

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 7th February 2023 at 7.30 pm.
In Birchanger Village Hall**

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

Keith Williams (KW) – Parish Clerk
District Councillor Ayub Khan (AK)
1 member of the public

1034. Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

1035. Apologies for Absence

John Revell (JR)
District Councillor Melvin Caton (MC)
County Councillor Ray Gooding (RG)

1036. Declarations of Interest

None

1037. Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

A resident advised that there had been 328 objections to the Travellers Encampment planning application. The recommendation from the planning officer is currently awaited. This will be the key to the eventual outcome. It is hoped that the planning officer will refuse permission. Photographs taken show that the site is clearly visible from the road.

1038. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2022 (previously circulated) were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

1039. Traveller’s encampment update

- AD expressed concern that planning permission will be granted as the travellers were invited to re-apply for permission to regularise the unauthorised use. UDC are “looking at” putting this application on the Planning Committee agenda for 8th March but this has not yet been confirmed.
- The site is rated for council tax although it is not known if any tax has yet been paid.
- The site has been listed by UDC as a supply site.
- During any site visit by UDC Planning Committee members, comments from our parish and district councillors can only be addressed to the Senior Planning Officer. Committee members cannot be directly approached.
- ST considers that the site is unsuitable for any development.

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1040. Assets of Community Value

The parish clerk will compile new applications for the Village Hall and Recreation Ground/Allotments. These will be distributed to councillors for their comments and suggestions.

1041. Highways

a) Yellow Lines in Birchanger Lane.

GD suggested that yellow lines to be extended along the Lane leading up to opposite Tot Lane. It is felt that if cars are allowed to continue to park across the footpath at this section of the Lane they would force pedestrians to walk in the road, and will also impede the bus service. The parish council agreed that GD should proceed with his application.

b) A120/M11

- Birchanger Lane will be closed until 23rd May 2023.
- There had been a recent presentation by National Highways regarding the M11 roadworks, which appeared to be poorly attended.
- The southbound M11 will be closed from J8 to J7a on 10/11/12 February from 21.00 on Friday until 06.00 on Monday.
- The northbound M11 will be closed from J7a to J8 on 3/4/5 March from 21.00 on Friday until 06.00 on Monday.
- AD has contacted Sisk again regarding the extra signage requested last November.

Further information can be found on Highways website.

c) Birchanger Lane/Stansted Road junction

AD had spoken to County Councillor Ray Gooding (RG) after the recent accident. Some action needs to be taken. A Community Safety Watch form requesting action, which needs to be signed by County Cllr Ray Gooding, needs to be submitted to the Local Highways Panel. There will then need to be a survey.

d) Footpaths

Footpath13 – a bridge needs replacing. ST has already reported this.

Footpath 28 – There is a mobile phone mast that has been installed which has dug up parts of the footpath.

Footpath 26 – A small bridge needs repairing.

1042. New Model Code of Conduct

It was agreed to adopt the new Model Code of Conduct. ST will personalise the template with Birchanger Parish Council details.

1043. “20 is Plenty For Us” update

The object of this scheme is to reduce the speed limit to 20mph in residential areas. Unlike the “20 is Plenty” scheme, this scheme will be legally enforceable. This is a national initiative. To date 46 parish councils in Essex have expressed their support.

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The Parish Council has confirmed support for the scheme. The parish clerk is to write to Essex County Council to confirm. PS is to provide the appropriate wording for the clerk.

1044. Voluntary contributions for Highway Rangers service

Due to lack of sufficient funding, as not enough parish councils registered to support the scheme, UDC have taken the decision to withdraw this service.

1045. Finance

BIRCHANGER PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE AND PAYMENTS SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2023

| | | |
|--|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Account Balances b/f 31st December 2022 | | |
| Unity Trust Bank | | 23901.70 |
| 2. Payments due for January 2023 | | |
| Unity Bank | DD | 18.00 (service charge) |
| AVG (Keith Williams) | On line | 79.99 (computer virus protection) |
| A&J Lighting | SO | 45.90 (monthly maintenance) |
| Ace of Spades | On line | 249.60 (grass cutting December 2022) |
| Npower | DD | 104.01 (electricity December 2022) |
| Payroo | On line | 6.00 (payroll expenses) |
| Keith Williams | On line | 483.50 (salary for January 2023) |
| HMRC (Keith Williams) | On line | 121.00 (PAYE for January 2023) |
| Keith Williams | On line | 20.00 (office rent January 2023) |
| TBS Hygiene | On line | 129.60 (dog bin emptying) |
| | | |
| Total payments for January 2023 | | <u>1257.60</u> |
| 3. Account Balance c/f 31/01/2023 | | 22644.10 |
| VAT refund | | 717.36 |
| Refund of duplicate payment | | 162.00 |
| Refund of duplicate payment | | 30.00 |
| Allotment fees | | 82.50 |
| Balance at 31/01/2023 | | 23635.96 |

Note 1: The payments to HMRC and AVG were made by the parish clerk and are being reimbursed.

1046. Allotments/Recreation Ground

Clearing of Recreation Ground by Ace of Spades.

There are currently 3 vacant plots with 2 residents looking to occupy. It has been agreed to await occupation of the plots before asking Ace of Spades to proceed with the clearance.

1047. Reports from County and District Councillors

District Councillor Ayub Khan

- Cllr Lee Scott is coming to Stansted PC meeting.
- The administration term ends shortly with an election in May.
- A number of meetings have been cancelled as "no business".
- There are ongoing planning implications.
- The Monitoring Officer has resigned.

1048. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.05.

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