

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting  
held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 at 8.00 pm.  
in Birchanger Village Hall**

**Present:** Angie Driscoll (AD) - Chair  
Elizabeth Godwin (EG)  
Linda Pocklington (LP)  
Alex Stewart (AS)  
Sandy Dowle (SD)  
Maria Davy (MD)  
George Taylor (GT)  
Ken Wheatley (KW)  
John Revell (JR)

Ray Gooding (County councillor)  
Thom Goddard (District councillor)  
Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)

**336. Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

**337. Apologies and Reason for Absence**

None

**338. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**339 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.

**340. Minutes of the last meeting**

Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017 was proposed by EG and agreed as a true and accurate record, and duly signed by the Chairman.

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

**a) Recreation ground report from AS (already circulated)**

**b) Increase in allotment rent**

An increase to £15.00 per plot, to apply from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, was agreed. The Parish Clerk is to advise Peter Wilton.

**c) Immediate inspection of zipwire**

The cost of £80 for HAGS to carry out an urgent inspection of the zipwire, as arranged by the Parish Clerk, was accepted as a legitimate expense under the Clerk's emergency spending allowance.

**d) Annual contract for inspection of zipwire**

An annual inspection contract for the zipwire with HAGS, at a cost of £130 p.a., was agreed.

**342. Planning application UTT/17/2352/FUL – Welcome Break HGV exit**

Comments have already been submitted to Uttlesford planning department.

**343. Finance**

- a. Account Balances (already circulated).
- b. The payments were accepted and authorised to be made.

**344. Discuss application for noise barrier along section of M11 overlooking Birchanger**

The council thought that this is an issue to be pursued and asked the clerk to contact England Highways.

**345. Appointment of Data Protection Officer**

The Parish Clerk was appointed Data Protection Officer.

**346. Footpaths**

- A tree is reported to have fallen across footpath 11. The clerk is to ask Jay Leavers if he could clear this.
- It has been reported that some garden waste has been deposited along footpath 15 by Gower Barn. The clerk is instructed to write to households whose gardens back onto this footpath reminding them that garden waste, or any other spoil, is not to be deposited on public footpaths.
- Footpaths 8 and 13 are reported as being overgrown. It is believed that these are on land owned by Priors Farm and the clerk is instructed to write to Priors asking for the footpaths to be cleared.
- Some footpaths are missing finger posts or waymarkers. The clerk is instructed to contact Robin Walbank regarding arrangements for replacements of missing posts.

### **347. Highways**

- The verge at the bottom of Birchanger Lane just before the junction with Stansted road is overhanging the pavement and causing pedestrians to have to walk into the road. The clerk is to contact Highways to ask for this to be cut back.
- Some hedges on the bottom of gardens backing onto Birchanger Lane just past Hillside Cottages are overhanging the pavement and causing pedestrians to have to walk into the road. The clerk is to contact the residents and request that they be cut back.
- The problem reported by a resident regarding the flooding of her front driveway is not an issue with which the council can assist. The clerk is to write to the resident advising her.
- The streetlight at Bradley Common is not working. The clerk is to contact A & J Lighting to have them carry out the necessary repair.
- The street light outside The Old Vicarage is reported to be overhung by trees. The clerk is instructed to contact the residents to ask them to have the trees trimmed.

### **348. Convening of Village Hall Car Park Resurfacing Committee to consider**

- a) Tenders for resurfacing of the Village Hall car park.
- b) Overseeing of the works

The committee is to consist of three councillors (AD, GT and AS) who will receive the tenders from the clerk, and who will have the authority to decide which contractor is to be awarded the contract. Terms of reference will be prepared. The committee will also be responsible for overseeing the works.

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

#### **Terry Farthing (report in absence)**

Dear All

I hope you are all well

Just a short note as I need to attend the Stansted Airport Advisory panel tomorrow evening so I will be unable to attend the parish meeting. With regards to the application for the road from the services at Birchanger Welcome Break I have asked for this to be called in under highway safety grounds. However I have sent a number of detailed objections to the planning department. This is due for discussion on 25<sup>th</sup> October. I will be speaking with them around the 15<sup>th</sup> to see if the application has been declined. If not I will update you with what they intend to do. I have tried to motivate the Golf club to make objections and I understand that is now in hand.

#### **Thom Goddard**

The Local Plan consultation has now ended and is being collated.

### **350. Closure of meeting**

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.20.

[2017/074]