

Draft Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 4th November 2025 at 7.30 pm.
In Birchanger Village Hall

Present:

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

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

1420. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

1421. Apologies for Absence

George Taylor (GT)

1422. Declarations of Interest

GD as District Councillor for another ward.

1423. Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

None

1424. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 7th October 2025 had been previously circulated. They were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

1425. Planning

- a. UTT/25/1542/FUL – Stansted Airport application to increase runway capacity**
No further comments.

1426. City and Country - UTT/25/2203/SO – Land North of Birchanger and South of Stansted

AD, GD and LP, accompanied by representatives from Stansted Mountfitchet and Bishops Stortford Planning, had a meeting with City and Country (C&C) that morning. Various charts and maps were shown. C&C are attempting to demonstrate how the Green Belt land could be re-designated as Grey Belt land. C&C considers that there is sufficient schooling in the area to accommodate the additional demand which would result from the development. They further felt that there was no need for another surgery.

They have reduced their application to 480 homes and will be submitting an outline planning application this week. The Parish Council and other interested parties may have to consider the employment of a planning consultant.

1427. New noticeboard

PS had circulated three options and considers the aluminium option to be the best. For a board with dimensions 750 x 1000 mm the price would be £740 plus VAT. This price includes the post. The estimated cost of installation would be £300.

The Parish Council approved this recommendation. PS will order from the supplier, Boards Direct.

1428. Replacement dog waste bin lid

The new bin lid has been ordered with the agreement of the Parish Council.

1429. Local Council re-organisation

The Government will make it's decision and then put this out for consultation. Essex County Council would like there to be three unitary councils although most district councils would prefer five with two favouring 4 unitary councils. Birchanger Parish Council is in favour of 5 unitary councils.

1430. UK Domain

Ken Wheatley had provided a full report on this issue. The Parish Council agreed to proceed with his recommendations.

1431. Village Green

A response to the latest communication from Mrs Dobbs has been sent.

A complaint was received by UDC that councillors had contravened the Code of Conduct. After a full investigation by the UDC Monitoring Officer the decision was No Further Action.

It was agreed that the Millenium Oak should be professionally pruned. ST will obtain estimates for the work as the tree has a TPO on it.

1432. Finance

**BIRCHANGER PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE AND PAYMENTS SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2025**

1. Account Balances b/f 30th September 2025

Unity Trust Bank	<u>25418.32</u>
------------------	------------------------

2. Payments due for October 2025

A&J Lighting	SO	45.90 (lighting maintenance)
PKF Littlejohn	Already paid	252.00 (External Auditor fee)
Npower	DD	192.98 (Electricity for September 2025)
Payroo	Online	6.00 (payroll expenses for September 2025)
TBS Hygiene	Online	228.00 (dog bin emptying)
Laura Chapman	Already paid	50.00 (refund of allotment deposit)
Essex County Council	Online	444.24 (legal services in respect of lease)
Keith Williams	Online	557.40 (salary for October 2025)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	Online	139.40 (PAYE for October 2025)
Keith Williams	Online	20.00 (office rent for October 2025)
Unity Trust Bank	DD	6.00 (service charge)

[2025/334]

Total payments for October 2025	<u>1941.92</u>
---------------------------------	----------------

Account Balance @ 31/10/2025	<u>23476.40</u>
------------------------------	-----------------

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

The Precept for 2026-2027 will be discussed at the December meeting.

1433. Allotments/Recreation Ground

Allotments

Laura Chapman has given up her plot and will therefore no longer be the Allotment Holder's point of contact. LP will be taking over the plot. An increase in the allotment rent will be discussed at the December meeting.

Recreation Ground

GT submitted the following report prior to the meeting.

No update on funding from MAGS. Contact maintained with Playdale as a potential supplementary funding source.

1434. Reports from County and District Councillors

None.

1435. Closure of meeting.

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.29.

[2025/335]