



## **BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**

*Clerk – Angela Balcombe*

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### **Minutes of a meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 4 April 2023, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.**

*Present:* Cllrs: *Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Cottrell, Harris & Ninnim.*  
*In the Chair:* Cllr *Bowtle.*  
*Clerk:* Angela *Balcombe.*  
*Also present:* City Cllr *Maclean.*

#### **23/80. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

#### **23/81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Windsor.

#### **23/82. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

The minutes of 7 March 2023 were approved as a correct record of events.

**Proposed: Cllr Campion. Seconded: Cllr Boyce. All agreed.**

#### **23/83. 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.

#### **23/84. REPORTS.**

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

**Colchester City Council (CCC)** - apologies were received from Cllr Andrews.

Cllr Maclean gave a brief report on City Council matters.

#### **23/85. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

**Green Waste Collection** - CCC will be charging for garden waste from January 2024, more information can be found on the City Council website.

#### **23/86. PROGRESS CHECK.**

A brief update on any actions from the last meeting.

- **CCC Bin Emptying Agreement 2023** - as a Parish Council Birch already pay the minimum half hour visit and there would be no reduction in that time if the litter picking task was removed.
- **Section 106 Community Facilities in Birch** - improvements to the village hall including heating, lighting plus an electric charging unit will be added to the CCC list, however they are asking for an idea of costs. Cllr Ninnim will get some rough costs.

#### **23/87. PLANNING.**

**Application No: 230615.** Erection of Swallow Raven wooden frame greenhouse in back garden.

**Location:** Gate House Farm, School Hill, Birch, CO2 0NA. No objections.

**Application No: 230678.** Alterations to create an additional C2 unit of accommodation.

**Location:** Essex Care Consortium, Maldon Road, Birch CO2 0NU. No objections.

**23/88. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION.**

Consultation inviting proposals for new council divisions and division boundaries for Essex County Council. Consultation closes 5 June 2023 (information circulated).

**23/89. FINANCE.**

Payments made / money received:

101848 £432.26 A Balcombe (Salary/Office Expenses)

101849 £51.00 Clacton Business Services (Payroll)

101850 £261.79 EALC/NALC (Annual Subscription)

101851 £75.00 Birch Memorial Hall (Hire)

**Income** £9,066.00 Colchester City Council (Precept)

**23/90. CORRESPONDENCE.**

**CARE** - copies of letters sent to the MP and Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the proposed Birch Solar Farm (circulated).

**ECC** - Copy of the Order; Definitive Map Modification No: 676 Restricted byways 40 and 41, Birch, Colchester District Order 2020.

**23/91. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.**

Cllr Ninnim - only 15 bags of rubbish collected during March due to the bad weather. Play Area renovation - work should be completed by Easter.

Cllr Harris has circulated information about the national '20's Plenty for Us' Campaign, asking residents for their opinion whether to submit an application to the Local Highways Panel to introduce a 20mph speed limit in the village.

Residents can reply with their comments to:

[birchpc.consultationresponse@gmail.com](mailto:birchpc.consultationresponse@gmail.com)

**23/92. MEETING DATES 2023.**

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

***The meeting closed at 20.30 pm.***

**SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):**

**DATE:**