



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on
Tuesday 4 May 2021, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Ninnim.

In the Chair: Cllr Bowtle.

Clerk: Angela Balcombe.

Also present: One member of the public.

21/88. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Cllr Boyce proposed Cllr Bowtle as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Ninnim and unanimously agreed.

- **The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman.**

21/89. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Cllr Bowtle proposed Cllr Boyce as Vice-Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Campion and unanimously agreed.

21/90. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman, Cllr Bowtle welcomed those present to the meeting.

21/91. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cottrell and Walsh.

21/92. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 6 April 2021 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

21/93. 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.

21/94. REPORTS.

County Council – no report received.

Borough Council – no report received.

Zone Warden – Liam Skelton has moved from the area; Tim Pickard will be covering Birch temporarily. Reports of fly-tipping can no longer be reported by phone and must be done online.

21/95. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No matters were raised.

21/96. PROGRESS CHECK.

No matters were raised.

21/97. CASUAL VACANCY.

Due to the resignation of Councillor Peter Sherlock, there is a vacancy for a parish councillor. As there were no calls for an election the Parish Council may now co-opt to fill the vacancy.

21/98. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101750 £369.22 A Balcombe (Salary/Expenses)

101751 £360.00 Hill Farm Landscapes (Grass Cutting)

101752 £50.00 VCS Websites Ltd (3 months hosting)

101753 £133.66 D Ninnim (Strimmer)

21/99. ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 2020/21.

As the gross income/expenditure for 2020/21 did not exceed £25,000, there is no requirement to have a limited assurance review. The Certificate of Exemption was signed by the Responsible Financial Officer and Chairman.

The accounts for the year ending 31 March 2021 were approved by the Council.
Proposed: Cllr Campion. Seconded: Cllr Bowtle. All agreed.

The Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer signed:

- (i) Annual Governance Statement.
- (ii) Accounting Statements.

21/00. PLANNING.

Application No: 211151. Front single storey extension and two storey rear extension.

Location: 3 Priory Cottages, Hardys Green, Birch CO2 0NX. No objections.

Application No: 211214. Single storey rear and side extension for private use and extension to existing drive area.

Location: 22 Greenfield Houses, Greenfield Road, Birch CO2 0NJ. No objections.

21/01. VILLAGE GATES / SIGNS.

Costs to be obtained for the next meeting.

21/02. NOTICE BOARD.

A quote to be obtained for a single and a double oak notice board.

21/03. CORRESPONDENCE.

Essex Legal Services – ECC Definitive Map Modification No. 676 Restricted Byways 40 and 41 Birch, Colchester District Order 2020.

21/04. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- Cllr Boyce – the 'Get Together Club' no longer exists and can be deleted from the website. Cllr Boyce also mentioned the 'Fix my Street' website where any highways matters can be reported, they are then passed on to the relevant authority.

- Cllr Campion – the footpath from the Gallery to the Village Hall is breaking up, to be reported to Highways.
- Cllr Ninnim – rubbish including tyres and a mattress has been dumped on private land at The Wash. The youth shelter needs work, a quote to be obtained. It was suggested holding a Fun Day or similar community event.
- Cllr Bowtle – with regard to VE Day it was agreed to look into getting two large ‘Tommy’s’. Groups are starting to return to the Village Hall, the Table Tennis group had asked if they could book Tuesdays and Wednesdays, however the Parish Council meet on a Tuesday evening and it was agreed not to change this.

Cllr Boyce gave her apologies for the June meeting.

21/05. MEETING DATES 2021.

1 June, 6 July, 7 September, 5 October, 2 November (Budget Meeting),
7 December.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: