

**Draft Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 7.30 pm.
In Birchanger Village Hall**

Present:

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

Cllr Ray Gooding (RG)
0 members of the public
Keith Williams (KW) – Parish Clerk

1473. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

1474. Apologies for Absence

Keith Edgeworth (KE)

1475. Declarations of Interest

GD as District Councillor for another ward.
GD in respect of planning applications as a member of UDC Planning Committee.

1476. Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

None

1477. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 3rd March 2025 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair. Signing of the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting has been deferred until the next meeting

1478. Planning

1. UTT/26/0527/FUL – Land north of Birchanger Lane

Application to remove condition 9 (details of footway) attached to UTT/24/1282/FUL

Birchanger Parish Council objects to this application. The full objection submitted can be viewed on the UDC Planning portal.

2. UTT/26/0663/HHF – 3 Hillside Cottages. Birchanger

Demolition of existing ground floor extensions.

No objections

3. UTT/25/2699/FUL – 216 Birchanger Lane

Demolition of garage. Appeal against refusal of planning permission.

Birchanger Parish Council objects to this application. The full objection submitted can be viewed on the UDC Planning portal.

1479. City and Country

Essex Highways has submitted its report. C & C have asked the for the decision date to be deferred. C & C will have to respond to the report.

A resident has spoken to an expert who would be prepared to represent the Council in its own objections to the planning application. A discussion took place and it was agreed that a highway consultant, Bruce Bamber, would be appointed to assist with the council's objection. The likely cost would be approximately £2000 to £2500 plus expenses, but this would be split equally with Stansted Parish Council.

The Parish Council agreed to this proposal on condition that Stansted PC agree to split the cost. The Parish Council agreed a budget of £1500 to cover potential costs of the representation.

1480. Finance

a) Account balances

Noted.

b) Invoices and payments for approval

Approved (Note: the payment to UDC of £870, although correctly entered in the accounts, had been entered on the schedule as "EALC". This was corrected).

BIRCHANGER PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE AND PAYMENTS SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2026

1. Account Balances b/f 28th February 2026

Unity Trust Bank	<u>14929.86</u>
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2. Payments due for March 2026

A&J Lighting	SO	45.90 (lighting maintenance)
UDC	Online	870.00 (garden waste service)
Ace of Spades	Online	249.60 (grass cutting February 2026)
Ken Wheatley	Online	265.47 (software support March 25-April 26)
Npower	DD	218.12 (electricity for February 2025)
Payroo	Online	6.00 (payroll expenses for February 2026)
The Donkey Sanctuary	Online	50.00 (donation re alex)
TBS Hygiene	Online	182.40 (dog bin emptying)
Keith Williams	Online	557.40 (salary for March 2026)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	Online	181.37 (PAYE for March 2026)
Keith Williams	Online	20.00 (office rent for March 2026)
George Taylor	Online	52.36 (shackles)
The Play Inspection Co	Online	113.94 (annual play equipment inspection)
Chelmsford Diocese	SO	370.00 (Glebeland rent)
Unity Trust Bank	DD	7.00 (service charge)

Total payments for March 2026	<u>3189.56</u>
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Allotment income	190.00
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Account Balance @ 31/03/2026 [2026/345]	<u>11930.30</u>
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Notes: The payments to HMRC and The Donkey Sanctuary were made by the parish clerk and are being reimbursed.

C) Agree new price structure from TBS Hygiene Ltd

The new rate was agreed.

1481. Allotments/Recreation Ground

Allotments

An allotment has been overgrown for some time and LP would like to give the allotment holder 30 days notice to vacate the plot.

Recreation Ground

The swing has been repaired. The mount on the bar on top of the swings is worn and will need to be replaced at some point.

1482. Update on gov.uk domain

This is now active. ST and PS will discuss with Ken Wheatley re-design of the website.

1483. Local Plan

The Local Plan has now been adopted by UDC and approved.

1484. Unitary Councils

Essex is to be divided into 5 unitary authorities. Uttlesford would be joined with Harlow and Epping, and would be called West Essex

1485. Queries raised at the Annual Parish Meeting

a) Flooding the Lane

One of the pipes clogs up over time. Cllr Gooding will ask Highways if they can suggest a solution. He has requested that the pipe is jetted.

b) How much has been allocated by Essex County Council for repairing potholes

An amount of £6 million has been allocated for winter repairs but it is not possible to say how much will be used for pothole repairs as the price could vary depending on location and detail of the structure of the road and extent of damage.

c) The light outside 284 Birchanger Lane.

The Parish Council is in communication with the resident of the property to see if a satisfactory solution can be found.

1486. Reports from County and District Councillors

As Cllr Gooding is standing for election in the forthcoming local election in May he is currently in a state of purder which means he is unable to submit a report in his capacity as County Councillor.

1487. Closure of meeting.

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.55.

[2026/346]