



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on
Tuesday 8 January 2019, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs: Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Cottrell, Gidlow, Ninnim & Walsh.

In the Chair: Cllr Bowtle.

Clerk: Angela Balcombe.

Also present: 5 members of the public and District Councillor Ellis

19/09. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

19/10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Walsh.

19/11. REPORTS.

Colchester Borough Council – Cllr Ellis updated the Council on the Local Plan. There is no update on the Church application.

Essex County Council - apologies were received from Cllr Bentley.

CBC Zone Wardens – apologies were received from Gary Cole.

19/12. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 4 December 2018 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

19/13. 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.

19/14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Representatives from Portia Group were in attendance to discuss the planning application for the Heckford Angel. The first pre-application was originally submitted to Colchester Borough Council in March 2017. Advice was given by a planning officer which was taken on board and a second pre-application was submitted, this officer had since left. Cllr Ellis agreed to look at this and will contact the applicants directly.

Cllr Bentley popped in to say Happy New Year and apologised for not being able to stay as he was on his way to another meeting.

Cllr Ellis also agreed to look into the Church application, specifically around the archaeology report.

19/15. PROGRESS CHECK.

- St Peters Church – no further update.

19/16. CASUAL VACANCY.

Cllr Bowtle proposed Mr Arthur Gidlow for the position of Parish Councillor, this was seconded by Cllr Boyce and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Gidlow signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed to the meeting.

Due to the resignation of Chris Harvey a new Vice-Chair was needed. Cllr Boyce was elected as Vice-Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Bowtle. Seconded: Cllr Ninnim. Unanimously agreed.

19/17. PLANNING.

Application No: 181557 & 181557 (listed building). Renovation and refurbishment of the Heckford Angel (Revised drawings and information received).

Location: Maldon Road, Birch.

The Parish Council to write again to support the application.

Application No: 182990. Alterations and part change of use to facilitate the creation of two C2 units of accommodation.

Location: Essex Care Consortium, Green Acres, Maldon Road, Birch. No objections.

Application No: 183011. External cladding.

Location: The Old Surgery, Birch Street, Birch. No objections.

Approved Applications:

Application No: 182131. Conversion of redundant former agricultural buildings to three office units.

Location: Shemmings Farm, Hardys Green, Birch. **Approved conditional.**

Application No: 182736. Construction of attic conversion with new rear dormer and rooflights, horizontal boarding overcladding to original house and construction of open porch canopy.

Location: Birch Gallery Fujita, 2 Birch Street, Birch. **Approved conditional.**

19/17. PLAY EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE.

Maintenance Inspection prices quoted from Playquip (see attached).

Quarterly £175.00, twice annually £200.00, Annual £300.00.

Playsafety (RoSPA) annual inspection costs £126.00 but with no additional service.

It was agreed to use Playquip to carry out twice annually safety inspections and Cllr Ninnim agreed to carry out the monthly visual inspections.

18/18. MOBILE LIBRARY.

To discuss the reply from ECC regarding the mobile library parking at the Memorial Hall/Luard Way. It was agreed they could park in the Hall car park if absolutely necessary but the preference is that they park in Luard Way which is much more accessible.

19/19. BIRCH EMERGENCY PLAN.

Agreed the work done was excellent, a few amendments were needed to complete the Plan.

19/20. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received.

101658 £322.14 A Balcombe (Clerks Salary & Expenses).

101659 £360.00 Hill Farm Landscapes

101660 £75.00 Birch Memorial Hall (Hire)

101661 £36.00 Clacton Business Services (Payroll)

101662 £234.59 Colchester Borough Council

19/21. CORRESPONDENCE.

RCCE – Village of the Year Competition. It was agreed not to enter this year.

19/22. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

- Cllr Ninnim reported that 27 bags of rubbish had been collected.
- The Zone Warden has removed the dumped settee from park. A litter pick has been arranged for Thursday 28 March, 10am – 12noon

19/23. MEETING DATES 2019.

5 February, 5 March, 2 April, 7 May, 4 June, 2 July, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November, 3 December.

Cllr Gidlow gave his apologies for the next meeting.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 20.32

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: