

**Draft Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council Extraordinary Parish meeting
held on Thursday 30th July 2026 at 7.00 pm.
In Birchanger Village Hall**

Present:

Angie Driscoll (AD) - Chair
Peter Sampson (PS)
Keith Edgeworth (KE)
Linda Pocklington (LP)
Geof Driscoll (GD)

0 members of the public
Keith Williams (KW) – Parish Clerk

001. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

002. Apologies for Absence

Sally Taylor (ST)
George Taylor (GT)
John Warwick

003. Declarations of Interest

GD as District Councillor for another ward.

004. Public participation session

None

005. Discuss appointment of Planning Consultant

AD advised that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has decided that there should be an Inquiry into City and Country's planning applications. This will begin on 3rd November and 8 days have been scheduled for this. The Inspector's recommendation will be sent to MHCLG by 27 January 2027 who will then notify us of the decision. Birchanger Parish Council, Stansted Parish Council, Birchanger Residents Association and the Birchanger & Stansted Green Belt Preservation Group have obtained Rule 6 status which means we can fully take part in the Inquiry.

Due to its complexity there is a proposal to retain the services of a planning consultant, in conjunction with Stansted Parish Council. A Mr Gary Duncan has been recommended and his estimated cost for full representation will be £16,000. It is also proposed to use the services again of the transport consultant, Bruce Bamber at a cost of £8,000 plus expenses, these costs to be split 50/50 with Stansted Parish Council and will be financed from council reserves plus funds raised from various activities. There is currently a GoFundMe scheme in operation which has already raised substantial funds.

The proposal was put to councillors and it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the employment of the planning consultant and transport consultant.

006. Closure of meeting

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19.19.