



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 3 September 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: *2 members of the public & County Cllr Bentley.*

24/96. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

24/97. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Windsor.

24/98. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 2 July 2024 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

24/99. 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.

24/00. REPORTS.

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

An extra £25 million is to be invested in road repairs this year with the focus on larger road resurfacing rather than individual potholes. Pothole repairs will continue as part of existing budgets, including the Members' Highways Initiative. The extra money announced will also be invested in more drain cleaning, white lines repainting, cutting back vegetation and repairing signs. There is still money available from the ECC Locality Budget and CCC Ward Members Fund.

Church Update - Cllr Bentley has met with a representative of the Diocese and gave the Council an update of that meeting. Cllr Bentley will talk to Birch InSpire following this meeting.

24/01. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No matters were raised.

24/02. PROGRESS CHECK.

Crazy Alien Competition - although there were only a few entries it was agreed this could be improved on next year.

24/03. CASUAL VACANCY.

As there was no call for an election, the Parish Council must co-opt to fill the vacancy as soon as is practicable.

Cllr Bowtle proposed Charlotte Monks, this was seconded by Cllr Boyce and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Monk signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Parish Councillor and was welcomed to the Council.

24/04. PLANNING.

Application No: ESS/31/24/COL

Proposal: Change of use of agricultural land to a waste management use and construction of a concrete pad to enable the extension of green waste open windrow composting operations, topsoil blending and storage operations, construction of a new surface water attenuation lagoon and perimeter landscaped soil bunds.

Location: Birch Airfield, Blind Lane, Birch, CO5 9XE. No objections.

Application No: ESS/27/24/COL/SPO

Proposal: A Scoping Opinion under Regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) - Birch Quarry Southern Extension.

Location: Land to the south of Birch Quarry, Maldon Road, CO5 9XE.

Application No: 241539 Listed Building application for the renovation and refurbishment of the listed building, including demolition of modern additions, all as described on the attached drawings, together with the erection of new overnight accommodation for tourists etc.

Location: Angel Inn, Maldon Road, Birch CO3 0SP. No objections.

Application No: 241547 Application for variation of condition 2 following grant of planning application 232307.

Location: Angel Inn, Maldon Road, Birch CO3 0SP. No objections.

24/05. VILLAGE HALL FUTURE PROOFING.

To receive an update on progress so far. The Led lighting has been completed, the solar panels and EV charger to be done in a week or two. It was suggested that next year insulation of the hall should be looked at.

24/06. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

August

101922 £275.00 (Bouncy Castle for Fete)

101924 £5,855.17 A Jones (Orton & Wenlock - Deposit Village Hall Work)

101925 £524.10 A Balcombe (Salary/PAYE/Expenses)

101926 £201.25 M J Ince (Grass Cutting)

101927 £316.20 Playquip Leisure (Maintenance Play Area)

101928 £444.00 BAA Groundcare (Grass Cutting Churchyard)

September

101929 £499.14 A Balcombe (Salary/Expenses)

101930 £129.69 E Bowtle (Prize Money Crazy Alien Competition/Petrol)

101931 £378.00 PKF Littlejohn (Audit Fee 2023/24)

101932 £1,296.00 A Jones (Orton & Wenlock LED Lighting Village Hall)

101933 £134.40 D Ninnim (Defibrillator Pads)

24/07. CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2023/24.

The External Audit 2023/24 has now been completed and is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to the Auditors attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been published. Thanks were noted to the Clerk.

24/08. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.

Heckford Angel - Development Plan is progressing with some delays, still awaiting a reply from the Planning Department regarding some approval needed. Meanwhile work is being done on building regulation drawings, planning conditions, site level drawing, landscaping drawing and other site reports.

24/09. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- 40 bags rubbish collected over the last two months. The waste bin at Hardys Green is being filled with dog waste, Cllr Bowtle to talk to the Zone Warden about installing a new dog waste bin.
- Overgrown vegetation/brambles near the Post Box at Greenfield Houses, Cllr Ninnim will take a look.
- Fly-tipping camera is now in position and working. It was suggested that mobile CCTV signs might help as a deterrent.
- The Clerk to re-send the application for the Village Gateways to Cllr Bentley plus re-submit the report of the gates that have fallen down at Hardys Green.

24/10. MEETING DATES 2024.

1 October, 5 November (Budget Meeting), 3 December.

The meeting closed at 20.40 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: