



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on
Tuesday 6 December 2022, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Cottrell, Harris & Ninnim.
In the Chair: Cllr Bowtle.
Clerk: Angela Balcombe.
Also present: City Cllr Ellis and four members of the public.

22/26. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

22/27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Windsor.

22/28. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 1 November 2022 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

22/29. 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.

22/30. REPORTS.

County Council - apologies were received from Cllr Bentley.

City Council - the Birch Solar Farm application is likely to be received early 2023. Colchester now has City status and is therefore now Colchester City Council. The Parish Council will apply for £2,000 from the Locality Budget towards the £5,000 contribution towards the Play Area renovation.

22/31. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Mr Carr gave an update on the progress of the demolition of the Church.

22/32. PROGRESS CHECK.

Play Area - the agreement has been updated and signed and the £5,000 third party contribution has been paid.

22/33. PLANNING.

Application No: 222266. Single storey rear extension.

Location: 5 Birch Cottages, Birch Street, Birch CO2 0NP. **Granted.**

Application No: 222080. Installation of 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.

Location: Gate House Farm, School Hill, Birch CO2 0NA. **Granted.**

Application No: ESS/102/22/COL. Relocation of the existing weighbridge and construction of a new weighbridge office.

Location: Birch Airfield, Blind Lane, Birch CO5 9XE. **No objections.**

22/34. PLAY AREA.

The signed Funding Agreement (No: 1640) has been received. The final revised quote has also been received.

22/35. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101832 £532.59 A Balcombe (Salary plus backpay)

101833 £100.00 Birch Memorial Hall (Hire)

101834 £5,000.00 Enovert Management Ltd (5% Donation, Play Area)

101835 £100.22 E Bowtle (Food Bank Donation)

101836 £61.14 D Ninnim (Replacement Defibrillator Pads)

22/36. CORRESPONDENCE.

Active Travel (ECC) - Colchester - East Hill – Walking and cycling infrastructure improvements. Essex County Council are developing proposals to better connect key points in the city through improved walking and cycling infrastructure. One of the routes identified through the council's 'Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan', LCWIP 4 is an east-west route connecting the city centre to the university and Greenstead and also more widely to the existing National Route 51 and Wivenhoe Trail. (Information circulated).

Email from Mr Richard Carr - update on the progress of the Pastoral Scheme for Demolition of St Peter's Church (circulated).

22/37. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- Cllr Ninnim - 22 bags rubbish collected. Various highway broadband /signs laying around, these can either be reported or collected and picked up.
- 30 mph gate has fallen down as you enter Hardys Green on the left (priory cottages).
- Tommy stolen - check with insurers.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, gave special thanks to Mr Richard Carr for all his help, advice and dedication to matters affecting Birch over the years, especially regarding St Peters Church.

The Chairman also thanked Mr Bowtle and Cllr Ninnim for all the litter picking they do, and wished everyone a very Happy Christmas.

22/38. MEETING DATES 2023.

3 January, 7 February, 7 March, 4 April, 2 May (Annual Meeting), 6 June, 4 July, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November (Budget Meeting), 5 December.

The meeting closed at 20.00 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: