



## **BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**

*Clerk – Angela Balcombe*

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Minutes of a meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on  
Tuesday 4 January 2022, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

*Present:* Cllrs: *Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Ninnim, Walsh & Windsor.*  
*In the Chair:* Cllr *Bowtle.*  
*Clerk:* Angela Balcombe.  
*Also present:* Borough Councillor Ellis.

### **22/90. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.**

The Chairman welcomed those present and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

### **22/91. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Cottrell.

### **22/92. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

The minutes of 7 December 2021 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

### **22/93. 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.

### **22/94. REPORTS.**

**County Council** – apologies were received from Cllr Bentley.

**Borough Council** – following the withdrawal of the proposal to convert the Church to a residential property, CBC to write to the Church Commissioners about the future of the site, which will probably be pulled down resulting in the loss of a landmark. Previously it has been said that it will be turned into a Garden of Remembrance which the Council would fully support.

Application No: 212812 – it was asked if this application could be called in as there are various issues that needed looking at. Cllr Ellis agreed to talk to the planners in the morning and let the Chairman know the outcome.

### **22/95. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

There were no members of the public present.

### **22/96. PROGRESS CHECK.**

- Play Area – the Clerk to chase up Playquip for the recent safety inspection.
- Village Gateways – confirm who will be paying for them.

**22/97. PLANNING.**

**Layer Solar Farm** – permission has been granted.

**22/98. FINANCE.**

Payments made / money received:

101787 £354.68 A Balcombe (Salary/PAYE/Expenses)

101788 £148.40 J P Bond (Installation of new Notice Board)

**Precept 2022/23** – the Precept for 2022/23 is £15,000 divided by the tax base which is 303.8 (equivalent band D properties) equals £49.38.

**22/99. INFRASTRUCTURE & S106 AGREEMENTS.**

Colchester Borough Council are undertaking a review of s.106 agreements and are asking for a list of schemes that the Parish Council is aware of. Agreed to put forward improvement of the footpath that runs from Birch gallery to the School (approx. 250 mtrs.)

**22/00. CORRESPONDENCE.**

**Highways** – temporary closure of Birch Park, Birch Road on 5 January 2022 for 3 days County Broadband (installation).

**EALC** – Training Calendar for 2022.

**CBC** – Pam Donnelly has been chosen to succeed Adrian Pritchard as CEO Colchester Borough Council.

**22/01. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.**

**Cllr Ninnim** - 12 bags of rubbish collected, lower than usual due to the festivities!

**Cllr Campion** – the sign ‘unsuitable for heavy vehicles’ has gone missing from the far end of Pudding Lane. To be reported to Highways.

**22/02. MEETING DATES 2022.**

1 February, 1 March, 5 April, 10 May (Annual Parish Meeting/Annual Council Meeting), 7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November (Budget Meeting), 6 December.

***The meeting closed at 20.17 pm.***

**SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):**

**DATE:**