



## **BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**

*Clerk – Angela Balcombe*

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### **Minutes of a Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 4 June 2024, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.**

**Present:** *Cllrs: Bowtle, Campion, Harris, Ninnim & Windsor*  
**In the Chair:** *Cllr Bowtle.*  
**Clerk:** *Angela Balcombe.*  
**Also present:** *2 members of the public, County Cllr Bentley and City Cllr Ellis*

#### **24/69. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

#### **24/70. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Boyce and Cllr Cottrell.

#### **24/71. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

The minutes of 7 May 2024 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

#### **24/72. 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.

#### **24/73. REPORTS.**

**Essex County Council (ECC)** - Councillors Locality Budget is now open as is the member pothole scheme. The flooding issue previously reported has been investigated, there are no burst pipes and the drains have been cleared, it could be a natural underground spring. 20's Plenty - bus routes will not be considered but roads outside schools will be considered. Speed surveys will need to be arranged through the Local Highways Panel and a petition from local residents will be helpful. Getting this all in place takes a long time due to the legal process. The Parish Council will need to pass a resolution asking Cllr Bentley to take this forward. Next agenda.

**Colchester City Council (CCC)** - Stable Field Cottage; a new drive is being put in on the bend, Cllr Ellis will contact planning enforcement.

#### **24/74. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No matters were raised.

#### **24/75. PROGRESS CHECK.**

The reasons for the refusal of planning application 240541 Stable Field Cottage to be circulated.

#### **24/76. FINANCE.**

Payments made / money received:

101907 £437.84 A Balcombe (Clerks Salary/Expenses).

101908 £200.00 M J Ince (Grass Cutting)

101909 £860.00 M J Ince (Grass Cutting)

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#### **24/77. PLANNING.**

**Application No: 240945.** Creation of new vehicular crossover and off-street parking area.

**Site Address:** Heckford Bridge Cottage, Maldon Road, Birch CO3 0SP. No comments.

**Notice of Appeal.**

**Application Nos: 232473 & 232474.** Proposed extension and alterations at Conduit Farmhouse.

**Site Address:** Conduit Farm, Birch Park, Birch CO2 0LS.

**Appeal Against:** Failure to notify of decision.

#### **24/78. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.**

**Highways** - temporary closure of Hardys Green 17 June for 19 days for UK Power Networks to undertake cable work.

**Highways** - temporary closure of Pudding Lane 6 June for 5 days for Essex County Council to undertake new surface cover installation.

**Layer Solar Farm** - reply regarding hedge planting, they don't do any planting (usually) until post construction and within the planting seasons, so it will probably be from October onwards.

**Birch Inspire** - there has been a delay to the distribution of the survey questionnaire, pending some discussion with the diocese.

**Royal Mail** - currently investigating the complaint about the change of collection times.

**Residents email** - grass cutting in Mill Lane.

#### **24/79. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.**

- Climbing Wall - the work to start in the second week of July.
- Litter Picking - not much has been done as the verges haven't been cut. The area by the bus shelter at the junction of Mill Lane needs cutting, to be reported to CCC.
- Crazy Alien Competition - to be advertised on Facebook, website etc.
- Trees by the Village Hall have been cut back.

#### **24/80. MEETING DATES 2024.**

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

***The meeting closed at 20.10 pm.***

**SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):**

**DATE:**