



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 6 February 2024, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: *Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Harris & Ninnim.*

In the Chair: *Cllr Bowtle.*

Clerk: *Angela Balcombe.*

Also present: *District Cllr Maclean & 2 members of the public.*

24/09. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

24/10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cottrell & Windsor.

24/11. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 2 January 2024 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

24/12. 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.

24/13. REPORTS.

Essex County Council (ECC) - apologies were received from Cllr Bentley.

Colchester City Council (CCC) - Cllr Maclean mentioned the request for funding for solar panels at the Village Hall and it was understood that applications for the Locality Budget cannot be submitted until the 2024/25 financial year.

24/14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

The latest update on SOS was briefly discussed.

24/15. PROGRESS CHECK.

No matters were raised.

24/16. VILLAGE GATEWAYS.

- Exact locations, number of gateways.
- Evidence of Need.
- Parish Council funded (via a licence) or Local Highways Panel (LHP) Application.

Deferred to the next agenda as Cllr Bentley was absent.

24/17. PLANNING.

Application No: 240114. Single storey side / rear extension, replacement of existing garage roof with a pitched roof including velux roof windows, replacement

and addition of garage cladding, addition of external insulation to dwelling house finished in render and the replacement of existing UPVC windows with new UPVC windows finished in anthracite.

Site address: 28 Luard Way, Birch CO2 0LR. No objections.

Application No: 240158. Creation of new vehicular crossover and off-street parking area.

Site address: Heckford Bridge Cottage, Maldon Road, Birch CO3 0SP. No objections.

24/18. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101889 £750.00 M J Ince (Grass Cutting, October)

101890 £375.00 M J Ince (Grass Cutting, November)

101891 £463.17 A Balcombe (Clerks Salary/Expenses)

101892 £109.99 D Ninnim (Chainsaw)

24/19. BIRCH MEMORIAL HALL - SOLAR PV PACKAGE & QUOTATION.

It was agreed to apply to the Rural England Prosperity Fund for £10,000 towards solar panels. The Parish Council will contribute £5,000.

24/20. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.

Definitive Map Modifications; Nos. 682 (Restricted Byways 42 Birch and 24 Copford, Colchester Borough) Order 2021 and 683 (Restricted Byway 43 Birch, Colchester Borough) Order 2021.

CALC - report from the Chairman of CALC, Cllr Brian Butcher.

24/21. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- 47 bags of rubbish collected during January.
- Pudding Lane - large construction vehicles working at the solar farm are cutting through Pudding Lane which is not suitable for HGV's. The lane has sunk to one side making it extremely dangerous for other road users. The Clerk to contact Low Carbon.
- Village Fete - a date is to be confirmed but it was agreed that the August bank holiday was the best time.
- Birch Park - two very large pot holes by the bollards at the bridge to be reported to Highways.

24/22. MEETING DATES 2024.

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 20.01 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: