



## **BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**

*Clerk – Angela Balcombe*

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Minutes of a meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on  
Tuesday 1 March 2022, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

*Present:* Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Ninnim.  
*In the Chair:* Cllr Bowtle.  
*Clerk:* Angela Balcombe.  
*Also present:* County Cllr Bentley and one member of the public.

### **22/15. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **22/16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Cottrell, Cllr Windsor & Cllr Walsh.

### **22/17. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

The minutes of 4 January 2022 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

### **22/18. 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.

### **22/19. REPORTS.**

**County Council** – Cllr Bentley explained that ECC were acting as a co-ordinator by collating information to help the Ukraine people, with things such as clothes collection. Anyone wishing to help can contact Cllr Bentley directly.

The Locality Budget for 2022/23 will require match funding, Cllr Bentley still has £500 left in this years budget if the Parish Council has a project that needs funding.

Community Speed Watch (CSW) – Cllr Bentley advised the Council to work with neighbouring Layer to avoid any personal conflict with residents caught speeding.

Village Gateways – Cllr Bentley will chase this up. The gate at Hardys Green has been blown over in storm along with two 30mph speed signs, Cllr Bentley will get these put back up.

**Borough Council** – apologies were received from Cllr Maclean and Cllr Ellis.

### **22/20. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

The recent storm has taken the corrugated panels out of the Church, someone came and cleared up the next day and they have been put back.

## **22/21. PROGRESS CHECK.**

- Reply regarding the erection of a double garage at Brambles, 4 Birch Street (circulated).
- Birch Pit (ESS/45/18/COL. There is no new site entrance proposed, the referral to a new site entrance was from the original application.
- Potholes along the B1022 – permanent repairs are planned during March but arrangements have been made for some ‘make safe’ repairs to be delivered quickly in the meantime.

## **22/22. PLANNING.**

**Application Nos: 220168 & 220169.** Re-roof using existing tiles, timber repairs, new conservation rooflight; cast iron rainwater fittings; Repair, replace & fit new timber external windows & doors; Remove single storey modern extension; install new foul drainage system & treatment plan.

**Location:** Brakes Farm, Maldon Road, Birch CO2 0NU. No objections.

**Application No: 212612.** Two storey extension and internal alterations and new windows along with removal of front porch. Extensions and alterations to garage to form a new home office (Amended plans received) (Revised description).

**Location:** Shemmings Farmhouse, Hardys Green, Birch CO2 0NY. No objections.

**Application No: 220385.** Notification for prior approval for a proposed single storey rear extension extending 6.00 metres beyond the rear wall of the original dwelling, with a maximum height of 3.65 metres, and eaves height of 2.80 metres.

**Location:** Die Puppenstube, Birch Street, Birch CO2 0NN. No objections.

## **22/23. ESSEX MINERALS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW POLICY S6 ENGAGEMENT AND CALL FOR SITES (11 FEBRUARY - 25 MARCH 2022).**

Full details of the Policy S6 engagement and Call for Sites exercise, including why ECC are holding both, engagement documents and how to respond can be found on the Essex County Council website at [www.essex.gov.uk/minerals-review](http://www.essex.gov.uk/minerals-review)

## **22/24. PLAY AREA.**

To consider quotes for safety surfacing and repairs to play equipment. It was unanimously agreed to do the following: Seesaw £364.00, Toddler Multi-Play £1,147.50 and the Teenage Shelter £644.00.

## **22/25. THE QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE.**

- Tree Planting – Cllr Cottrell has arranged the planting of the trees which will be registered on the Queens Green Canopy. It was also agreed to get a plaque. Cllr Bowtle will meet with the grass cutters to agree the additional area to be cut.
- Street Party/Picnic Costs – agreed to pay £150.00 for the disco.

## **22/26. NOTICE BOARD.**

The notice board at Birch Green has fallen down and needs replacing. This will be monitored to see if anyone asks for it to be replaced.

**22/27. FINANCE.**

Payments made / money received:

101795 £354.68 A Balcombe (Salary/PAYE)

101797 £52.92 E Bowtle (Batten wood for Speed Signs)

**22/28. CORRESPONDENCE.**

- Copy of email from Cllr Bentley to a resident regarding verge and hedge management.
- Invitation from the Mayor and Mayoress of Colchester to attend a special reception for Colchester Borough's parish councils at the Town Hall on Friday 18 March 2022 from 7pm.

**22/29. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.**

**Cllr Ninnim** – another 19 bags rubbish were collected in February and the brambles near the play area have been removed.

**22/30. MEETING DATES 2022.**

5 April, 10 May (Annual Parish Meeting/Annual Council Meeting),  
7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November (Budget Meeting),  
6 December.

*The meeting closed at 20.45 pm.*

**SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):**

**DATE:**