

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 4th December 2018 at 8.00 pm.
in Birchanger Village Hall**

Present: Angie Driscoll (AD) – Chair
Maria Davy (MD)
George Taylor (GT)
Peter Sampson (PS)

1 member of the public
Ray Gooding (RG) – county councillor

Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)

531. Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

532. Apologies for Absence

Elizabeth Godwin (EG)
John Revell (JR)
Ken Wheatley (KW)
Linda Pocklington (LP)
Sandy Dowle (SD)

533. Declarations of Interest

None

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

None

535. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 6th November 2018 (previously circulated) were agreed as a true and accurate record, and duly signed by the Chairman.

536. Recreation Ground Working Group/Allotments/Glebeland

1. Recreation Ground (report from LP already circulated)

Following on from my concerns last month regarding the poor state of the slide steps. Keith was going to find the date, cost, etc, of the most recent repair work. The equipment was going to be formally inspected for an annual report.

The report shows that the slide steps do need attention, and recommends that they be replaced. Metal steps are what I would suggest. At this point I have no idea as to the cost or where we would be able to have some made.

[2018/116]

The report also suggests fittings that are worn and need to be replaced on swings etc, including the Zip wire. Can I suggest that Keith contact Gavin Crane - gavin@playmaintain.co.uk

There are other jobs on equipment that require our attention and maintenance, but I believe the above should have priority.

2. Allotments (report from LP already circulated)

The 'new' hedge has been trimmed and looks all the better for it.

An allotment has been vacated, the man has moved to Oxford. Peter had asked the man to clear the site, but it has been left in such a state that Peter says Ace of Spades will not be able to use machinery to clear it.

Peter suggests that a £50.00 deposit, refundable, if site is left clear at end of occupation. Even if we consider the amount to be unsuitable, the idea of a deposit is good.

[The Parish Clerk is to check the current Allotment Rules to see if there are any current rules relating to fines or penalties, and what is done in the event of a plot being left in a poor state. GT and LP will report back with recommendations for further action.]

3. Playground inspection report

GT will inspect the playground in conjunction with the Playground Inspection Report and report back with recommendations for further action.

537. Finance

a. Consider donation of £30 to Royal British Legion

This was agreed.

b. Account Balances (already circulated) – noted.

c. Invoices and payments

The following payments were accepted and authorised to be made.

1. Account Balances b/f at 31st October 2018

HSBC Community account	£43461.97
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2. Payments due for November 2018

A&J Lighting	SO	£45.90 (monthly charge)
A&J Lighting	Chq 100648	£244.08 (call out charge)
Ace of Spades	Chq 100649	£249.60 (grounds maintenance)
TBS Hygeine Ltd	Chq 100650	£77.76 (dog bin emptying)
e-on	DD	£73.30 (electricity for October 2018)
David Debnam	Chq 100646	£744.00 (repairs to playground equipment)
The Play Inspection Co	Chq 100651	£78.00 (annual playground inspection)

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Royal British Legion	Chq 100647	£30.00 (donation)
Clerks salary	Chq 100652	£395.65 (salary for November 2018)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	Chq 100653	£99.00 (paye for month 08)
Office rental	Chq 100654	£20.00 (office rental for November 2018)
<u>Total payments for November 2018</u>		<u>£2057.29</u>

3. Account Balances c/f at 30th November 2018

HSBC Community account 51624067	£41404.68
Natwest current account	£13608.65

538. Neighbourhood Watch/Speedwatch/Traffic calming (reports from PS already circulated)

Neighbourhood Watch (NhW).

The police gather a lot of intelligence through NhW resulting in some arrests and prosecution. (No figures available)

Neighbourhood watch signs were installed in Birchanger at each end of the lane on the 21st November 2018.

Community Speed Watch (CSW);

There is real evidence of effect that CSW is working positively. Only 5.4% re-offenders recorded last year.

539. GDPR and Privacy Policy

In the absence of KW is was agreed to defer this until the next parish meeting.

540. Footpaths

In the absence of SD is was agreed to defer this until the next parish meeting.

541. Stansted Airport

In the absence of KW is was agreed to defer this until the next parish meeting.

542. Adoption of Complaints Procedure

The Complaints Procedure was adopted.

543. Repair of street light adjacent to 330 Birchanger Lane

The repair was agreed and the parish clerk is to instruct A & J Lighting to proceed.

544. Reports from County and District Councillors

Ray Gooding (RG)

RG has noted that a pole with CCTV cameras has been erected outside a house in Birchanger Lane and it appears that the cameras point along Birchanger Lane rather than at the installer's property. PS will put an article in the village magazine pointing out that CCTV cameras on private properties should be pointed at the property.

In view of condition of the telephone box, can this be removed?

A Library Consultation initiative is in operation. Library usage in the area is reducing.

Gigaclear is not responsible for repairing pathways, other than their own installations, even if their installation is near or on an existing damaged pathway area.

Buses – Trustybus is being advised regarding roadworks.

Would anybody be interested in arranging a DART service for the village? There is an annual charge per user of £12 and the user may use his/her bus pass. RG will provide further information regarding the scheme.

545. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.46.

[2018/119]