



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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

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

23/53. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

23/54. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Campion, Cottrell and Cllr Windsor.

23/55. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 5 September 2023 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

23/56. 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.

23/57. REPORTS.

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

Colchester City Council (CCC) - Cllr Bentley will update the Council on Devolution at the next meeting. The yew trees at the Churchyard do not have TPOs on them but are protected as they are in the Conservation Area. The complaint and reply regarding Hedingham buses to be forwarded to Cllrs Bentley and Ellis.

23/58. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

The light at the Church is attracting a lot of people, to be followed up with planning enforcement.

23/59. PROGRESS CHECK.

Churchyard Trees - the trees do not have TPO's on them but are in the Conservation Area so nothing can be done to them without permission.

23/60. PLANNING.

Application No: ESS/65/23/COL. Construction and operation of a temporary bulk bagging plant, including ancillary mobile site office, concrete pad, mobile storage bays and parking for staff and bagging lorries

Location: Birch Pit, Maldon Road, Birch, Colchester CO5 9XE. No objections.

23/61. MAINTENANCE OF THE CHURCHYARD.

The Parish Council to decide whether or not to continue to pay for grass cutting at the Churchyard. It was agreed to do two cuts initially, and then get costs for six cuts for the next financial year. It was also agreed to carry out work to clear the yew trees of invading vegetation at a one-off cost of £475.00. There was some discussion over whose responsibility this work was and it was made clear that this work is not the responsibility of the Parish Council, however in the interests of those visiting the Churchyard it needed to be done.

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

23/62. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101875 £462.90 A Balcombe (Clerks Salary/Expenses)

101876 £750.00 The Turf Guy (Grass Cutting)

101877 £48.00 Clacton Business Services (Payroll)

Income

E Bowtle £50.00 (Refund for Crazy Alien Prize Money)

23/63. CORRESPONDENCE.

Visit Essex - Essex Big Weekend 2023 takes place on 6 - 8 October. The aim of the campaign is to encourage locals to discover new places on their doorstep and support local, to give promotion to our Visit Essex members and help to extend the tourism season into the Autumn.

Essex Streetworks Team - Emergency Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice of Birch Park, Birch CP. The closure on 18 September was due to emergency reconnection works.

Birch Church - copies of emails relating to the demolition of the Church.

CCC - Invitation to visit city centre Levelling Up projects.

23/64. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- 17 bags of rubbish were collected in September.
- Birch Village Hall - a letter stating that the Parish Council has set up a Management Committee to run the hall is required for the Insurance company.
- Village Gateways -although the Council had originally agreed to buy the gates, an application will be submitted to the Local Highways Panel.
- Broken Gate at Orpens Hill to be reported to Highways.
- Overhanging hedge in Mill Lane, letter to be sent to the resident.

23/65. MEETING DATES 2023.

7 November (Budget Meeting), 5 December.

Meeting Dates 2024.

2 January, 6 February, 5 March, 2 April, 7 May (Annual Meetings), 4 June, 2 July, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November (Budget Meeting), 3 December.

The meeting closed at 20.45 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: