

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting  
held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 at 8pm.  
in Birchanger Village Hall**

**Present:** Angie Driscoll – Chair (AD)  
Elizabeth Godwin (EG)  
Linda Pocklington (LP)  
Sandy Dowle (SD)  
Alex Stewart (AS)  
Michelle May (MM)

Ray Gooding (RG) County Councillor

Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)  
1 member of the public

**055. Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

**056. Apologies and Reason for Absence**

Received from:

Maria Davy (on holiday)  
Matt Zych (work commitment)  
Ken Wheatley (on holiday)  
Thom Goddard

**057. Declarations of Interest**

EG declared an interest in planning application UTT/15/2525/HHF as a neighbour.

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

Members of the public made no representation to the council.

**059. Minutes of the last meeting**

Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August was proposed by LP and agreed as a true and accurate record.

**060. Recreation Ground Working Group/Allotments – Glebeland**

The estimate from Dave Debnam was noted. MM and LP wanted to know if there is some sort of curbing that could be used to prevent shrinking of the play surface.

The clerk is to pass to AS details of any small jobbing builder recommended by Stansted Parish with a view to obtaining comparative quotations for repairs to the recreation ground.

The possibility of installing adult exercise equipment was discussed. The clerk to investigate costs and report back.

**Travellers** – there is no evidence of the presence of travellers at the recreation ground but AS pointed out that a suspicious vehicle had been seen in the vicinity so we need to be aware. He

suggested that a larger chain be fitted to the gate which was agreed. If travellers or other suspicious visitors are seen in the area the recommended procedure is

- Call 999 to report
- Telephone the District Council as soon as possible
- Telephone the land owner as soon as possible

#### **061. Planning**

**UTT/15/2355/FUL - Proposed erection of drive though coffee shop at Welcome Break Service Station** – No objections but the clerk to write to Planning requiring confirmation that adequate rubbish collection will be put in place.

**UTT/15/2525/HHF – Proposed erection of cartlodge/wood store at 351 Birchanger Lane** – No objections.

#### **062. Highways**

SD had taken photographs of drivers negotiating the flooding area near bus stop alongside club field which necessitated their having to drive on the wrong side of the road to avoid the standing water. She will continue to monitor the situation. MM mentioned the flooding near the allotments.

AD is trying to arrange a meeting with Rissa Long, Highways Liaison Officer, to discuss the various outstanding issues.

#### **063. Finance**

**Account balances** – as previously circulated.

**Invoices and standing orders for payment** – were approved.

The clerk provided a schedule of section 106 payments for the recreation ground showing the balance of funds available for further projects on the recreation ground.

#### **064. Reports from district and county councillors**

**Ray Gooding** –

1. **RG** advised that Stansted Parish was planning to have adult exercise equipment installed and an officer from Essex County ActiveEssex would be advising them. If Birchanger would like similar advice RG will advise Birchanger Parish council when the visit is due.

2. Responses from Highways are frequently criticised but they are often not allowed to comment on submissions. Highways has to investigate each application individually.

3. Essex County Council's total budget is £1.78 billion of which £900 million is derived from council tax. £950 million is spent on care.

#### **065. Closure of meeting**

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.55.