Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 7.30 pm.
In Birchanger Village Hall

Present:
Angie Driscoll (AD) - Chair
Keith Edgeworth (KE)
Linda Pocklington (LP)
Geof Driscoll (GD)
John Warwick (JW)
Peter Sampson (PS)

Keith Williams (KW) – Parish Clerk

1528. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

1529. Apologies for Absence

None

1530. Declarations of Interest

GD as District Councillor for another ward.

1531. Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

None

1532. Minutes of the last meeting and Extraordinary Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 7th July 2026 and Extraordinary meeting held on 30th July had been previously circulated. The minutes of both were agreed as true and accurate records and were duly signed by the Chair.

1533. Death of George Taylor

The council was saddened to record the death of Cllr George Taylor. George had been a very active councillor, particularly concerning issues regarding the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that a donation of £50 would be made to the RAF Benevolent Fund in memory of George.

Recognition of his contributions was discussed.

1534. Amendment of bank signatories

It was confirmed that Cllr Keith Edgeworth would be registered as signatory on the PC bank account in replacement for George Taylor. The following changes were also made to councillor responsibilities.

PS -Finance
KE -Grants
LP – Footpaths
Clerk – Policy documents

1535. Village Website

PS has spoken to Ken Wheatley. The new site is under construction, using Word Press as the platform. It is expected to be another two months before the new site is completed.

1536. Planning

There were no planning applications to consider.

1537. City and Country

Birchanger Parish Council is confirmed as a Rule 6 party together with Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council, Birchanger Residents Association and Birchanger and Stansted Green Belt Preservation Group. City and Country have asked for the inquiry to be brought forward. The Inquiry will still commence on 3rd November with a week's pause, followed by another four days from the 17th November.

NPPF has been updated and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has confirmed that UDC can now show a five-year land supply of 5.35.

1538. Finance

a) Account balances
Noted.

b) Invoices and payments for approval
Approved

BIRCHANGER PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE AND PAYMENTS SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 2026

1. Account Balances b/f 31st July 2026

Unity Trust Bank		**17041.38**

2. Payments due for August 2026

Npower	DD	142.76 (electricity for July 2026)
A&J Lighting	SO	45.90 (lighting maintenance)
TBS Hygiene	Online	204.00 (dog bin emptying)
Hundred Parishes	Online	10.00 (membership renewal)
Keith Williams	Online	557.40 (salary for August 2026)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	Online	181.37 (PAYE for August 2026)
Keith Williams	Online	20.00 (office rent for August 2026)
Payroo	Online	6.00 (payroll services June 2026)
Payroo	Online	6.00 (payroll services July 2026)
Unity Trust Bank	DD	7.00 (service charge)
Total payments for August 2026		1180.43

Allotment income	**245.00**
Account Balance @ 31/08/2026	**16105.95**

Notes: The payment to HMRC was made by the parish clerk and is being reimbursed.

[2026/357]

1539. Allotments/Recreation Ground

Recreation Ground

- An oak bench has fallen over, with the concrete bases of the posts exposed. LP will ask Jay Leavers if he could remove these. The holes will then need to be filled.
- The soft surface around the roundabout has shrunk and needs refilling. LP will contact Playscape.
- Some of the bolts on the small slide have deteriorated and will need replacing.

Repair to swings

KE has obtained a quotation of £120 to replace one of the oilite bush bearings. The other may also need replacing. A budget of £300 was agreed to include the other bearing if deemed necessary.

Allotments

- LP proposed that the allotment area be renovated and had obtained a quotation of £150 per day from Jay Leavers (JL) to carry out the work. A budget of £450 was agreed to allow for three days work. LP will liaise with JL to get an idea of timing.
- PS will place an advert in the village magazine to advise of available plots.
- A gate post is loose. GD will investigate to see if this can be repaired.

1540. Membership of CPRE

The Council agreed to applying for membership of CPRE (Council for Preservation of Rural England). The clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

1541. Reports from County and District Councillors

No reports. No County or District Councillors present.

1542. Parish Clerk's annual pay increase

Details of the proposed changes to the clerk's salary had been circulated. The increase was agreed.

1543. Closure of meeting.

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.30.

[2026/358]