



## **BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**

*Clerk – Angela Balcombe*

6 Shires Close, Great Notley, Braintree, Essex CM77 7FT

Tel: 01376 550927 E-mail: [birchparishclerk@aol.com](mailto:birchparishclerk@aol.com)

[www.birchpc.org.uk](http://www.birchpc.org.uk)

### **Minutes of a Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 2 April 2024, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.**

**Present:** *Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Ninnim & Windsor.*  
**In the Chair:** *Cllr Bowtle.*  
**Clerk:** *Angela Balcombe.*  
**Also present:** *County/District Cllr Bentley, District Cllr Ellis & 2 members of the public.*

#### **24/39. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

#### **24/40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Cottrell.

#### **24/41. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

The minutes of 5 March 2024 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

#### **24/42. 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.

#### **24/43. REPORTS.**

**Essex County Council (ECC)** - A report of the Public Meeting held on 6 April regarding the proposed quarry sites was given. Various highway defects will be looked at by Cllr Bentley

**Colchester City Council (CCC)** - the planning application no: 240541 has been called in by City Councillors. It was suggested that with the help of the RCCE a Housing Needs Survey could be carried out to see if there is a need for affordable housing in Birch.

#### **24/44. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

St Peters Church - members of the SOS group met with the Diocese on Wednesday, once approved the results of the meeting will be shared with the Parish Council.

#### **24/45. PROGRESS CHECK.**

**ECC Replacement Minerals Local Plan Review 2025 to 2040.** The consultation deadline has been extended to 5pm on Tuesday 9 April 2024. A meeting is to be held on 6 April, 10.30 am at Copford Village Hall.

***The reply from ECC regarding residents not receiving notice of the consultation is as follows:***

The consultation was carried out in compliance with the Essex Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which sets out Essex County Council's approach to public consultation across its planning services. The methods detailed within this SCI are based on national planning legislation and regulations as well as Essex County Council's own corporate policy and procedures.

The SCI states that ECC's direct neighbour notification system specifically targets those residents and businesses within 250 metres of a proposed minerals and waste site boundary. Therefore, consultation letters, detailing where to view information and how to respond, were sent to the postal addresses within this set boundary for all proposed sites featured within the Minerals Local Plan Review consultation.

**24/46. VILLAGE GATEWAYS.**

- Exact locations, number of gateways.
- Evidence of Need.
- Parish Council funded (via a licence) or Local Highways Panel (LHP) Application?

An application to be submitted to the LHP to have two gateways, one either side of the road at Orpens Hill.

**24/47. PLANNING.**

**Application No: 240541.** Demolish an existing detached dwelling and garage outbuilding, and build a new replacement house together with 3 no. new houses (4 no. detached houses in total).

**Site Address:** Stable Field Cottage, Hardys Green, Birch CO2 0PA.

The Parish Council objects to this application for the following reasons:

The proposed development is not in keeping with the surrounding area and would dominate Hardy's Green and completely change the nature of a small rural hamlet. The design is not appropriate to the rural area in scale and character, it is not of a scale appropriate to the original dwelling.

The proposed development contradicts the Local Development Framework Policy DP13: Dwelling Alterations, Extensions and Replacement Dwellings.

Planning Enforcement to be contacted regarding a new entrance/opening that has been made on the bend at Stable Field opposite bus stop.

**Application No: 240158.** Creation of new vehicular crossover and off-street parking area.

**Site Address:** Heckford Bridge Cottage, Maldon Road, Birch CO3 0SP. **Refused.**

**24/48. FINANCE.**

Payments made / money received:

101894 £476.50 A Balcombe (Clerks Salary/Expenses)

101895 £125.00 Birch & Layer Breton PCC (Newsletter)

101896 £54.00 Clacton Business Services (Payroll)

101897 £75.00 Birch Memorial Hall (Hire)

101898 £59.70 RCCE (Annual Subscription)

101899 £90.00 Playquip Leisure (Repair to Gate Keyway)

101900 £2,187.90 Colchester City Council (Bin Emptying)

101901 £269.28 EALC (Annual Subscription)  
101902 £492.00 D Ninnim (Defibrillator Batteries)

**24/49. WILDLIFE TRAIL CAMERAS.**

To consider purchasing wildlife trail cameras (cost around £160 - £200 each).  
It was agreed to put on hold for now.

**24/50. BIRCH MEMORIAL HALL - FUTURE PROOFING.**

An application for funding towards Solar Panels/Electric Charging Point/LED Lighting has been submitted to the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF).

**24/51. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.**

**PKF Littlejohn** - notice of audit; deadline for submission 1 July 2024.  
**Colchester Zoo** - Colchester 10k at the Zoo on Sunday 28 April 2024.

**24/52. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.**

- 31 bags rubbish were collected throughout March along with 7 more redundant road signs which are awaiting collection from ECC Highways.

**24/53. MEETING DATES 2024.**

7 May (Annual Meetings), 4 June, 2 July, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November (Budget Meeting), 3 December.

*The meeting closed at 20.26. pm.*

**SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):**

**DATE:**