



## **BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**

*Clerk – Angela Balcombe*

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### **Minutes of a meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 2 June 2026, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.**

**Present:** *Cllrs: Bowtle, Cottrell, Harris, Monks, Ninnim & Westby.*  
**In the Chair:** *Cllr Bowtle.*  
**Clerk:** *Angela Balcombe.*  
**Also present:** *County Cllr Harding, City Cllr Bentley & 1 member of the public*

#### **26/73. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

#### **26/74. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Boyce.

#### **26/75. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

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

**Proposed: Cllr Ninnim. Seconded: Cllr Westby. All agreed.**

#### **26/76. 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.

#### **26/77. REPORTS.**

**Essex County Council (ECC).** Cllr Harding introduced himself and was welcomed to the meeting. Cllr Harding said he was keen to strengthen community relationships, he is also a Parish Councillor at Messing Parish Council. Library charges have been reversed, and 7.5m has been put towards emergency pothole repairs.

**Colchester City Council (CCC).** Apologies were received from Cllr Ellis who is now Mayor of the City Council. Cllr Bentley gave a brief report of City Council matters including the trial of wheelie bins in several areas for 3 or 4 months. Locality Budgets are now open for applications.

The Chairman, Cllr Bowtle thanked Cllr Bentley for all he has done for Birch over the years in his role as County Councillor, his help was much appreciated.

#### **26/78. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No matters were raised.

#### **26/79. PROGRESS CHECK.**

A number of potholes were reported.

**26/80. FINANCE.**

Payments made / money received:

102034 £642.24 A Balcombe (Salary/PAYE/Expenses)

102035 £444.00 BAA Groundcare (Grass Cutting Churchyard)

**26/81. PLANNING.**

**Application No: 260849 & 260850.** Listed building consent for proposed double garage with office in roof space.

**Location:** Garlands Farm, Garlands Road, Birch CO2 0NS. No objections.

**Application No: 260346.** Removing of the existing rear single-storey and the creation of a single storey front lobby extension and a rear two storey extension to increase living space.

**Location:** Green Gables, Mill Lane, Birch CO2 0NH. **Approved.**

**26/82. ECC SALT BAG PARTNERSHIP.**

To support local communities to help themselves during periods of heavy snow and build on their community resilience, Essex County Council would like to make available to each participating Parish Council a one tonne wrapped pallet made up of individual 25kg bags for use by the community on the local highway. ECC is offering this free of charge again this year. Closing date: 21 July 2026.

**It was agreed to order salt this year.**

**26/83. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.**

**Cllr Andrew Harding** – introductory email from the newly elected Essex County Councillor for Birch.

**CALC** – agenda for the next meeting to be held on 4 June, 7pm at Stanway Village Hall.

**Birch Pit** – regarding the new planning application and offering to come and talk to the Parish Council about it.

**26/84. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.**

- No litter picking has taken place this month but will continue when the verges have been cut.
- Cllr Ninnim to cut the school side hedges in School Hill.

**26/85. MEETING DATES 2026.**

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

**CLOSE OF MEETING:** *The meeting closed at 19.55*

**SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):**

**DATE:**