

**Draft Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 7.30 pm.
In Birchanger Village Hall**

Present:

Angie Driscoll (AD) - Chair
Linda Pocklington (LP)
Geof Driscoll (GD)
John Warwick (JW)
Peter Sampson (PS)

Cllr Ray Gooding (RG)
Keith Williams (KW) – Parish Clerk

1544. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

1545. Apologies for Absence

Keith Edgeworth (KE)

1546. Declarations of Interest

GD as District Councillor for another ward.

1547. Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

None

1548. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 1st September 2026 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate records and were duly signed by the Chair.

1549. Village Website

PS reported that the new website preparation is proceeding.

1550. War Memorial

GD advised that the Church has confirmed that pruning of the trees can proceed. It is suggested that an arboriculturist should inspect the trees first. GD will ask for quotations.

1551. Adopt Publication Scheme

The scheme was adopted. The clerk will post a copy to the website with the other policy documents.

1552. Planning

Although there were no actual planning applications to consider, it was noted that David Lloyd Leisure Centres (DLLC) is considering an application to build a leisure centre on land within Birchanger. It is understood that DLLC do not currently own the land for the proposed development.

1553. City and Country

The enquiry commences on 3rd November. Further meetings with the new barrister are planned.

1554. Finance

a) Account balances
Noted.

b) Invoices and payments for approval
Approved

BIRCHANGER PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE AND PAYMENTS SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

1. Account Balances b/f 31st August 2026

Unity Trust Bank	<u>16105.95</u>
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2. Payments due for September 2026

Ace of Spades	Online	249.60 (grass cutting August)
A&J Lighting	SO	45.90 (lighting maintenance)
RAF Benevolent Fund	Online	50.00 (donation)
Npower	DD	166.83 (electricity for August 2026)
Payroo	Online	6.00 (payroll expenses for August 2026)
TBS Hygiene	Online	204.00 (dog bin emptying)
Payroo	Online	6.00 (payroll expenses for July 2026)
Geof Driscoll	Online	37.75 (Allotment repairs)
Keith Williams	Online	557.60 (salary for September 2026)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	Online	181.17 (PAYE for September 2026)
Keith Williams	Online	20.00 (office rent for September 2026)
Chelmsford Diocese	SO	370.00 (Glebeland Rent)
Unity Trust Bank	DD	7.00 (service charge)
Total payments for September 2026		<u>1901.85</u>

Precept	155752.50
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Account Balance @ 30/09/2026	<u>29776.60</u>
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Notes: The payments to HMRC and RAF Benevolent Fund were made by the parish clerk and are being reimbursed.

1555. Allotments/Recreation Ground

Recreation Ground

The swing has been repaired. Anti-pigeon plastic ties need to be fitted.

[2026/360]

Quotes are being sought for repairing the gaps around some play equipment. The best quotation received is £1339 plus VAT from Playsafe Playgrounds Ltd. This is recommended by PS. There could be additional costs which only come to light once work has commenced. With this in mind PS suggests adding a further £500 to the budget for this work. It was agreed therefore that a budget of £1889 be allocated.

Jay Leavers has completed all work and the Recreation Ground and Allotments.

Allotments

There have been further enquiries from potential allotment holders.

1556. Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr Ray Gooding

- Residents at the corner of Duck End have had their fence and hedge knocked down on more than one occasion by hgv's. RG will ask who is responsible for repairs. This may be Highways.
- RG has reported the issue at Duck End but is struggling to get action following the recent County Council changes.
- RG will see if Birchanger Lane between Duck End and the A120 junction is listed as a clearway. If it is then a sign needs to be displayed.

1557. Closure of meeting.

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.15.

[2026/361]