



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on
Tuesday 10 May 2022, 8pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs: *Bowtle, Boyce, Ninnim.*
In the Chair: Cllr *Bowtle.*
Clerk: Angela *Balcombe.*
Also present: *Three members of the public.*

Prior to the start of the meeting, Councillors signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office agreeing to abide by the Councils Code of Conduct.

22/45. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Cllr Bowtle was elected Chairman for the Civic year 2022/23.

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

- The Chairman, Cllr Bowtle signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman.

22/46. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Cllr Boyce was elected Vice-Chairman for the Civic year 2022/23.

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

22/47. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

22/48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Campion, Cllr Cottrell and Cllr Windsor.

22/49. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 5 April 2022 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

22/50. 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.

22/51. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

- Peacock signs - it is not known who put them up.
- Letter to Diocese regarding the fencing around the Church – no response has been received yet.

22/52. PROGRESS CHECK.

Proposed Birch Solar Farm – it was agreed that the radius for the leaflet drop should include all of Birch Village.

22/53. PLANNING.

Application No: 220688. Retrospective application for change of use from residential home office to office used for work purposes. The office is within a residential home and only the office requires the change of use. The rest of the property continues to be used only for residential use.

Location: Clovelly, Mill Lane, Birch CO2 0NH. Comments to be submitted regarding vehicles leaving the property, reversing onto the road would be dangerous, there should be enough room at the property to turn around before exiting.

Application No: 220655. Amendment to previous consent (201901) to add velux windows and an access door to the storage area to provide light as no electricity supply to the building. (Retrospective).

Location: Brambles, 4 Birch Street, Birch CO2 0NF.

22/54. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101807 £50.00 VCS Websites Ltd. (3 months hosting)

101808 £359.23 A Balcombe (Salary/PAYE)

101809 £1,473.42 Colchester Borough Council (Litter Picking & Empty Bins, Annual Invoice)

101810 £240.00 Playquip Leisure (Safety Inspection)

22/55. ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 2021/22.

As the gross income/expenditure for 2021/22 is below £25,000, the Council completed a Certificate of Exemption, which certifies itself as exempt from a limited assurance review.

The accounts for the year ending 31 March 2022 were approved by the Council.

Proposed: Cllr Seconded: Cllr All agreed.

The Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer signed:

(i) Annual Governance Statement.

(ii) Accounting Statements.

22/56. NATIONAL GRID.

East Anglia Green Energy Enablement (Green). Proposal to build a new high voltage network reinforcement between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury. The consultation runs for eight weeks from 21 April to 16 June 2022 (information circulated). This doesn't affect Birch.

22/57. CORRESPONDENCE.

Essex Highways - The Essex County Council (Various Roads, Stanway/Birch/Copford) (Colchester Zoo 10K Running Race) (Special Event) (Temporary Prohibition of Traffic) Order 2022. The Order comes into effect on 15 May 2022 and may continue for up to 3 days.

Ride London – 27 May to 29 May 2022.

22/58. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

Overgrown Hedge (Mill Lane) – the hedge is encroaching on the road, there is no footpath so it is dangerous for pedestrians. A letter to be sent to the resident.

Cllr Ninnim – 21 bags of rubbish collected although becoming more difficult due to the overgrown verges. Swift boxes have been purchased and £200 was made available to buy some more bird/bat boxes. An application for funding towards a zip-wire to be submitted to Enovert.

Heckford Angel – the owners and the Planning Department at Colchester Borough Council to be contacted regarding the state of the property which is a listed building.

Footpath by school – in a bad state of repair, to be reported to Highways.

Play Area – the teenage shelter needs to have the panels removed to be primed and repainted - cost £350.00 plus vat. Framework to be painted by Cllr Ninnim.

22/59. MEETING DATES 2022.

7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November (Budget Meeting),
6 December.

The meeting closed at 20.23 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: