



## **BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**

*Clerk – Angela Balcombe*

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### **Minutes of a meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 1 July 2025, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.**

**Present:** *Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Cottrell, Harris, Monks, Ninnim & Westby.*  
**In the Chair:** *Cllr Bowtle.*  
**Clerk:** *Angela Balcombe.*  
**Also present:** *2 members of the public.*

#### **25/36. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

#### **25/37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

There were no apologies.

#### **25/38. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

The minutes of 3 June 2025 were approved as a correct record of events.

**Proposed: Cllr Ninnim. Seconded: Cllr Ninnim. All agreed.**

#### **25/39. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests on any matters covered by this agenda. No interests were declared.

#### **25/40. REPORTS.**

**Essex County Council (ECC).**

**Colchester City Council (CCC).**

Apologies were received from Cllr Bentley, Cllr Ellis and Cllr Maclean.

#### **25/41. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No matters were raised.

#### **25/42. PROGRESS CHECK.**

**Birch Church Structural Survey** – a summary of the Structural Report will be provided but may take several weeks.

**Birch Church Meeting with the Bishop of Barking** – a couple of suitable dates to be provided before the 17 July.

#### **25/43. REPAIR OF THE MEMORIAL CROSS.**

A quotation has been received for the work; funding has been requested from our County and District Councillors Locality Budget.

#### **25/44. FINANCE.**

Payments made / money received:

101986 £1,372.27 Playquip Leisure (Play Area Repairs)

101987 £524.16 A Balcombe (Salary/Expenses)

101988 £100.00 Birch Memorial Hall (Hall Hire)

101989 £880.00 The Turf Guy (Grass Cutting)  
101990 £203.36 R Bowtle (Grass Strimmer)

**25/45. PLAY AREA.**

The Trustees of the Enover Community Trust (ECT) visited the play area on 8 July and were provided with coffee and cake afterwards at the Hare and Hounds. They were very impressed with the range of equipment provided for all age ranges.

**25/46. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.**

**Birch Solar Farm** - request for information on how the community benefit money has been spent.

**RCCE** - AGM 9 July, 6.30pm at Rivenhall Oaks Golf Centre.

**ECC** - Salt Bag Partnership - closing date 21 July 2025.

**Bishop of Barking** - the Bishop is unable to attend our meeting as she is on annual leave.

**Nathan Whitehead** - reply re the request for a copy of the latest Structural Report on Birch Church.

**25/47. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.**

- Straight Way – a problem had been reported that refuse collection vehicles were unable to get past the overgrown hedges. It is the residents responsibility to cut the hedges, the Clerk will keep residents updated with any progress on hedge cutting.
- Cllr Harris has been working with the Neighbourhood Warden and they have caught someone fly-tipping on camera. The Parish Council now holds a license for the use of recording equipment.
- The pathway in Birch Street, from the school up to the Gallery has bad cracks in it – to be reported to Highways.
- Birch Park – reported potholes have still not been repaired.
- A complaint was received regarding very loud noise from Birch Fest at 1am.
- Overgrown brambles in Mill Lane on the footpath to the play area – to be reported to Colchester City Council.

**25/48. MEETING DATES 2025.**

2 September, 7 October, 4 November (Budget Meeting), 2 December.

**CLOSE OF MEETING:** *The meeting closed at 20:10.*

**SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):**

**DATE:**