



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

6 Shires Close, Great Notley, Braintree, Essex CM77 7FT

Tel: 01376 550927 E-mail: clerk@birchparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.birchparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of a Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 4 February 2025, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: *Cllrs: Bowtle, Monks & Ninnim.*
In the Chair: *Cllr Bowtle.*
Clerk: *Angela Balcombe.*
Also present: *2 members of the public & City Cllr Ellis.*

25/67. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

25/68. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Boyce and Cllr Cottrell.

Cllr Windsor has resigned from the Parish Council, the Clerk to notify Colchester City Council.

25/69. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 7 January 2025 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

25/70. 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.

25/71. REPORTS.

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

Colchester City Council (CCC). Local Plan; Councillors were encouraged to look at the draft papers on housing allocations. The City Council will be considering their budget at the February full council meeting.

A couple of issues were raised; Cllr Ellis will look into the work being carried out at Heckford Bridge needing traffic lights and also a large pothole just past the Heckford Angel. There appears to be unauthorised work going on at the cottage adjacent to the Heckford Angel (entrance to the cottage via the Angel).

There are still issues with Hedingham Buses; two buses didn't run today (Tuesday 4 February).

25/72. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Birch Church - re correspondence between Diocese and the Parish Council; are the Council any clearer about the targets/objectives etc? It was agreed that the Council was none the wiser. Agreed to get an update from Cllr Bentley on his return. The Council was thanked for taking the time to look into this.

25/73. PROGRESS CHECK.

Defibrillator at Hardys Green - this has now been installed. The defibrillator course held at the Memorial Hall on Saturday was well attended.

25/74. PLANNING.

Application No: 241550 Listed building application for a first-floor rear extension

Location: The Manse, Garlands Road, Layer Breton, CO2 0PN

An appeal has been submitted against refusal of planning permission.

25/75. DONATION TO THE PRE-SCHOOL.

To consider a donation to the pre-school. A letter has been received from the school asking for a donation towards improvements to the roof of the outdoor area of the pre-school cabin. Estimated total cost £5,000.00.

It was unanimously agreed to donate £5,000.00.

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

25/76. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101961 £594.81 A Balcombe (Salary/Expenses/Printer Ink)

101962 £5,000.00 Caterpillar Pre-School (Donation for roof repair)

Income £420.00 Colchester City Council Locality Budget (Mobile Phone Signal Booster)

25/77. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.

- Residents email regarding out of control dogs. Agreed to have a friendly word with the owner.
- Email update re The Heckford Angel asking about removal of the Royal Mail post box.
- Birch Church - reply from Chelmsford Diocese regarding structural survey etc.

25/78. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

Cllr Ninnim reported 27 bags of rubbish were collected in January.

25/79. MEETING DATES 2025.

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 20:30 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: