



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on
Tuesday 2 March 2021, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Cottrell, Ninnim & Sherlock.
In the Chair: Cllr Bowtle
Clerk: Angela Balcombe
Also present: There was no one else present.

21/60. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman, Cllr Bowtle welcomed those present to the meeting.

21/61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Walsh.

21/62. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 3 November 2020 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

21/63. 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.

21/64. REPORTS.

There were no reports.

21/65. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

There were no members of the public present.

21/66. PROGRESS CHECK.

New website – the new site is now up and running. The Council wished to record their thanks to Mr Richard Carr for all his time and work in looking after the previous website, which he had done for many years.

21/67. PLANNING.

Application No: 202005 & 202006. Proposed single storey rear extension and internal alterations.

Location: White House, Mill Lane, Birch CO2 0NH. **Granted.**

21/68. FRIENDLY BENCH MOVEMENT (ROTARY CLUB).

To consider any location that may be suitable to install a 'Friendly Bench'.

<https://www.countryliving.com/uk/wellbeing/a30673704/the-friendly-bench-loneliness/>. No suitable locations could be thought of.

21/69. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101734 £720 Hill Farm Landscapes (Grass Cutting)

101736 £240.00 PKF Littlejohn (Audit Fee)

101737 £793.56 Colchester Borough Council (Litter Collection April - December)

101738 £373.62 A Balcombe (Salary/Expenses December)

101739 £264.52 Colchester Borough Council (Litter Collection Jan/Feb/March)

101740 £389.51 A Balcombe (Salary/Expenses January)

101741 £268.00 VCS Websites Ltd (Site Build/3 months hosting Feb/April)

101742 £745.42 A Balcombe (Salary/Expenses Feb/March)

21/70. BUS STOP BY THE SURGERY.

To discuss whether or not to display a notice asking people to wait further down from the unmarked bus stop for the bus. Councillors will look into this.

21/71. CORRESPONDENCE.

ECC - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, section 53

Copford and Birch: Appeal against refusal to upgrade Footpath 24 Copford and 3 Birch to restricted byway and add addition to Hellens Farm.

21/72. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

Cllr Ninnim – the trampoline should be installed soon; a safety inspection of the play equipment will be carried out at the same time. Councillors continue to collect rubbish from around the Parish.

Cllr Boyce attended the last CALC meeting which was held via Zoom. A reply from the Heckford Angel regarding progress on the refurbishment states that they have no news to report, they are monitoring the current situation (Covid pandemic) but are unable to provide a starting date for the work.

Cllr Cottrell had contacted Highways about flooding at the pond.

Potholes can be reported via the ECC website by using the interactive map.

21/73. MEETING DATES 2021.

6 April, 4 May (Parish Meeting/Annual Meeting), 1 June, 6 July, 7 September, 5 October, 2 November (Budget Meeting), 7 December.

The meeting closed at 20.04

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: