



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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

Tel: 01376 550927 E-mail: birchparishclerk@aol.com

www.birchpc.org.uk

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

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

24/81. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

24/82. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies.

24/83. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 4 June 2024 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

24/84. 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.

24/85. REPORTS.

Essex County Council (ECC)

Colchester City Council (CCC)

The member led defects scheme is now under way, defects can be emailed to Cllr Bentley via the Clerk. Cllr Bentley urged councillors to read the summary of the Waste Strategy as he would appreciate their views.

Cllr Bentley agreed to open the Fete on the 25 August at the Hare and Hounds.

24/86. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

The occupants of a parked van at the Pumping Station were seen climbing over the wire fence. Cllr Ninnim to report it.

24/87. PROGRESS CHECK.

The new climbing wall is now installed at the Play Area.

24/88. VILLAGE HALL FUTURE PROOFING.

The Parish Council has been awarded £15,000 from Colchester City Councils (Rural England Prosperity Fund) for the Village Hall project. They have also agreed to fund 80% of the cost of an LED Display Unit (total cost £1,551.25) bringing the total grant up to £16,241. A meeting with contractors to be held on 19 July and work could start in August. It is hoped the LED lighting could be done at over a weekend to avoid disruption to hall users.

24/89. 20'S PLENTY SCHEME.

It was agreed to ask County Cllr Bentley to take the 20's Plenty Scheme forward for suitable areas in Birch. A petition to be organised, to cover all areas under consideration.

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

24/90. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101911 £486.10 A Balcombe (Clerks Salary/Expenses).

101912 £444.00 BAA Groundcare Ltd (Grass Cutting Churchyard)

101913 £50.40 Clacton Business Services (Payroll)

101914 £8,996.40 Playquip Leisure (Climbing Wall)

101915 £444.00 BAA Groundcare (Churchyard Grass Cutting)

101916 £100.00 Birch Memorial Hall (Hire)

101917 £35.00 CALC (Annual Subs)

101918 £179.98 M Harris (Trail Camera)

24/91. PLANNING.

A Planning Enforcement Appeal has been lodged with CCC:

Application No: 098671

DTLR Appeal Ref: APP/A1530/C/24/3344177

Appeal Start Date: 19 June 2024

Appellant: Mrs Beverley Jones

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

Appeal Against: Enforcement notice

Application No: 240945. Creation of new vehicular crossover and off-street parking area.

Site Address: Heckford Bridge Cottage, Maldon Road, Birch. **Approved.**

24/92. ECC SALT BAG PARTNERSHIP.

The closing date is 22 July 2024, no salt is needed this year.

24/93. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.

Birch InSpire Update - a proposed business plan has now been submitted to Chelmsford Diocese, a meeting to be held on 26 June to discuss the contents of the plan. The plans will then be submitted to the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance, at their meeting on 17 July. Birch InSpire have taken the decision not to progress with the planned local consultation survey until they know that the Diocese is happy to continue working with them.

24/94. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- Cllr Ninnim - 8/9 bags rubbish collected during June.
- Cllr Campion has offered her resignation as she is moving away from Birch. On behalf of the Council, Cllr Bowtle thanked Cllr Campion for all her work and support over the years.

24/95. MEETING DATES 2024.

3 September, 1 October, 5 November (Budget Meeting), 3 December.

The meeting closed at 20.20 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: