



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 2 January 2024, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: *Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Cottrell & Ninnim.*
In the Chair: *Cllr Bowtle.*
Clerk: *Angela Balcombe.*
Also present: *County Cllr Bentley, District Cllr Ellis & 1 member of the public.*

24/94. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

24/95. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Windsor

24/96. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 5 December 2023 were approved as a correct record of events.
Proposed: Cllr Ninnim. Seconded: Cllr Cottrell. All agreed.

24/97. 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.

24/98. REPORTS.

Essex County Council (ECC) Colchester City Council (CCC)

Cllrs Bentley and Ellis updated the Council on County and City Council matters. A high volume of calls are being received regarding flooding and potholes due to the recent bad weather. Locality Budgets; the Parish Council will apply for funding towards solar panels for the Village Hall.

24/99. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

- A post has been knocked down by the War Memorial.

24/00. PROGRESS CHECK.

A brief update on any actions from the last meeting.

- Summer Fete; still awaiting confirmation of a date.

24/01. UPDATE FROM SOS.

Apologies were received from members of SOS.

Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance has considered the request from SOS that time be allowed to seek an alternative plan to the demolition of St Peter's Church in Birch. A meeting of trustees earlier in the week agreed to allow a period up until

the end of June 2024 for SOS to present a detailed, fully funded and credible proposal.

24/02. PLANNING.

Application No: 232758. Proposed 4-bedroom dwelling and garage/store. (Re-submission of 212812 following Appeal 3297000)

Location: Lynch Cottage, Mill Lane, Birch CO2 0NH.

The main objection remains the Highways issue around access. Cllrs Bentley and Ellis to be copied in to the Parish Councils objection.

Application No: 232371. Proposed part single storey two-storey rear extension and addition of front porch.

Location: 7 Priory Cottages, Hardys Green, Birch CO2 0NX. **Approved.**

24/03. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101886 £445.88 A Balcombe (Clerks Salary/Expenses)

101887 £48.00 Clacton Business Services Ltd (Payroll)

Local Council Tax Support Grant (LCTS)

Colchester City Council is proposing to leave the amount of grant, including LCTS to remain unchanged from 2023/24, therefore the grant is £500 and the LCTS is £632.

The Tax Base for 2024/25 is 311.4 which works out at £57.80 Council Tax (Parish Rate) for a Band D property.

24/04. CCC BIN EMPTYING AGREEMENT.

Preliminary costs to be agreed prior to the contract being signed in April. It was agreed to renew the contract for 2024/25.

24/05. BIRCH MEMORIAL HALL - SOLAR PV PACKAGE & QUOTATION.

To discuss the information and the quote received. It was agreed to apply for funding and to get another quote in time for the next meeting.

24/06. CORRESPONDENCE.

Birch Working Group (Diocese of Chelmsford) - confirmation of allowing a period up until the end of June 2024 for SOS to present a detailed, fully funded and credible proposal regarding the demolition of Birch Church.

24/07. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- Village Gateways - next meeting.
- Councillors and volunteers collected 7 bags of rubbish during December.

24/08. MEETING DATES 2024.

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 meeting closed at 20.15 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: