



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 7 July 2026, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: *Cllrs: Boyce, Bowtle, Cottrell, Harris, Ninnim & Westby.*
In the Chair: *Cllr Bowtle.*
Clerk: *Angela Balcombe.*
Also present: *County Cllr Harding, 3 members of the public*

26/86. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

26/87. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Monks.

26/88. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 2 June 2026 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

26/89. 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.

26/90. REPORTS.

Essex County Council (ECC).

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

Cllr Harding gave a brief report which included information regarding Reforms 100 Day Plan which is on the ECC website. Pothole repairs are getting done and SEND provisions are being looked at. Cllr Harding was asked about the recent road closure of Maldon Road for re-surfacing, residents and the Parish Council had not received any notification of this work, Cllr Harding will look into it.

26/91. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

The Straightway – a resident read the email that was sent to the Parish Council regarding the state of the road with potholes and overgrown hedges. (RoW Byway 41). This has been reported to Essex County Council.

26/92. PROGRESS CHECK.

No matters were raised.

26/93. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

102036 £545.20 A Balcombe (Salary/PAYE/Expenses)

102037 £74.00 Colchester City Council (Election Costs)

102038 £480.00 Playquip UK Ltd. (Jet Wash Play Equipment)

102039 £880.00 M J Ince (Grass Cutting)

102040 £880.00 M J Ince (Grass Cutting)
102041 £35.00 CALC (Annual Subscription)
102042 £127.80 Clacton Business Services Ltd. (Payroll)
102043 £100.00 Birch Memorial Hall (Hire)

26/94. PLANNING.

Application No: 261090. Single storey rear extension and conversion of existing garage to habitable accommodation.

Location: 46 Birch Street, Birch CO2 0ND. No objections.

Application Nos: 261058 & 261059LB. Renovation, refurbishment and alteration of listed building, including demolition of modern additions, together with change of use to office, cafe, and tourist accommodation. (The proposed works are in addition to those previously approved).

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

Cllr Boyce had contacted the owners who have confirmed that they are aware of the condition of the property and the fly-tipping. They are making arrangements to have the site cleared and are committed to going forward with the original plans.

Application No: 260759. Single storey side and rear extensions.

Location: 4 Birch Cottages, Birch Street, Birch CO2 0NN. **Refused.**

26/95. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.

Residents' emails regarding potholes and overgrown hedges in Straightway.

26/96. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- 28 bags of litter collected last month.

26/97. MEETING DATES 2026.

1 September, 6 October, 3 November (Budget Meeting), 1 December.

CLOSE OF MEETING: *The meeting closed at 20:14*

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: