



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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

Present: Cllrs: *Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Cottrell, Ninnim & Windsor.*
In the Chair: Cllr *Bowtle.*
Clerk: Angela *Balcombe.*
Also present: Mr *Essy Eslamian (Heckford Angel) and two members of the public.*

22/12. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

22/13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies.

22/14. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

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

22/15. 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.

22/16. REPORTS.

County Council - apologies were received from Cllr Bentley.

Borough Council - apologies were received from Cllr Ellis.

22/17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Overgrown hedge to be chased up.

22/18. PROGRESS CHECK.

No matters were raised.

22/19. PLANNING.

The Heckford Angel – Colchester Borough Council has served an Urgent Works Notice on the owner to carry out internal, external works to the main building and the barn to protect from further deterioration and also tidy up the outside areas. The owners have had an ecological survey carried out during which they were advised not to carry out any external works. They have assured the Borough Council that this is now finished and they will be sending the Council a schedule of works they intend to carry out.

Mr Essy Eslamian updated the Council on the progress of the planning application for the Heckford Angel. Providing the application is approved, they hope to have the contractors on site early 2023.

Application No: 222664 & 222665. Renovation and refurbishment of the listed building, including demolition of modern additions, together with the erection of new overnight accommodation for tourists and associated works.

Location: Angel Inn, Maldon Road, Birch CO3 0SP. The Parish Council fully support this application.

22/20. PLAY AREA FUNDING APPLICATION.

The Parish Council has been successful in securing £50,000.00 of funding from Envert Community Trust towards the renovation of the Play Area. The award is conditional on provision of a 10% 3rd party contribution of £5,000 which the Parish Council will pay. Work must start within six months from the letter dated 21 October 2022. The Chairman thanked the Clerk and Cllr Ninnim for their work in putting together the application.

22/21. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101830 £434.63 A Balcombe (£359.23 Salary/ £25.40 Expenses £50.00, Poppy Wreath)

101831 £100.00 VCS Websites Ltd (6 Months Hosting)

Layer Solar Farm - the Community Benefit Deed was signed by the Chairman and witnessed by the Clerk for a one-off lump sum payment of £45,000.00.

22/22. BUDGET / PRECEPT 2023/24.

The budget for 2023/24 was agreed at £17,670.00, it was unanimously agreed to set the Precept at £17,000.00 taking the £670.00 from reserves.

Proposed: Cllr Boyce. Seconded: Cllr Campion. All agreed.

22/23. CORRESPONDENCE.

Planning Policy – The Borough Council is consulting on the Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Consultation will run from **20 October – 2 December 2022** (available to view on the Colchester Borough Council website).

Low Carbon - email to say they are canvassing residents to gather supporters of the proposed Birch Solar Farm.

22/24. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- Cllr Ninnim - 28 bags rubbish collected during October.
- Replacement pads are needed for the two defibrillators costing approx. £210.00.
- The 'Unsuitable for HGV' sign needs replacing at the far end of Pudding Lane.
- Broken drain in Pudding Lane has still not been repaired - to be chased up.
- The Memorial Cross needs some attention for next year.

22/25. MEETING DATES 2022.

6 December, it was agreed to invite Mr Richard Carr.

MEETING DATES 2023.

3 January, 7 February, 7 March, 4 April, 2 May (Annual Meeting), 6 June, 4 July, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November (Budget Meeting), 5 December.

The meeting closed at 20.30 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: