



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on
Tuesday 7 December 2021, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Cottrell & Ninnim
In the Chair: Cllr Bowtle.
Clerk: Angela Balcombe.
Also present: 2 members of the public, County Councillor Bentley and a representative from the proposed Solar Farm

21/78. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

21/79. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllrs: Walsh and Windsor.

21/80. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 2 November 2021 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

21/81. 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.

21/82. REPORTS.

County Council – Cllr Bentley gave a report on the meeting held with residents regarding speeding/racing cars at Blind Lane. He had spoken with the police about a Public Protection Order which gives the police additional enforcement powers around anti-social behaviour. The Parish Council agreed and Cllr Bentley will pursue it. Village Gateways; funding can come from the ECC Locality Budget. Community Speed Watch (CSW); Cllr Bentley is negotiating with the police regarding CSW using 'True-cam', which records the exact speed of motorists. If agreed Cllr Bentley will purchase a True-cam plus the cost of training from his Locality Budget, to be shared with neighbouring parishes.

Borough Council

21/83. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No matters were raised.

21/84. PROGRESS CHECK.

- Vehicles speeding/racing at Blind Lane, the police have been carrying out high visibility patrols in that area.
- Remembrance Sunday – email from Revd. Michael thanking the Parish Council in respect of the Remembrance Sunday arrangements, participation and hospitality.
- Speed-watch signs, six signs designed by school children have been purchased.

Solar Farm – a representative informed the Council about the Community Benefit, a total of £140k, and how it would be split fairly between Layer (75.5%) and Birch (24.5%). The project will run over 40 years and the money can be paid in a number of ways, to be agreed in the near future.

21/85. PLANNING.

Birch Church – it has been reported (to be officially confirmed) that the proposal to convert St Peter's Church into a residential property has been withdrawn.

21/86. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101781 £1,440.00 Hill Farm Landscapes Ltd. (Grass Cutting)

101782 £362.81 A Balcombe (Salary/PAYE/Expenses)

101783 £75.00 Birch Memorial Hall (Hire)

101784 £240.00 Playquip Leisure (Safety Inspection)

101785 £176.40 E Bowtle (Impactsigns)

101786 £920.95 The Parish Notice Board Company

21/87. CORRESPONDENCE.

Highways – Hardys Green ref: 2634769, work has been completed.

Elections – Birch Parish Council is scheduled to have a parish election on 5 May 2022. Recharge cost approx. £900.00, if uncontested £65.00.

Cllr Scott-Boutell – Speed Indicator Device at Heckford Bridge (not working), Cllr Bentley to look into this.

Highways – temporary closure of School Hill for one day on 20 December for Anglian Water to undertake disconnection.

Highways – temporary closure of Birch Street for six hours on 21 December to allow Openreach to replace a pole.

CBC – regarding removal of Councillors home addresses from their register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

21/88. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- Cllr Cottrell has lots of small oak trees which could be interspersed with more mature cherry trees for the Queens Platinum Jubilee. The resurrection of an ancient PRoW was raised, Cllr Bentley will take this up with ECC Legal Services.
- Cllr Ninnim, the new notice board arrives tomorrow. He suggested that some adult kip fit equipment could be purchased. Over fifty bags of rubbish had been collected.
- Cllr Boyce has contacted the Heckford Angel about the terrible state of repair it's in and has asked what they are going to do about it.
- Pot holes in Maldon Road, reference numbers to be forwarded to Cllr Bentley who will chase this up.

21/89. MEETING DATES 2022.

4 January, 1 February, 1 March, 5 April, 10 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: