

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 1st November 2016 at 8.00 pm.
in Birchanger Village Hall**

Present: Angie Driscoll (AD) - Chair
Maria Davy (MD)
Linda Pocklington (LP)
Alex Stewart (AS)
George Taylor (GT)
Sandy Dowle (SD)
Ken Wheatley (KW)

Ray Gooding (RG) County Councillor
1 member of the public
Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)

223. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

224. Apologies and Reason for Absence

Elizabeth Godwin (EG) – on holiday

225. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

226. 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.

227. Minutes of the last meeting

Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 4th October was proposed by AS and agreed as a true and accurate record, and duly signed by the Chairman.

228. Recreation Ground Working Group/Allotments – Glebeland

1. Inspection report from AS (already circulated) noted.

2. Recreation Ground report from LP (already circulated) noted.

LP presented for the council's consideration examples of two bicycle stand as supplied by Broxap. The Parish Clerk will send the link to the Broxap website to councillors, and the stands will be discussed further at the December meeting.

229. Transport

KW was unable to attend the recent Uttlesford Transport meeting but was able to advise that the subject of bus routes 7 and 7a was not discussed. There had been some questioning as to why the buses would not take passengers beyond the Station terminal to Riverside.

230. 1. Planning application UTT/16/2438/HHF – 72 Birchanger Lane.

There is concern over the height of the new building, and the possibility of overlooking a neighbour. Also it must be stressed that any building must be for personal use only.

MD will send the comments report to the Parish Clerk who will submit them to Uttlesford planning.

231. Finance

a. Account Balances (already circulated)

b. The payments were accepted and authorised to be made.

c. Income and Expenditure for 01/04/2016-30/09/2016 (already circulated).

d. GT gave some indication of the likely precept request for the next financial year. Councillors were invited to make suggestions for any projects which they would like to see undertaken during the next year. These would be taken into consideration when finalising the precept request.

232. Review of the Code of Conduct

No amendments or changes were considered necessary

233. Purchase of 3 further dogbins

On a proposal from SD, seconded by AS, approval was granted for the purchase and installation of 3 further dogbins, with the same amount agreed (£900) for the previous purchases.

One of the suggested sites is on land owned by Pryors farm near Birchwood. The owner Roger Pryor is known to RG who will contact him to obtain permission for siting of the bin.

The Parish Clerk had already emailed Rissa Long at Essex Highways to obtain permission for siting a bin at the junction of footpath 14 and bridleway 18. A reply is still awaited. RG offered to contact her and the Parish Clerk is to send a copy of the email to him.

234. Co-option of new parish councillor

Mr John Revell, who had applied for the vacant councillor's position, was invited to make a presentation to the council. He was then asked to leave the room whilst the council considered his application. This was agreed unanimously, following which Mr Revell was invited back into the room and advised of the decision.

235. Approval of new Action Plan for 2016/2017

Approved as circulated, with the addition of renovation of Duck End triangle.

236. Reports from county and district councillors

Ray Gooding – The council was currently awaiting the Autumn settlement. Constantly trying to balance the books. Having to cover all commitments whilst being required to save £1 million per week for the next four years.

He was pleased to report that Essex is above the national average on school performance.

237. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.14.