



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 1 October 2024, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: *Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Harris, Monks & Ninnim.*
In the Chair: *Cllr Bowtle.*
Clerk: *Angela Balcombe.*
Also present: *1 member of the public.*

24/11. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

24/12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Cottrell.

24/13. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 3 September 2024 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

24/14. 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. Councillors were reminded to review their Registers of Interests and make any changes as necessary.

24/15. REPORTS.

Essex County Council (ECC)

Colchester City Council (CCC)

Apologies were received from Cllr Bentley.

24/16. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

- It was reported that a male was knocking on doors in the Village selling household goods.
- Birch InSpire have a meeting with the Diocese on 3 October 2024.

24/17. PROGRESS CHECK.

No matters raised.

24/18. PLANNING.

Application No: 241447. First storey side extension, raising of rear extension eaves height and addition of pitch roof, installation of dormer into existing roof and addition of velux windows. Storm porch over front door.

Site Address: 16 Birch Street, Birch CO2 0NF. **Approved.**

24/19. PARISH COUNCILLOR EMAIL ADDRESSES.

It was agreed to have .gov.uk parish councillor email addresses.

24/20. BIRCH MEMORIAL HALL.

- Update on completion of the recent work - the work is now complete except for a glitch with the EV Charger.
- To consider purchasing a Mobile Phone Signal Booster at a cost of £740.00. It was agreed to ask for funding from the Ward Councillor Locality Budget (and to include the cost of another camera).

24/21. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101934 £13,677.52 A Jones (Orton & Wenlock, Village Hall Work)

101935 524.30 A Balcombe (Salary/Expenses)

101936 £880.00 M J Ince (Grass Cutting)

101937 £444.00 BAA Groundcare (Grass Cutting Churchyard)

101939 £880.00 M J Ince (Grass Cutting)

101940 £880.00 M J Ince (Grass Cutting)

101941 £223.43 D Ninnim (Strimmer Repair)

24/22. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.

CALC - minutes of the meeting held on 5 September - December meeting rep from 20s Plenty to speak. Jean?

Highways - temporary road closure of Birch Road due to commence on 21 October for 5 days for carriageway patching.

Highways - temporary road closure of Fountain Lane due to commence on 21 October for 5 days for drainage and ironworks replacement.

24/23. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- The pothole at the Copford end of Fountain Lane has now been mended.
- Thank you from Layer Breton PCC; the Churchyard is looking amazing.
- 6 bags of rubbish collected during September. The roundabout has been damaged and is in need of repair. The tree at Hardys Green has been cut back, the trees along the Hall perimeter fence also need cutting back.
- EV Charger - signage is needed. The cost to use the charger to be agreed, this will be paid into the Village Hall account.
- The doors to be replaced at the Hall, PAT testing to be done Monday am.
- A Poppy Wreath to be ordered.
- Hedingham buses - service has been poor, this has been reported.

24/24. MEETING DATES 2024.

5 November (Budget Meeting), 3 December.

The meeting closed at 20.07 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: