



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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

Present: Cllrs: *Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Ninnim, Walsh & Windsor.*
In the Chair: Cllr *Bowtle.*
Clerk: Angela *Balcombe.*
Also present: *Two members of the public.*

21/64. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

21/65. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Cottrell.

21/66. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 5 October 2021 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

21/67. 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.

21/68. REPORTS.

County Council – apologies were received from Cllr Bentley.

Borough Council – no reports were received.

21/69. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

- **Next Door Neighbour Birch** – it was explained that this is a kind of Facebook page for local residents.
- **Remembrance Service** – the Revd Michael Hatchett, an Associate Minister in the Thurstable & Winstree Benefice, which includes the Parish of Birch introduced himself as the officiant at this year's Remembrance Sunday service in Birch, and to discuss the arrangements.

21/70. PROGRESS CHECK.

UK Power Network Transformer – response circulated.

21/71. PLANNING.

Application No: 212612 & 212613. Proposed Sun Room, two storey extension and internal alterations along with extended garage to form new home office.

Location: Shemmings Farmhouse, Hardys Green, Birch CO2 0NY. No objections.

Application No: 212812. Proposed 4 bedroom dwelling and garage/store.
Location: Lynch Cottage, Mill Lane, Birch CO2 0NH.

21/72. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101777 £404.68 A Balcombe (Salary/PAYE/Expenses + £50 Poppy Wreath)

101778 £349.54 Colchester Borough Council (Litter Collection)

101779 £1,200.00 Hill Farm Landscapes (Churchyard Strimming)

101780 £50.00 VCS Websites Ltd. (3 months hosting)

21/73. BUDGET / PRECEPT 2022/2023.

Expenditure was agreed at £23,342.00, however taking in to account current reserves it was agreed to set the Precept for £15,000.00.

Proposed: Cllr Bowtle. Seconded: Cllr Boyce. Unanimously agreed.

It was agreed to ask for a grant of £200 from the Borough Councillors allowance to purchase trees. It was also agreed to increase the grass cutting to every two weeks during the growing season.

21/74. CORRESPONDENCE.

Residents email: danger and noise disturbance caused by vehicles speeding/racing at Blind Lane, Birch Airfield. The Chairman had spoken to Cllr Bentley who advised that this was an enforcement matter for the Police.

21/75. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- Speed Watch Meeting – this will be held on 15 November at 7pm, Cllr Bentley has asked for a member of the Traffic Police to attend. The racing cars at Blind Lane will be raised at this meeting.
- A complaint about a motorbike being used at the Paly Area had been received, a note to be included in the newsletter to say motorbikes are not allowed in the Play Area.
- The Clerk to contact the enforcement team at Colchester Borough Council regarding the cart lodge extension at 4 Birch Street which has upstairs door/windows/velux lights and the height of the extension.
- Birch Church – the main beam in the roof has collapsed and is falling in on itself, it needs more scaffolding to shore it up. The hoarding on the side of the Church has been extended out for safety reasons.
- Litter – 20 bags of rubbish has been collected.
- The road in Pudding Lane is eroding at the edges.

21/76. MEETING DATES 2021.

7 December.

MEETING DATES 2022.

4 January, 1 February, 1 March, 5 April, 3 May (Annual Parish Meeting/Annual Council Meeting), 7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November (Budget Meeting), 6 December.

The meeting closed at 20.32 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: