

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 3rd November 2015 at 8pm.
in Birchanger Village Hall**

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

Ray Gooding (RG) County Councillor
Terry Farthing (TG) District Councillor

Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)
4members of the public

078. Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

079. Apologies and Reason for Absence

Received from:

Elizabeth Godwin – on holiday
Sandy Dowle – work commitments
Ken Wheatley – work commitments

080. Declarations of Interest

AD declared a non-pecuniary interest in the proposed planning application at 280 Birchanger Lane as a neighbour.

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

Mr Alf Pocklington wished to draw the council’s attention to an unmarked 56 foot refrigerated articulated lorry which had been parked opposite his house. The noise of the fridge unit running overnight was very intrusive.

Mr Peter Wilton, whose property is adjacent to the recreation ground, wished to know, with regard to the proposed adult exercise equipment;

- how many residents would be likely to use the equipment
- what would happen if a child used the equipment and was injured. Would the council be liable
- the siting of the equipment might have a detrimental effect on adjacent properties. The field is muddy in places, particularly at the bottom end
- could the money not be better spent on more pressing problems in the village
- what would happen to all the equipment on the recreation ground if the church decided to re-possess the land

Mr Wilton also made mention of the brambles in the hedge alongside the pavement between the recreation ground and the village hall.

082. Minutes of the last meeting

Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 6th October was proposed by LP and agreed as a true and accurate record.

083. Recreation Ground Working Group/Allotments – Glebeland

Recreation ground inspection

A report by The Play Inspection Co had already been circulated. MM said that there was nothing urgent in the report and she would prepare a list of jobs which needed to be done.

Adult exercise equipment

A report had been prepared by MM and circulated. A discussion ensued. MM would look further into the issues and report back.

In response to one of the queries raised by Mr Peter Wilton, AD advised that the current lease for the Glebeland was due for renewal in 2019 and there was no reason to believe that the lease would not be renewed, as it had always been in the past.

084. Planning

UTT/15/1093/FUL – Proposed change of use of residential annexe at 280 Birchanger Lane.

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– No objections.

085. Responses to Parish Plan questionnaire

There were 31 responses received. The main points would be followed up. Please refer to the report accompanying these minutes.

086. Additional landscaping work by Ace of Spades Landscaping (AOS)

The parish clerk had met with a representative of AOS and had taken him round the village to the various locations which the council proposed to add to the schedule (subject to costings). The report has been delayed and will therefore go forward to the next meeting. In the meantime the clerk undertook to distribute the report when it is available.

087. Transport

KW had circulated his report to all councillors prior to the meeting.

RG commented that there was poor usage on some services. 80% of services are commercial operations with remaining 20% subsidised by the county council. There was a problem of timetables and co-ordinating arrival of buses to coincide with other transport services which results in unreliability. There is a concern that there may be changes to routes 7 and 7a which serve the village.

088. Finance

Account balances – as previously circulated.

Invoices and standing orders for payment – were approved.

MZ would like a precept meeting in December. It was agreed that there would be a precept meeting before the next parish council meeting on 1st December, to start at 19.30. In the meantime MZ would liaise with the parish clerk to discuss budgets.

089. Uttlesford Local Plan

The parish clerk presented the consultation document recently received from Essex County Council for information purposes. The proposals regarding Birchanger were already known to councillors. The report will be passed to EG.

090. Reports from district and county councillors

Ray Gooding

- The police have a difficult job with savings having to be made.
- They will want to concentrate more on issues of security and terrorism which will impact on spending on local issues.
- There had been a presentation by the police to Stansted Parish. Perhaps we could ask for a similar presentation to Birchanger?
- £48 million of new schools had opened in the county.
- There are currently 18 special schools and funding was being sought to open further special schools.

Terry Farthing

- He would like to help find funding for groups in the village.
- He would like to join AD in her forthcoming meeting with Rissa Long, who is the Highways Liaison Officer at UDC, if one can be arranged.

091. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.15.