



## **BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**

*Clerk – Angela Balcombe*

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Minutes of a meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on  
Tuesday 6 September 2022, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

*Present:* Cllrs: *Bowtle, Campion, Harris & Ninnim.*  
*In the Chair:* Cllr *Bowtle.*  
*Clerk:* Angela *Balcombe*  
*Also present:* County Cllr *Bentley, Borough Cllr Maclean, Borough Cllr Ellis and two members of the public*

### **22/86. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **22/87. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs: Boyce, Cottrell and Windsor.

### **22/88. CASUAL VACANCY.**

Cllr Bowtle proposed Mark Harris to fill the vacancy left by Peter Walsh, this was seconded by Cllr Ninnim and unanimously agreed.

- Cllr Harris signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed to the Council.

### **22/89. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

The minutes of 5 July 2022 were approved as a correct record of events.

**Proposed: Cllr Campion. Seconded: Cllr Ninnim. All agreed.**

### **22/90. 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.

### **22/91. REPORTS.**

**County/Borough Council** – Cllr Bentley explained that due to a three-year appointment to help out Thurrock Council with financial difficulties, he may have to miss some of our meetings. With regard to the proposed Birch Solar Farm, Cllr Bentley and Borough Councillor Ellis will represent residents that object to the application. It was noted that Government are against development on prime agricultural land.

*Borough Cllr Maclean took no part in the discussion regarding the proposed Solar Farm as she is a member of the CBC Planning Committee.*

### **22/92. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No matters were raised except to note that there was no update on what is happening with St Peters Church.

### **22/93. PROGRESS CHECK.**

The car left on the highway awaiting removal has been moved on to private land.

## **22/94. PLANNING.**

**Application No: 212812:** Proposed 4 bedroom dwelling and garage/store.

**Location:** Lynch Cottage, Mill Lane, Birch, Colchester CO2 0NH. This application has been refused by CBC and has gone to appeal. Objections have been resubmitted to CBC and sent to the Planning Inspectorate on 25/08/2022.

**Application No: 222199 & 222200 (listed building).** To undertake modest alterations and repairs to the existing building as detailed in the plans.

**Location:** Brakes Farmhouse, Maldon Road, Birch CO2 0NU. No objections.

**Application No: 222186.** Proposed single storey side and rear extensions, two storey rear extension and front porch.

**Location:** 38 Birch Street, Birch CO2 0NB. No objections.

**Application No: 222151.** Construction and operation of solar photovoltaic (PV) farm and associated infrastructure, including batteries, inverters, security cameras, fencing, access tracks and landscaping.

**Location:** Land to the north west of Hardys Green, Birch. **Next agenda.**

## **22/95. PLAY AREA – FUNDING APPLICATION.**

An application has been submitted to the Enover Trust for £50,000 to upgrade the play area to include an aerial runway. The Trust meets on October 18 to make their decision.

## **22/96. FINANCE.**

Payments made / money received:

101821 £751.16 A Balcombe (Salary/Expenses July/August)

101822 £50.00 VCS Websites (3 months hosting)

101823 £3,360.00 Hill Farm Landscapes (7 x cuts)

101824 £261.60 Playquip Leisure (New gate mechanism)

## **22/97. CORRESPONDENCE.**

**Colchester Zoo Stampede Half Marathon 02/10/22.** Information with the timings 8.30am – 12.15pm.

**Community Speed Watch** – correspondence received regarding funding for two Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS).

**CBC Corporate Peer Challenge** – the LGA Peer Team would like to meet with a group of town and parish councillors (one from each council) Tuesday 27 September at Colchester Town Hall, 3.30 – 4.30pm.

**Residents email** – complaint about County Broadband works at Hardys Green.

## **22/98. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.**

- 20 bags rubbish have been collected. The hedge near the Memorial needs cutting back as it is overhanging the road. Nightingales.
- Road closure signs in Hardys Green and Pudding Lane have now been removed.
- The footpath by the school has wide cracks in it, this has been reported previously, to be chased up.
- Concerns re parking as the school is now operating from 7.45 – 5.15pm.
- Cllr Harris gave his apologies for the next meeting.

## **22/99. MEETING DATES 2022.**

4 October, 1 November (Budget Meeting), 6 December.

***The meeting closed at 20.15 pm.***

**SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):**

**DATE:**