



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on
Tuesday 4 October 2022, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs: *Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Cottrell, Ninnim & Windsor.*
In the Chair: Cllr *Bowtle.*
Clerk: Angela Balcombe
Also present: Borough Cllr Ellis and six members of the public

22/00. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

22/01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Harris.

22/02. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 6 September 2022 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

22/03. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests on any matters covered by this agenda. Cllr Cottrell declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 22/03, Application No: 222151 as she is the landowner.

22/04. REPORTS.

County Council – apologies were received from Cllr Bentley.

Cllr Cottrell left the meeting during Borough Cllr Ellis report as the proposed solar farm was discussed.

Borough Council – the planning application for the proposed Birch Solar Farm will go to committee.

22/05. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Apologies were received from Mr Richard Carr, Mr Carr had sent an email including his objection to the proposed Birch Solar Farm and information regarding Birch Church.

22/06. PROGRESS CHECK.

No matters were raised.

22/07. PLANNING.

Cllr Cottrell left the meeting for this item.

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. Objections to be submitted including the comments made by residents at a previous meeting.

Cllr Cottrell returned to the meeting.

Application No: 222266. Single storey rear extension.

Location: 5 Birch Cottages, Birch Street, Birch CO2 0NP. No objections.

Application No: 222080. It is proposed to install a multi-fuel stove in place of the existing open fire in the lounge and to remove the decorative brickwork from the fire surround and chimney breast. It is also proposed to replace the tiled hearth with slate (Listed Building)

Location: Land adjacent to Gate House Farm, School Hill, Birch CO2 0NA. No objections.

Application No: 222325. Listed building application for two storey extension and internal alterations. Removal of modern additions. Replacement of render. Replacement of modern windows.

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

Application No: 222332. Application to vary condition 2 (approved drawings) following a grant of planning permission 212612 - Replace approved drawings 1321/05F & 1321/06F with 6784-03A.

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

22/08. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101825 £518.39 A Balcombe (£359.23 Salary/Expenses September £159.16 Printer Ink)

101826 £35.00 Colchester Association of Local Councils (Annual Subs.)

101827 £50.00 Birch Memorial Hall (Hire)

101828 £45.00 Clacton Business Services (Payroll)

101829 £240.00 Playquip Leisure (Safety Inspection)

Income

£8066.00 Colchester Borough Council (2nd Instalment Precept)

22/09. CORRESPONDENCE.

- Email from Birch Solar Farm to say the application has now been submitted to CBC and an email circulated to residents and neighbouring parish councils.
- Email from Mr Richard Carr regarding Birch Church and the proposed Birch Solar Farm planning application.

22/10. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- Cllr Ninnim - 26 bags of rubbish were collected in September. Operation Church Spire; a young girl is writing a letter to residents that live near the Church about wildlife.
- Remembrance Service – a poppy wreath to be ordered. A Poppy Mat is being made using knitted poppies. Arrangements for the service are in hand.

22/11. MEETING DATES 2022.

1 November (Budget Meeting), 6 December.

The meeting closed at 20.05 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: