



## **BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**

*Clerk – Angela Balcombe*

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### **Minutes of a Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on Tuesday 7 November 2023, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.**

**Present:** *Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Cottrell, Harris, Ninnim & Windsor.*  
**In the Chair:** *Cllr Bowtle.*  
**Clerk:** *Angela Balcombe.*  
**Also present:** *5 members of the public (3 from SOS) and Revd Michael Hatchett*

#### **23/66. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

#### **23/67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

There were no apologies.

#### **23/68. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

The minutes of 3 October 2023 were agreed as a correct record of events.

**Proposed: Cllr Ninnim. Seconded: Cllr Harris. All agreed.**

#### **23/69. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests on any matters covered by this agenda. Cllr Cottrell declared an interest in item 23/74 Application Nos: 232473 & 232474.

#### **23/70. REPORTS.**

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

**Colchester City Council (CCC)** - apologies were received from Cllr Ellis.

#### **23/71. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

It was reported that an Ecological Survey was being carried out at the Church, and someone was also checking the water supply.

#### **23/72. PROGRESS CHECK.**

No matters were raised.

#### **23/73. UPDATE FROM SOS REGARDING ST PETERS CHURCH.**

An update was received following the recent meeting with the Diocese of Chelmsford. A written report was circulated.

#### **23/74. PLANNING.**

**Application Nos: 232307 & 232308 (Listed Building).** Resubmission of applications 222664 and 222665 following issue of inaccurate approval notices by Colchester Borough Council. Renovation and refurbishment of the listed building, including demolition of modern additions, all as described on the attached drawings, together with the erection of new overnight accommodation for tourists and associated works.

**Location:** Angel Inn, Maldon Road, Birch CO3 0SP.

It was reported that the applicants hope to start work early next year.

**Application No: 232371.** Proposed Part Single Storey Part two-storey rear extension and addition of front porch.

**Location:** 7 Priory Cottages, Hardys Green, Birch CO2 0NX. No objections.

**Application Nos: 232473 & 232474 (Listed Building).** Proposed extension and alterations at Conduit Farmhouse.

**Location:** Conduit Farm, Birch Park, Birch CO2 0LS. No objections.

**Application No: 231941.** Two storey side and part two storey part single storey rear extensions.

**Location:** 10 Birch Street, Birch CO2 0NF. **Approved.**

### **23/75. FINANCE.**

Payments made / money received:

101878 £465.00 A Balcombe (Clerks Salary/Expenses/Poppy Wreath)

101879 £1,246.00 BAA Groundwork Ltd (Churchyard Maintenance)

101880 £100.00 VCS Websites (Hosting)

#### **Income**

HMRC £6,861.73 (VAT Reclaim)

CCC £9,066.00 (2<sup>nd</sup> Instalment Precept £8,500.00, LCTS Grant £566.00)

### **23/76. BUDGET/PRECEPT 2024/25.**

The budget for 2024/25 is £23,800.00. Taking into account general and earmarked reserves it was agreed to set the precept for 2024/25 at £18,000.00.

**Proposed: Cllr Boyce. Seconded: Cllr Bowtle. All agreed.**

### **23/77. CORRESPONDENCE.**

**Layer Solar Farm** - an update on progress so far (circulated).

**CCC** - Colchester Local Plan Review - Call for sites and Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) Draft Methodology Consultation (circulated).

**Rural Area Designation** - Colchester City Council intend to apply for Rural Area Designation in accordance with Section 157 of the Housing Act 1985, to include 25 parish areas within the local authority area, Birch is included. Agreed to support.

### **23/78. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.**

- 23 bags rubbish collected throughout October.
- Summer Fete for next year with the Crazy Aliens competition - next agenda
- A12 road closures causing problems through Birch.
- Warren Lane Junction, to be chased up with Cllr Bentley.
- Rev Michael Hatchett to take the Remembrance Service.

### **23/79. MEETING DATES 2023.**

5 December.

#### **Meeting Dates 2024.**

2 January, 6 February, 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 20.59 pm.***

**SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):**

**DATE:**