



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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

Present: Cllrs: Bowtle, Campion & Ninnim.
In the Chair: Cllr Bowtle.
Clerk: Angela Balcombe.
Also present: Borough Cllr Ellis & three members of the public.

21/35. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

21/36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllrs: Boyce, Walsh and Windsor.

21/37. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 6 July 2021 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

21/38. 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.

21/39. REPORTS.

County Council – apologies were received from Cllr Bentley.

Borough Council – Cllr Ellis updated the Council on Borough Council matters. There was no further information regarding Birch Church. Cllr Ellis to chase up the potholes that need repair at the Blind Lane junction.

21/40. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Community Speed Watch (CSW) The Co-ordinator of Layer Community Speed Watch gave an overview of how their Speed Watch worked. It was suggested that if Birch wished to join CSW they could share the equipment to save on cost, and if successful could then purchase their own equipment.

Blocked drains – the one at School Hill now has grass growing out of it, to be chased up with Highways.

21/41. PROGRESS CHECK.

- Village Gateways - awaiting confirmation from Highways regarding their regulations for the gates and whether the Councils proposals are acceptable.
- Notice Board – has been purchased and awaiting delivery in late November.

21/42. HIGHWAYS DEVOLUTION SCHEME.

Information circulated.

21/43. PLANNING.

Application Nos: 212253 & 212254. Undertake modest alterations to the existing building (listed).

Location: Brakes Farmhouse, Brakes Farm, Maldon Road, Birch CO2 0NU.

No objections.

Application No: 211437. Proposed side and rear extension. New entrance porch following demolition of existing.

Location: 4 Greenfield Houses, Mill Lane, Birch CO2 0NJ. **Approved.**

Application No: 211299. Proposed rear fill extension.

Location: Sandford Hall, Blind Lane, Birch CO2 0NZ. **Approved.**

Application No: 211853. Replace existing rear extension with a single storey rear extension. Internally the ground floor will become an open plan kitchen dining and living space directly opening to the garden.

Location: 11 Luard Way, Birch CO2 0LR. **Approved.**

Application No: 211954. Construction of 4.5m x 8m garden room and store.

Location: Sumachs, Mill Lane, Birch CO2 0NH. **Approved.**

21/44. SPEEDING TRAFFIC / COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH.

This was dealt with in the Public Forum.

21/45. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101765 £50.00 VCS Websites Ltd. (3 months hosting August – October)

101766 £349.54 Colchester Borough Council (Litter Picking)

101767 £424.22 A Balcombe (Salary/PAYE/Expenses)

101768 £920.95 D Ninnim (Half cost for new notice board)

101769 £50.00 Age Concern Colchester (Donation)

101770 £392.21 A Balcombe (Salary/PAYE/Expenses)

101771 £TBA Hill Farm Landscapes (Grass Cutting)

101772 £50.00 Birch Memorial Hall (Hire)

21/46. MEMORIAL BENCH REQUEST.

Request to install a memorial bench in memory of Robert (Rob) Whybrow. The Parish Council does not own any land suitable for a new bench, and after discussion with Mr Whybrows family it was agreed not to take this request any further.

21/47. CORRESPONDENCE.

Essex Streetworks – temporary road closure of Hardys Green is due to commence on 4 October for five days while County Broadband undertakes installation of fibre optic cables.

Neighbourhood Watch – request to complete CrimeStoppers questionnaire.

EALC – Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral (circulated).

EALC – 2021 AGM will be held virtually on 23 September commencing at 10am.

21/48. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

Cllr Ninnim – two more benches have been refurbished and litter picking continues around the Parish

A letter of thanks to be sent to the gentleman who repaired the notice board at Birch Green. Thanks also to Cllr Ninnim, Mr Bowtle and volunteers for all their work keeping the village looking clean and tidy.

21/49. MEETING DATES 2021.

5 October, 2 November (Budget Meeting), 7 December.

The meeting closed at 20.37 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: