

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

Present:

Angie Driscoll (AD) - Chair
Keith Edgeworth (KE)
Linda Pocklington (LP)
Sally Taylor (ST)
Geof Driscoll (GD)
John Warwick (JW)

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

1516. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

1517. Apologies for Absence

George Taylor (GT)
Peter Sampson (PS)

1518. Declarations of Interest

GD as District Councillor for another ward.

1519. Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

None

1520. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 2nd June 2026 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

1521. Planning

UTT/26/0284/FUL-Land South of Birchanger Lane
Appeal against refusal of planning permission.

The Parish Council will continue to object to the application. ST and AD will produce a response to this appeal.

1522. City and Country

The applications UTT/25/3011/OP and UTT/25/3012/OP were heard by UDC Planning Committee on 10th June 2026 who have recommended refusal. The applications have been called in by the Secretary of State and will now go to Inquiry. BPC and SMPC are planning to apply for Rule 6 status which would enable us to fully take part in the Inquiry. Both parish councils are considering retaining a planning consultant to assist in future objections but this will depend on availability of funds.

[2026/353]

1523. Replacement dog bin

It was agreed to postpone purchase of a replacement dog bin whilst investigating if the existing bin can be repaired.

1524. Finance

a) Account balances
Noted.

b) Invoices and payments for approval
Approved

BIRCHANGER PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE AND PAYMENTS SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2026

1. Account Balances b/f 31st May 2026

Unity Trust Bank	<u>22032.75</u>
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2. Payments due for June 2026

Castle Water (Keith Williams)	Online	101.54 (water rates 01/04-30/09/2026)
Victoria Waples	Online	240.00 (internal audit fee)
A&J Lighting	SO	45.90 (lighting maintenance)
Npower	DD	148.29 (electricity for May 2026)
Payroo	Online	6.00 (payroll expenses for May 2026)
TBS Hygiene	Online	204.00 (dog bin emptying)
Railton TPC Ltd	Online	2611.88 (professional fees-objection)
Keith Williams	Online	557.40 (salary for June 2026)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	Online	181.37 (PAYE for June 2026)
Keith Williams	Online	20.00 (office rent for June 2026)
Unity Trust Bank	DD	7.00 (service charge)
Ace of Spades	Online	249.60 (grass cutting for April)
Ace of Spades	Online	249.60 (grass cutting May)
Total payments for June 2026		<u>4372.98</u>

Precept

Allotment income

Account Balance @ 30/06/2026	<u>17659.777</u>
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Notes: The payments to HMRC and Castle Water were made by the parish clerk and are being reimbursed.

1525. Allotments/Recreation Ground

Recreation Ground

Repair to swings

GT has been unable to pursue this as present. The villager who had been approached with a view to repairing the swings does not have public liability insurance and the PC decided this should not be the way ahead. KE will contact a professional company in Harlow who may be prepared to quote for the work.

Allotments

The advert in the local magazine had so far produced one response.

[2026/354]

It was suggested that the village school should be asked if they would like to take on an allotment plot.

1526. Reports from County and District Councillors

Ray Gooding.

Essex County Council is proposing to request a judicial review into the Secretary of State's decision for the reorganisation of the county into five divisions. This request has been accepted by the High Court.

1527. Closure of meeting.

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.08.

[2026/355]