

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting  
held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 8pm.  
in Birchanger Village Hall**

**Present:** Angie Driscoll – Chair (AD)  
Elizabeth Godwin (EG)  
Linda Pocklington (LP)  
Sandy Dowle (SD)  
Alex Stewart (AS)  
Michelle May (MM)  
Maria Davy (MD)  
Matt Zych (MZ)  
Ken Wheatley (KW)

Ray Gooding (RG) County Councillor  
Thom Goddard (TG) District Councillor

Keith Williams (Parish Clerk)  
3 members of the public

**066. Chairman’s Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

**067. Apologies and Reason for Absence**

Received from:  
Terry Farthing

**068. Declarations of Interest**

LP declared an interest in the recreation ground (re installation of picnic tables).

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

Mr Duncan Palmer of Plum Cottage, Birchanger Lane wished to advise that the silver birch tree outside the front of his property was diseased and would have to be taken down. There is no preservation order in operation.

**070. Minutes of the last meeting**

Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September was proposed by EG and agreed as a true and accurate record.

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

AS advised that the picnic tables were now in situ and he wished to record that most of the erection and installation had been carried out by Mr Alf Pocklington. In recognition of his efforts it was agreed that AD should present him with a small gift as a “thank you”.

A letter had been received from Strutt and Parker on behalf of the Chelmsford Diocese advising that the Diocese wished to increase the annual glebeland rent to £650. It was decided by majority vote to take no action at this time and to continue paying the current rent of £530 p.a.

## **072. Planning**

**UTT/15/2765/HHF - Proposed single storey extension to 23 Bradley Common – No objections.**

## **073. Highways**

SD had circulated her main report prior to the meeting. (See report).

The light outside Moorswood was still not working and SD had notified A&J Lighting.

SD had sent photographs of the flooding near the bus shelter to Uttlesford District Council. EG said the photos need to be sent to Essex Highways. SD will ensure this is done.

The light near the Old Vicarage was being overshadowed by overhanging trees. AS believes the trees are actually in the garden of the Old Vicarage. MD said the residents are aware of the problem. The parish clerk is to write to the residents to request that the trees be cut back.

AD has requested an update from Essex Highways on two issues which have been agreed;

- The footpath on the Churton estate bend
- The request for an additional 3 street lights

AD has been unable to make contact with Rissa Long, Highways Liaison Officer, and therefore has contacted her manager. She is currently awaiting a response.

RG said that both items are on the 106 schedule and are scheduled for work but no commencement date has been given. He will check again.

Five areas were identified for additional work to be carried by Ace of Spades Landscapes on behalf of the council;

- Bridleway BW18
- Birchanger Lane end of the footpath alongside Gower Barn
- The triangle of green outside the recreation ground
- The hedge between the recreation ground and the village hall
- The brambles at the far end of the recreation ground

The parish clerk is to liaise with Ace of Spades and obtain quotes for the work.

## **074. Update on defibrillator**

EG reported that the defibrillator has been ordered and is due to be delivered from the suppliers in the USA within the next week. Steve Hopkins is to arrange for installation on the Club premises.

## **075. Finance**

**Account balances** – as previously circulated.

**Invoices and standing orders for payment** – were approved.

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

**Thom Goddard**

- The District Council had voted unanimously to assist any Syrian refugees who came to Uttlesford.

- He hoped that as many people as possible would become involved in the consultation regarding housing in the area. Further details to be circulated when available.
- He wants to set up a Western Sports Group which would include representatives of all sports and activities in the area.
- There are still some grant funds available.

### **Ray Gooding**

- School performance across the county shows that 23000 pupils (which represents 85% of the total) are in good or outstanding schools.
- The county has taken into care 600 asylum children which puts additional pressure on foster carers and school places.
- With regard to internal migration, London boroughs are placing people in parts of West Essex. This is putting extra pressure on local services.
- Youth services are performing well. The number of youth councils has tripled. He will speak to Uttlesford Youth Strategy Group to endeavour to find volunteers to assist with youth activities in the village.

### **077. Closure of meeting**

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.58.