



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 6 June 2023, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: *Cllrs: Boyce, Campion, Cottrell & Harris.*
In the Chair: *Cllr Boyce.*
Clerk: *Angela Balcombe.*
Also present: *County Cllr Bentley and one member of the public.*

23/09. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

Cllr Boyce welcomed those present to the meeting. Councillors were informed of the sad passing of Sue Harrison, condolences will be sent to her husband John and family.

23/10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bowtle, Ninnim and Windsor.

23/11. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 2 May 2023 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

23/12. 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.

23/13. REPORTS.

Essex County Council (ECC) - the Community Initiatives Fund is now open for applications until the 18 August, the Locality Budget (£5,000) is also now available as is the City Councillors budget of £2,000 each.

- Cllr Bentley was asked if planning permission was needed for a septic tank and will check with Cllr Ellis. A large pile of soil has been deposited on nearby land, it is not known who owns the land but Cllr Bentley will check if it is Highway land or not.
- It was reported that a tenant has been shooting an air rifle in an enclosed garden, this is a matter for the police.
- 20's Plenty - Cllr Bentley will start the process for a 20mph limit in suitable places by getting some speed checks done. A formal petition with the correct wording including residents' signature, name and address is needed to prove public support. The police have now dropped their objections to having a 20mph limit installed.

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

23/14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Damaged bridge - this has been reported and has been assessed but is not a priority.

Green Waste - a resident was advised to contact Colchester City Council regarding how a special collection would be carried out in a lane too small for the large collection trucks.

23/15. PROGRESS CHECK.

- 20's Plenty - Cllr Harris attended a recent Layer meeting; they are doing a door to door survey. As no further responses have been received it was agreed that Birch Parish Council could consider doing the same. Next agenda.
- The weight sign reported last month has been acknowledged by Highways and has since been turned the right way around.

23/16. PLANNING.

Application No: 231140. Front and rear ground floor extensions. Internal modifications to create an improved kitchen/dining area in place of the existing conservatory and new front entrance area. Replace existing garage with improved garage structure, part of the house to be timber clad and painted.

Location: Nelmes, Mill Lane, Birch CO2 0NG. No objections.

Application No: 230615. Erection of Swallow Raven wooden frame greenhouse in back garden.

Location: Gate House Farm, School Hill, Birch CO2 0NA. **Approved.**

23/17. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101857 £200.00 Justin Pryke (Coronation Event)

101858 £230.00 Eric Smith (Coronation Event)

101859 £465.89 A Balcombe (Salary/Office Expenses/Printer Ink)

23/18. CLERKS LAPTOP.

To consider a contribution towards a new lap-top. This was no longer necessary as the Clerk has resolved the problem with her laptop.

23/19. SUMMER EVENT FOR THE VILLAGE.

To consider any suggestions for an event to brighten up the Village for the summer. The following were suggested: Zoo Animals, Crazy Aliens, World Wide Landmarks, Out of Space and Tin Men. Cllr Harris will speak to Colchester Zoo to see if they are interested in sponsoring an event, if so the Council will go with Zoo Animals as the chosen subject. If not, then the Parish Council could offer a cash prize and go with Crazy Aliens. The event would need to finish by the August bank holiday.

It was also agreed that the Parish Council could contribute to the cost of a bouncy castle or similar for the Beer Festival (August Bank Holiday).

23/20. CORRESPONDENCE.

CCC - Rural England Prosperity Fund, now open for applications.

ECC - Community Initiatives Fund, now open for applications, closes 18 August 2023.

ECC - Temporary Road Closure, Blind Lane, due to commence on 26 June 2023 for 6 days for carriageway patching.

The manned Freighter (skip) will be in Luard Way between 9 - 9.45am on Saturday 5 August 2023.

23/21. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- Grass Cutting Contract - the contract has still to be finalised, one cut has been done.
- 16 bags of rubbish have been collected in May.
- Cllr John Windsor has resigned as he is moving away.

23/22. MEETING DATES 2023.

4 July, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November (Budget Meeting), 5 December.

The meeting closed at 20.32 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: