



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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

Tel: 01376 550927 E-mail: birchparishclerk@aol.com

www.birchpc.org.uk

Minutes of a Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 4 July 2023, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

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

23/23. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

23/24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies.

23/25. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 2 May 2023 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

23/26. 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.

23/27. REPORTS.

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

Colchester City Council (CCC) - Cllr Ellis will check whether planning permission is needed for a septic tank (raised at the last meeting). A meeting has been arranged by the Diocese for the 12 July to discuss plans for the Church site, which no-one was aware of, including the Parish Council. Cllr Ellis mentioned various funding sources available and will email details to the Clerk for publication on the website. The Parish Council was advised to check whether any community benefit money was due regarding the Birch Solar Farm. The Colchester City Master Plan was also mentioned.

23/28. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

A member of the public asked if anyone knew why the road past the Zoo was closed for a police incident? No one knew the reason.

23/29. PROGRESS CHECK.

23/13. As far as the Council is aware the Police have spoken to the resident concerned about the use of an air rifle.

23/30. PLANNING.

Public consultation for the vision for Colchester City Centre; 19 June - 31 July 2023. <http://www.colchester.gov.uk/colchester-city-centre> (information circulated).

23/31. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101860 £431.06 A Balcombe (Salary/Office Expenses)

101861 £810.00 (Grass Cutting)

101862 £75.00 Birch Memorial Hall (Hire)

101863 £48.00 Clacton Business Services (Payroll)

101864 £72.60 Rural Community Council of Essex (Annual Subs)

23/32. GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT.

The grass cutting contract for 2023 was unanimously agreed.

23/33. MAINTENANCE OF THE CHURCHYARD.

To be brought up at the Public Meeting on 12 July 2023 and to be included on the next agenda.

23/34. AUGUST STREET PARTY.

The Beer Festival is going ahead over the August bank holiday. The Parish Council will arrange and pay for a bouncy castle for bank holiday Monday. As no reply has been received from the Zoo, the Council will go ahead with the Crazy Alien competition and award a £50 cash prize for the winner.

23/35. 20'S PLENTY FOR BIRCH.

To consider doing a door to door survey to gather residents' views on a 20mph limit in certain areas of Birch. Once the correct wording has been received the survey/petition can go ahead.

23/36. RETIREMENT OF THE HEAD TEACHER AT BIRCH SCHOOL.

A letter to be sent to the retiring Head Teacher.

23/37. CORRESPONDENCE.

Layer Solar Farm - update on progress of the solar farm.

CCC - invitation to visit the Jumbo Water Tower. Cllrs Boyce, Campion and Ninnim would like to attend.

23/38. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- 7 bags rubbish collected in June.
- Village Gates - awaiting details of location and landowners. Cllr Boyce will contact Cllr Bentley again.
- A large pothole by the damaged bridge to be reported.
- Overgrown vegetation at 4 Birch Street, Cllr Ninnim will speak to the resident.
- Cllr Bowtle has spoken to the resident at 60 Birch Street about overhanging brambles.
- Overhanging hedge at Nightingales; to be reported (Ref: 2855483).
- Chase up planning permission for the container at 4 Birch Street.

23/39. MEETING DATES 2023.

5 September, 3 October, 7 November (Budget Meeting), 5 December.

The meeting closed at 20.48 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: