



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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

Present: *Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Harris, Monks, Ninnim & Westby.*

In the Chair: *Cllr Bowtle.*

Clerk: *Angela Balcombe.*

Also present: *1 member of the public.*

25/73. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

25/74. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Cottrell.

Additional apologies were received from the Revd. Michael Hatchett and Mr Richard Carr who are both attending a service at Layer de la Haye where the new Team Vicar is being licensed.

25/75. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

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

25/76. 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.

25/77. REPORTS.

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

Colchester City Council (CCC). Apologies were received from Cllr Ellis.

25/78. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No matters were raised.

25/79. PROGRESS CHECK.

Planning Application No: 252329 application to vary condition 2 (drawings) and remove conditions 5 & 6 of planning permission 241547.

Location: The Heckford Angel, Maldon Road, Birch CO3 0SP. Noted.

Planning Application No: 252328 listed build application for alterations, extensions and refurbishment works.

Location: The Heckford Angel, Maldon Road, Birch CO3 0SP. Noted.

25/80. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

102005 £880.00 The Turf Guy (M J Ince) (Grass Cutting)

102006 £3,426.00 Playquip Leisure (Memorial Cross £3,162.00/Safety Inspection £264.00)

102007 £570.24 A Balcombe (Salary/PAYE/Expenses/Poppy Wreath s.137)

Income £510.00 Colchester City Council (Grant towards the Memorial Cross)

25/81. BIRCH SOLAR FARM – COMMUNITY BENEFIT.

It was unanimously agreed to accept annual indexed linked payments.

25/82. BUDGET/PRECEPT 2026/27.

Expenditure for 2026/27 was agreed at £35,890.00. Considering income and current reserves the Precept was agreed at £25,000.00.

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

25/83. PLAY AREA REPAIRS.

Following the recent safety inspection some repairs are needed, awaiting quotes for the work.

25/84. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.

CCC – Election Costs (Birch Parish Council is scheduled to hold elections on Thursday 7 May 2026).

CCC – the Local Plan Committee is due to consider the new Local Plan at its meeting on 10th November. All documents are available on the CCC website.

EALC – survey re services offered.

25/85. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- No rubbish was collected due to the weather. Playquip offer a steam cleaning service – suggested getting quotes with a view to cleaning some of the road signs.
- A boat has been abandoned on private land.
- Newsletter – wording re fly-tipping to be finalised.
- Fallen tree – Lower Road.
- Litter Warrior Tip-Off Task Force – Commence 10 November for reporting fly-tipping.

25/86. MEETING DATES 2025.

2 December.

Meeting Dates 2026:

6 January, 3 February, 3 March, 7 April, 5 May, 2 June, 7 July, 1 September, 6 October, 3 November, 1 December.

CLOSE OF MEETING: *The meeting closed at 20:18*

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: