member of the public

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

Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)

125. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

126. Apologies and Reason for Absence

Received from: Sandy Dowle (SD) – work commitments

127. Declarations of Interest

MZ declared an interest as a member of the Birchanger Sports and Social Club committee.

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

There were no representations from the public.

129. Minutes of the last meeting

Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 2nd February 2016 was proposed by MD and agreed as a true and accurate record, and duly signed by the Chairman.

130. Dog Bins

a) Appointment of Bin-It Dog Waste Solutions

The appointment of Bin-It Dog Waste Solutions was agreed and the Parish Clerk will write to said company.

b) Landowner's requirement for removal of bins with one month's notice

The requirement for one month's notice for removal of the bins was agreed subject to the Parish Council being given the opportunity during the period of notice to rectify any problems which, if

successful, will result in a continuation of siting of the bins. The Parish Clerk to write to the landowner's agent accordingly.

131. Recreation Ground Working Group/Allotments – Glebeland

a) Meeting with Birchanger Club regarding adult exercise equipment

MM had met with representatives of Birchanger Sports and Social Club and reported that the Club was very keen to be involved. It was originally suggested that the equipment could be sited by the Club car park but MM expressed some concern that this may cause some people to feel vulnerable. An alternative siting by the hut which contains children's play equipment was suggested and it was agreed that this would far more suitable. As the children's equipment is stored in the hut and is not therefore considered as permanent installations, there is no requirement for the adult equipment to be sited at least 20 meters away. The proposal will be discussed by the Club committee at it's next meeting.

AS proposed that the adult equipment to be purchased by the Parish Council should be donated to the Club, who will then be responsible for insurance, safety and maintenance. This was seconded by EG and passed by a vote of 6 for with 2 abstentions. It would be a requirement that all users must have access to the changing rooms and showers

b) Attendance fee of £65 for half-day Volunteer Playground Inspectors Course

This was agreed on a proposal from EG, seconded by MD. MM to attend course.

132. Highways

a) Options for narrowing exit from A120 roundabout into Birchanger Lane

AD advised that at the time of the meeting the details of the options had not been received.

133. To adopt

a) Parish Council Plan 2015/2016

Adopted on a proposal from MM, seconded by LP.

b) Health and Safety Plan

Adopted on a proposal from EG, seconded by MM.

134. Finance

a) Account balances –previously circulated.

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

135. Planning

a) Planning application UTT/16/0259/HHF – Gower Barn

No comments.

b) Call for Sites notification

EG had already circulated her draft report. The final report, when completed, to be sent to Uttlesford District Council by the Parish Clerk.

TG advised, by way of information, that Uttlesford is required to provide 12700 new houses by 2033. 7500 had already been provided.

136. Estimate of £1600 from Jay Leavers for replacement hedge

This was agreed on a proposal from EG, seconded by LP.

137. Payment of £103.00 for Parish Clerk membership of SLCC

This was agreed on a proposal from AS, seconded by KW

138. Reports from district and county councillors

Ray Gooding

- There is a Children's Centre consultation currently in operation.
- There is a perception that some centres are to be closed. In fact the County is looking at changes to the system. Some people find attendance at the centres daunting and, it is hoped, the changes will encourage greater attendance.
- The centres will now include health visitors.
- The range of children will now cover ages 0-19.
- 85.9% of first choice secondary school places has been achieved.
- 93% of first and second choice places has been achieved.

Thom Goddard

- The UDC council tax is to be raised by 1%, although with rises in other charges from Essex County Council there will be an overall increase of 3%.
- There will be an increase in PCSO's.
- Stansted Airport is due to renegotiate it's contract on 09/03/2016.
- He still has £1200 funds available which must be allocated by the end of March. MZ will ask Birchanger Club if they wish to make s funding application.

139. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.08.