



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 2 May 2023, 8pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs: *Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Cottrell, Harris, Ninnim & Windsor.*
In the Chair: Cllr *Bowtle.*
Clerk: Angela *Balcombe.*
Also present: City Cllr *Ellis and one member of the public.*

23/93. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Cllr Cottrell proposed Cllr Bowtle as Chairman, seconded by Cllr Boyce, therefore Cllr Bowtle was elected Chairman for the Civic Year 2023/24.

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

23/94. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Cllr Bowtle proposed Cllr Boyce as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Cllr Campion, therefore Cllr Boyce was elected Vice-Chairman for the Civic Year 2023/24.

23/95. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

23/96. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies.

23/97. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 4 April 2023 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

23/98. 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.

23/99. REPORTS.

Essex County Council (ECC) - apologies were received from Cllr Bentley.

Colchester City Council (CCC) - Cllr Ellis praised the Parish Council for the work they do and congratulated them on the Play Area renovation. There was some discussion on how s.106 (developers' contribution) could be spent, the Village Hall is the main area the Parish Council is focussing on. A member of the public praised the recent waste collection and how helpful the driver was, Cllr Ellis will pass on the comments to the Team.

23/00. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

A large 40' truck was seen in Pudding Lane, the 'not suitable for large vehicles' sign has still not been replaced.

23/01. PROGRESS CHECK.

'20's Plenty Campaign' one email has been received so far in support of the proposal.

23/02. PLANNING.

- **Birch Memorial Hall (CCC s106 money)** - DCB Fee Proposal to be submitted to CCB (Feasibility Study).
- **New development to allow for s106 money.** Colchester City Council (Planning Policy) are asking if the Parish Council is interested in the potential for new development to enable S106 money to be spent in the Birch area or if the Council would like more information, they have offered to arrange a meeting with the relevant Council Officers to expand on this.

23/03. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101852 £415.30 A Balcombe (Salary/Office Expenses)

101853 £2,047.50 Colchester City Council (Yearly Contract for Bin Emptying)

101854 £661.69 BHIB Ltd. (Annual Insurance Premium)

101855 £30,000.00 Playquip Leisure (Final Payment Play Area Renovation)

101856 £100.00 VCS Websites (6 Months Hosting)

Income £25,000.00 Enover Community Trust (Play Area Grant)

23/04. ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 2022/23.

As the gross income/expenditure for 2022/23 is above £25,000, the Council must complete the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23 Form 3 which must be externally audited.

The accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023 were approved by the Council.

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

The Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer signed:

(i) Annual Governance Statement.

(ii) Accounting Statements.

23/05. CORONATION - STREET PARTY.

To discuss arrangements for the Coronation celebrations. The Parish Council will pay for the entertainment.

23/06. CORRESPONDENCE.

Colchester Association of Local Councils: Devolution Update, letter from Cllr Neil Stock in his capacity as Chairman of the Essex Leaders and Chief Executives, it provides an update on the position concerning the process around devolution.

Residents email: support for the 20's Plenty Campaign.

23/07. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

Cllr Ninnim - 13 bags rubbish collected during April.

Cllr Harris - suggested something to brighten up the Village in summer, for example a scare crow competition. Councillors to bring ideas along for the next meeting. Next agenda.

Cllr Cottrell mentioned that her grand-children really enjoyed the newly renovated Play Area.

Cllr Boyce - Village Gates, there has been no progress with this project which was agreed over a year ago. It was suggested that it might be worth waiting to see what happens with the 20's Plenty proposal before going ahead with the gates.
Cllr Campion - large pothole in Pudding Lane which ECC cannot find to be reported again on the ECC Map.

23/08. MEETING DATES 2023.

6 June, 4 July, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November (Budget Meeting),
5 December.

Cllr Bowtle gave her apologies for the June meeting and thanked Councillors and the Clerk for all their help and support over the previous year,

The meeting closed at 20.42 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: