



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 5 November 2024, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: *Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Cottrell, Harris, Monks & Ninnim.*
In the Chair: *Cllr Bowtle.*
Clerk: *Angela Balcombe.*
Also present: *1 member of the public and the Revd. Michael Hatchett.*

24/25. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

24/26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Windsor.

24/27. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 1 October 2024 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

24/28. 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.

24/29. REPORTS.

Essex County Council (ECC)

Colchester City Council (CCC)

Apologies were received from Cllr Bentley; an emailed report was received.

24/30. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

- Birch InSpire - no news has been received regarding their meeting with Chelmsford Diocese.

24/31. PROGRESS CHECK.

Email addresses - the .gov.uk email addresses are now up and running.

EV Charger - the charger is now working (cost 45p)

Signal Booster - awaiting confirmation of funding from Councillors Locality Budget.

24/32 PLANNING.

Application No: 241539. Listed building application for the renovation and refurbishment of the Angel Inn.

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

Application No: 241547. Application for variation of condition 2.

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

Application No: 241549 & 241550. Listed building application for a first-floor rear extension.

Location: The Manse, Garlands Road, Layer Breton CO2 0PN. **Refused.**

24/33. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101942 £484.97 A Balcombe (Salary/Expenses/Poppy Wreath)

101943 £880.00 M J Ince (Grass Cutting)

101944 £235.20 Mythic Beasts Ltd (.gov.uk email addresses)

101945 £624.00 Playquip Leisure (Play Area Maintenance/Safety Inspection)

101946 £51.00 Clacton Business Services Ltd (Payroll)

101947 £444.00 BAA Groundcare Ltd. (Churchyard Strimming)

101948 £231.00 VCS Websites (6 Months Web Hosting/Set-up of .gov.uk email)

Income

£9,566.00 2nd Instalment Precept (CCC)

£16,241.00 REPF Grant (CCC)

24/34. BUDGET & PRECEPT 2025/26.

The budget for 2025/26 was agreed at £30,199.00. Considering income and current reserves it was agreed to set the Precept for 2025/26 at £20,000.

Proposed: Cllr Ninnim. Seconded: Cllr Harris. Unanimously agreed.

24/35. HEDINGHAM BUS SERVICE.

Councillors and residents have complained about the 'appalling service' regarding the number 92 bus which often doesn't turn up and when it does turn up it doesn't always return leaving passengers stranded. County Cllr Bentley is looking into this. It was agreed to write to Hedingham Buses regarding the poor service.

24/36. VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE.

It was agreed to purchase lights shaped like a Christmas Tree at an approx. cost of £400.00.

24/37. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.

None.

24/38. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- 34 bags of rubbish were collected during October. The LED display unit in the Hall isn't working properly, this is being dealt with between contractor and supplier and won't affect the Parish Council regarding the cost. To cut back the trees near the Village Hall to cost £280.00.
- Leak in Garlands Road (spring) Anglian Water have been out.
- Pudding Lane - large lorries are not supposed to use Pudding Lane. The unsuitable sign needs changing to 400 tonne weight restriction sign.
- The potholes from Hardys Green to Copford have been repaired but the white lines haven't been reinstated.
- Cllr Ninnim to lay the poppy wreath for Remembrance Day.

24/39. MEETING DATES 2024.

3 December.

Meeting Dates 2025

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

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 20:18 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: