



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on
Tuesday 3 January 2023, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Cottrell & Ninnim.
In the Chair: Cllr Bowtle.
Clerk: Angela Balcombe.
Also present: Cllr Bentley and 1 member of the public.

23/39. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

23/40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Harris and Windsor.

23/41. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 6 December 2022 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

23/42. 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.

23/43. REPORTS.

Essex County Council (ECC)/Colchester City Council (CCC)

Cllr Bentley gave a report on both County and City Council matters including information on the budgets, he also mentioned talks regarding devolution whereby money is transferred to local government with elected mayors that would have direct powers.

23/44. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

It was questioned whether the stolen Tommy would be replaced (Item 23/47).

23/45. PROGRESS CHECK.

No matters were raised.

23/46. PLANNING.

Application No: 222772. Double garage larger than standard size to accommodate two cars and a workbench and situated to the right hand side and forward of the house 2. Garage conversion of the existing integral garage to create a reception room to the front and a utility room.

Location: 7 Birch Way, Birch CO2 0NQ. No objections.

Application No: 222332. Application to vary condition 2 (approved drawings) following a grant of planning permission 212612 - Replace approved drawings 1321/05F & 1321/06F with 6784-03A.

Location: Shemmings Farmhouse, Hardys Green, Birch CO2 0NY. **Approved.**

Application No: 22325. Listed building application for two storey extension and internal alterations. Removal of modern additions. Replacement of render. Replacement of modern windows.

Location: Shemmings Farmhouse, Hardys Green, Birch CO2 0NY. **Approved.**

23/47. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101837 £2,640.00 Hill Farm Landscapes (Grass Cutting, includes £1,200.00 re-issued as cheque 101813 not cashed)

101838 £380.90 A Balcombe (Salary/Office Expenses)

101839 £900.00 Hill Farm Landscapes (Strimming Churchyard)

Insurance cover for stolen Tommy - this is covered under street furniture, an excess of £125.00 to be paid if a claim is submitted. The cost for the pair was £350.00 therefore it was agreed not to proceed with a claim. The Council will consider buying another one nearer to November 2023.

Precept 2023/24 - the precept for 2023/24 was agreed at £17,000.00 at the November meeting, divided by the Tax Base 311.5, this equates to £54.57 for a Band D property.

23/48. 20'S PLENTY FOR ESSEX.

Invitation for the Parish Council to join the '20's Plenty for Essex Campaign' (information circulated). It was generally agreed that certain areas would be acceptable but not the whole village.

23/49. CORRESPONDENCE.

Colchester City Council - Review of the S.106 processes (circulated).

Cllr Cottrell declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the following discussion as the landowner of the proposed Birch Solar Farm and left the meeting for this item.

CARE Campaign Group re Solar Farm - asking for a contribution towards their adviser's fee which is in excess of £7,500.00. There was some discussion around whether or not the Parish Council should contribute towards this cost. Advice to be taken.

Highways - notice of road closure, Birch Street, due to commence on 9th January 2023 for 3 days.

23/50. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

Cllr Ninnim - 8 bags of rubbish collected in December.

Cllr Boyce - chase up the removal of the container at Brambles, 4 Birch Street.

Cllr Bowtle - Fencing at the Church, someone has broken through to access the graves / noise caused by the corrugated iron hoarding, to be reported to the Church Commissioners.

23/51. MEETING DATES 2023.

7 February, 7 March, 4 April, 2 May (Annual Meetings), 6 June, 4 July, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November (Budget Meeting), 5 December.

Cllr Boyce gave her apologies for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.18 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: