

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 at 7.30 pm.
In Birchanger Village Hall**

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

County Councillor & District Councillor Ray Gooding (RG)
District Councillor Nick Church (NC)
0 members of the public
Keith Williams (KW) – Parish Clerk

1129. Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

1130. Apologies for Absence

None

1131. Declarations of Interest

GD as District Councillor for another ward.

1132. Co-option of parish councillor

Keith Edgeworth was unanimously co-opted as a parish councillor for Birchanger. Due to his absence, for which he had sent his apologies, he was unable to sign the Declaration of Acceptance which will be signed subsequent to the meeting. The parish clerk will advise UDC of his co-option.

1133. Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

None.

1134. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 5th September 2023 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

1135. Planning

UTT/23/2325/HHF-8 Bradley Common, Birchanger

Garage conversion and single storey extension.

No objections.

1136. Traveller’s encampment update

AD is to have a meeting with the Planning Officer, with representatives of Birchanger Residents Association also present, on 26th October. The Planning Inspectorate Committee hearing will be on 16th November 2023.

[2023/263]

1137 A120/M11 roadworks

AD has received an email from Rissa Long (RL) from the M11 Jct8 Improvement Scheme Team in which she advised that there had been “a couple of reports of increased traffic through Birchanger recently. Is this something you have noticed?”

AD replied that this is indeed the case and that Birchanger Lane is being used as a “rat run”. AD asked if anything can be done about the increased traffic. RL responded that it is very limited in what can be done to deter the potential extra traffic. She is looking into the possibility of installing additional signage but that they were governed by the Traffic Signs and General Directions regulations as to what can be installed on the highway.

AD asked if there was any news on the proposed Open Day in Birchanger. A response is awaited.

There have also been a number of complaints, following completion of the pedestrian/cycle track, regarding the width of the road from the A120 junction to Duck End. The response from the M11 Jct8 Improvement Scheme Team is that having viewed the site they have concluded that there is actually an increase in width. However they have confirmed that following completion of all work they will be undertaking a Road Safety Audit which will look at this together with other factors.

1138. Finance

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

BIRCHANGER PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE AND PAYMENTS SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

1. **Account Balances b/f 31st August 2023**

Unity Trust Bank	19173.26
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2. **Payments due for September 2023**

UDC	On line	661.50 (Garden waste collection)
A&J Lighting	SO	45.90 (lighting charge)
Ace of Spades	On line	249.60 (grass cutting August 2023)
Npower	DD	109.20 (electricity for August 2023)
Payroo	On line	6.00 (payroll expenses for August)
B's Floral Designs	On line	70.00 (funeral flowers for John Revell)
One Hundred Parishes	On line	10.00 (membership renewal)
Keith Williams	On line	483.50 (salary for September 2023)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	On line	121.00 (PAYE for September 2023)
Keith Williams	On line	20.00 (office rent for September 2023)
TBS Hygiene	On line	178.20 (dog bin emptying Sept 2023)
Essex and Herts Ambulance	Already paid	250.00 (donation)
Chelmsford Diocese	SO	325.00 (Glebeland rent)
Unity Trust Bank	DD	18.00 (service charge)

<u>Total payments for September 2023</u>	<u>2547.90</u>
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Allotment rent	75.00
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Cancel allotment refund payment	150.00
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UDC Precept	10100.00
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Account Balance 30/09/2023 [2023/264]	26950.36
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Notes: The payment to HMRC was made by the parish clerk and is being reimbursed.

1139. Allotments/Recreation Ground

Allotments

- The recently vacated plots have still not been fully cleared and the deposit is therefore still withheld. LP has given one more work to comply.
- One plot has been taken and there are two enquiries for another plot.
- NC is obtaining a quotation for fencing the allotment site. A quote is also awaited from Grange Grounds Maintenance.
- An allotment holder has asked if it was possible to have a bonfire. LP has approved.
- LP will provide a schedule of additional work which the parish clerk will present to Ace of Spades for a quotation.

Recreation Ground

- The picnic tables have been delivered to GT and will be installed this week.
- ST has the invoice for the tables which she will pass to the parish clerk.

1140. Resolution to authorise executing deed of Glebeland Lease.

This resolution was agreed.

Confirmation of registering of lease with Land Registry.

The Parish Council confirms that the lease will be registered with the Land Registry.

1141. Reports from County and District Councillors

County Councillor Ray Gooding (RG)

- There has been some difficulty in getting the hedgerows cut.
- There were some trees down on Leyns farmland alongside the sand track. The land is managed by Streeters.
- Touch Point charity is keen to work with Birchanger.

District Councillor Nick Church (NC)

- The draft Local Plan is to be released on 30th October 2023.
- There are no development plans for Birchanger.

1142. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.29.

[2023/265]