

**Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 7th November 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)
Keith Edgeworth (KE)

1 member of the public
Keith Williams (KW) – Parish Clerk

1143. Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

1144. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Ray Gooding (RG)

1145. Declarations of Interest

GD as District Councillor for another ward.

1146. Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

A resident of Stansted wished to bring to the attention of the parish council the initiative to create a cycle path to run on the footpath between Wood Lane, Birchanger and Stansted, and hoped for support from Birchanger Parish Council.

[This was noted and would be discussed under item **15:Footpaths** on the agenda. Discussion of item 15 was brought forward to follow this representation].

1147. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

1148. Planning

The draft Local Plan Regulation 18 was discussed. The Parish Council will send a response to this consultation.

UTT/23/1109/HHF-27 Harrisons

Convert garage into annexe to include single storey extension.

There are a number of inconsistencies and inaccurate statements within the submitted planning documentation in particular the Supporting Planning Statement. 27 Harrisons is a 4-bedroom link detached house, not 3, as stated in the Supporting Planning Statement. It is linked by the garage to the adjoining property. This proposal would cause a change from link detached to semi-detached. It makes no mention of a Party Wall agreement with the adjoining property. The plan involves the loss of a garage with the consequent loss of parking. Harrisons is a compact estate, parking is difficult, and the roads are congested.

[2023/266]

The submitted photographs are not an accurate representation. The conversion would provide a 5-bedroom house with 2 parking spaces. This is in breach of parking standards. Parking Standards Design and Good Practice 2009 states a 4+ bedroom property should have a minimum of 3 parking spaces. The application form states no trees are impacted; the block plan shows two mature trees being removed. Birchanger Parish Council has concerns about the viability of this planning application. It is over-development of the site and will have a detrimental effect upon the neighbouring locality. The Council therefore opposes this planning application.

1149. Traveller's encampment update

AD attended a meeting with UDC representatives, which was also attended by Brian Ross on behalf of the Birchanger Residents Association. Nigel Brown of UDC stressed that he and his colleagues were keen for the land to revert to Green Belt.

1150. A120/M11 roadworks

Rissa Long of the contractors SISK had asked if SISK representatives could attend the December Parish Council meeting to discuss the roadworks plans. AD did not feel that this was a good idea as space in the meeting room was limited and there would be insufficient time for all those in the village who might like to discuss the issue to attend. It would be better if SISK could arrange a separate meeting in the Village Hall and suggested that Rissa should contact the Hall to arrange a suitable date.

Rissa had also said that SISK would like to help the Village in some way. It was suggested that perhaps SISK be asked to help to cut back and improve various footpaths, clear unused allotment plots and also to finance replacement fencing around the allotments.

1151. Birchanger Bus Service

There is concern amongst some residents that the village may lose the bus service. Support for the service is guaranteed for a further two years but after that date if demand is uneconomical and it is possible that the operator may withdraw the service.

An app is now available called Travel Essex to be downloaded from AppStore to mobile phones. This tracks buses which are fitted with suitable tracking devices which will advise the present position of the bus.

1152. Finance

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

BIRCHANGER PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE AND PAYMENTS SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2023

1. Account Balances b/f 30th September 2023

Unity Trust Bank	26950.36
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2. Payments due for October 2023

Ace of Spades	On line	249.60 (grass cutting September 2023)
Npower	DD	161.78 (electricity for September 2023)
NBB Recycled Furniture	Already paid	1518.00 (picnic tables)
Payroo	On line	6.00 (payroll services for September 2023)
Keith Williams	On line	483.70 (salary for October 2023)

[2023/267]

1157. Footpaths

The cycle path has now been cleared but not the sand track along which several trees fell down last year. These are now lying alongside the track.

The Stansted proposals presented under minute 1146 were discussed. It was pointed out to the representative from Stansted that the cost of creating a cycle path from Wood Lane to Stansted would be prohibitive, as Birchanger knows from the cycle track which was created in the village by Essex Highways. The speaker did not know who owned the land or if permission would be given. He was asked to update the Council if he had any more information.

1158. Reports from County and District Councillors

County Councillor Ray Gooding (RG) (in his absence)

A new cabinet member has been appointed for Highways.

The standing water at the junction of Birchanger Lane and the B1383 was due to some subsidence which had damaged the surface water drains. Investigation and repair were planned but no date given.

1159. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.27.

[2023/269]