



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 3 December 2024, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: *Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Cottrell, Harris, Monks & Ninnim.*

In the Chair: *Cllr Bowtle.*

Clerk: *Angela Balcombe.*

Also present: *4 members of the public and City Cllr Ellis*

24/40. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and wished everyone a very Happy Christmas.

24/41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Windsor.

24/42. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

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

24/43. 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.

24/44. REPORTS.

Essex County Council (ECC).

Colchester City Council (CCC).

Cllr Ellis explained how the new affordable housing would be allocated when the development is complete. If not taken up by local residents it will be cascaded out to nearby surrounding villages, which includes Birch. Applicants must be on the City Councils housing register.

Local Plan emergency allocations (call for sites); CCC currently have to provide 920 houses a year in Colchester, this has now been raised to 1,290 houses a year. Potentially 15 houses will be allocated in Birch, however infrastructure is key and considering transport and lack of services in Birch, this was questioned.

Locality Budget - a quote for a signal booster to be sent to Cllr Ellis.

24/45. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Residents have received a reminder about the Church survey, it was agreed that the surveys should be limited to those living within the local post code area.

24/46. PROGRESS CHECK.

Hedingham Buses - awaiting a reply. Cllr Bentley is dealing with the complaint.

24/47. BIRCH CHURCH.

To consider writing a formal letter to Chelmsford Diocese regarding the Business Plan submitted by Birch InSpire, details of agreed targets and any future timescales following the end of the six-month extension that was granted.

It was agreed not to write to the Diocese until early next year as Birch InSpire have a meeting this evening.

24/48. PLANNING.

Application No: 242313. Application for prior approval for proposed single storey rear extension 4 metres beyond the rear wall of the original dwelling with maximum height of 2.4 metres and eaves height of 4 metres

Location: 7 Priory Cottages, Hardys Green, Birch CO2 0NX. No objections.

24/49. DONATION TO THE PRE-SCHOOL.

To consider a donation to the pre-school. It was agreed to give a donation but to find out first what they would like to spend the donation on. Next agenda.

24/50. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101949 £575.20 A Balcombe (Salary/Expenses)

101950 £524.99 M Harris (Christmas Light Tree)

101951 £35.00 CALC (Annual Subscription)

101952 £440.00 The Turf Guy (Grass Cutting)

101953 £280.00 Bradley Ives Tree Surgery (Tree Cutting)

101954 £75.00 DMS Electrical Services (Village Hall Socket)

101955 £125.00 Birch Memorial Hall (Hire)

24/51. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.

Highways - temporary road closure of Garlands Road, Birch/Layer Breton due to commence on 9 December 2024 for one night (19:00 - 05:00) for carriageway patching works.

Birch Church - copy of an email sent to the Diocese and their reply.

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

- The Christmas Light Tree has now been put up on the roof of the Village Hall.
- Cllr Bowtle thanked everyone for all their hard work over the last year. Cllr Bowtle was also thanked for all she has done for the community over the last year.

24/53. MEETING DATES 2025.

7 January, 4 February, 4 March, 1 April, 6 May (Annual Meetings), 3 June, 1 July, 2 September, 7 October, 4 November (Budget Meeting), 2 December.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 20:00 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: