



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 5 December 2023, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: *Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Cottrell, Harris, Ninnim & Windsor.*
In the Chair: *Cllr Bowtle.*
Clerk: *Angela Balcombe.*
Also present: *4 members of the public and County Cllr Bentley.*

23/80. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

23/81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies.

23/82. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 7 November 2023 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

23/83. 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.

23/84. REPORTS.

Essex County Council (ECC) - Cllr Bentley was asked about the Warren Lane Junction, he explained that it has not been forgotten however, it was a question of money which they are still trying to find. Cllr Bentley gave a report on Children's Services and School Transport.

Colchester City Council (CCC) - no report received.

23/85. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

An update on SOS was given.

23/86. PROGRESS CHECK.

- **SOS Update** - an update has been received and circulated regarding the recent meeting with Church Commissioners and Diocese held on 28 November 2023.
- **Church Grass Cutting** - quote received for strimming/cutting of grass in the Churchyard based on 1 x cut per month March - October (8 x cuts per season) £370 per cut (net of vat). Agreed. On behalf of the Church, Cllr Cottrell thanked the Parish Council for carrying out this work.

23/87. PLANNING.

Application Nos: 232307 & 232308 (Listed Building). Resubmission of applications 222664 and 222665 following issue of inaccurate approval notices by Colchester Borough Council. Renovation and refurbishment of the listed building, including demolition of modern additions, all as described on the attached drawings, together with the erection of new overnight accommodation for tourists and associated works.

Location: Angel Inn, Maldon Road, Birch CO3 0SP. **Approved.**

23/88. A12 INCIDENTS AND ROAD CLOSURES.

To discuss the impact on local roads and communities and if any action should be taken (ref: residents email received 18/11/2023). The Parish Council will be kept up to date with any future actions.

23/88. SUMMER FETE.

To discuss the Summer Fete 2024 to include the postponed Crazy Alien Competition. Cllr Harris will speak to the pub about agreeing a date.

23/89. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101881 £72.96 R Bowtle (Litter Collection Expenses)

101882 £580.22 A Balcombe (Clerks Salary inc. backpay/Expenses)

101883 £264.00 Playquip Leisure (Safety Inspection)

101884 £100.00 Birch Memorial Hall (Hire)

101885 £100.00 Colchester Foodbank (Donation)

23/90. PLAY AREA SAFETY INSPECTION.

To consider any actions needed following the recent inspection. Cllr Ninnim will speak to Playquip regarding repair of the see-saw.

23/91. CORRESPONDENCE.

Cllr Bentley - apologies for not attending meetings recently. Responsibilities as the Leader of ECC, finalising the devolution deal with Government and work around Children's Services has dominated Cllr Bentley's time, however he will endeavour to make as many December meetings as possible.

Residents email - A12 Incidents and Closures - Impact on Local Road and Communities (sent to all).

Layer Solar farm - update on road closures. The works commenced on 6 November 2023 and will continue until 10 March 2024, with a combination of various types of traffic management. Access will be maintained for residents and emergency services.

Local Government Boundary Commission - consultation on draft recommendations for division boundaries in Essex runs until 19 February 2024.

Residents email - dog fouling and dogs off lead at the Play area.

23/92. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- 32 bags of rubbish collected in November.
- Flooding on the corner at Fountains Lane junction, there have been two accidents recently. A large pothole at Birch Park by the lake and the

previously reported pothole at Orpens Hill (ref: 2856585) still hasn't been repaired. Cllr Bentley will look into these issues.

- A mobile home has been sited at a property in Mill Lane, the Clerk will contact Colchester City Council to see if planning permission is required.

23/93. MEETING DATES 2024.

2 January, 6 February, 5 March, 2 April, 7 May (Annual Meetings), 4 June, 2 July, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November (Budget Meeting), 3 December.

The Chairman, Cllr Bowtle wished everyone a Happy Christmas and thanked Councillors and members of the public for all their support over the last year.

The meeting closed at 20.30 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: