



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 1 September 2026, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: *Cllrs: Boyce, Bowtle, Harris, Monks, Ninnim & Westby.*

In the Chair: *Cllr Bowtle.*

Clerk: *Angela Balcombe.*

Also present: *2 members of the public*

26/98. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

26/99. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Cottrell.

26/00. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 7 July 2026 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

26/01. 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.

26/02. REPORTS.

Essex County Council. Apologies were received from Cllr Harding.

Colchester City Council. No report received.

26/03. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Straightway – there was no further update on the state of the road with potholes and overgrown hedges although it has been reported to ECC.

Birch Road Sign – the sign outside the Hare & Hounds needs updating/replacing.

Speeding motorbikes – this is a police matter.

26/04. PROGRESS CHECK.

A brief update on any actions from the last meeting.

- Post Box at Hardys Green – has been reported and chased up with Royal Mail (Ref: 13992827).
- Road markings B1022 Birch to Tiptree (Rectory Corner Junction) – the 'slow' signs have been put on the wrong side of the road. An officer has inspected the road and found that all the signs are now correct.

26/05. BIRCH CHURCH.

- Birch Church Structural Survey – report circulated.
- Security Breach – has been reported to the Diocese.

Agreed to request a meeting with the Diocese.

26/06. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

102044 £1,400.00 Marshalls Property Maintenance (Refurbishment of benches/bus stops)

102045 £584.20 A Balcombe (Salary/PAYE/Expenses)

102046 £444.00 BAA Groundcare Ltd (Grass Cutting)

102047 £378.00 PKF Littlejohn LLP (Audit Fee 2025/26)

102048 £521.49 A Balcombe (Salary/PAYE/Expenses)

Income £13,066.00 Second Instalment Precept

26/07. CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2025/26.

The accounts for the year ending 31 March 2026 have been audited with no matters raised. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit along with the audited Annual Return has been published on the website.

26/08. PLANNING.

Application No: 261452. Removal of existing porch. New porch and cladding to the main house.

Location: Heckford Bridge Cottage, Maldon Road, Birch CO3 0SP. No objections.

Application No: 261316. Single storey extension to redundant telephone exchange into 1 bed two-person self-contained residential dwelling.

Location: No objections.

Application No: 261253. Proposed stove external flue pipe to existing outbuilding

Location: Dunnet, Fountain Lane, Birch Colchester CO3 0SR. **Refused.**

CCC Planning Policy Team - Colchester Submission Draft Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Consultation runs from 28 August – 13 October 2026.

26/09. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.

CALC – Thursday 10 September, 7pm at the Town Hall, Colchester.

EALC – AGM Tuesday 15 September, online 7 – 9pm.

26/10. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- 81 bags of rubbish have been collected over the last two months plus two tyres.
- Play Area – a new bolt cover has been supplied and fitted.
- Cllr Harris has checked the camera but there was no evidence of fly-tipping that could be used.
- New recycling bins will be coming to Birch in September.
- Pudding Lane – broken drain cover has been reported.
- Heckfordbridge – the campsite/domes have been reported to CCC.

26/11. MEETING DATES 2026.

6 October, 3 November (Budget Meeting), 1 December.

CLOSE OF MEETING: *The meeting closed at 20:02.*

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: