



## **BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**

*Clerk – Angela Balcombe*

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Minutes of a Meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on  
Tuesday 2 April 2019, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

*Present:* Cllrs: *Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Cottrell, Gidlow, Ninnim.*  
*In the Chair:* Cllr *Bowtle.*  
*Clerk:* *Angela Balcombe.*  
*Also present:* Cllr *Ellis, Gary Cole (CBC) and four members of the public*

### **19/51. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **19/52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Walsh.

### **19/53. REPORTS.**

**Colchester Borough Council** – apologies were received from Cllr Maclean. Cllr Ellis gave a brief report which include an update on a meeting held with planners regarding the Heckford Angel planning application. A meeting will be arranged with planners, the architect and the applicants to find a way forward.

**Essex County Council** – apologies were received from Cllr Bentley.

**CBC Zone Wardens** – Great British Spring Clean, eleven parishes taking part. Fly-tipping is still an issue, out of 8 recent fly-tips, 2 had enough evidence to prosecute, these were town centre businesses and both were fined. It was agreed that the Zone Wardens deserve huge thanks and appreciation for the excellent work they do. A letter to be sent to CBC.

### **19/54. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

The minutes of 5 March 2019 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

### **19/55. 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.

### **19/56. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

Recycling restrictions of plastics, agreed this was a national environmental issue. Residents find it difficult to find what they can/cannot recycle as the changes are not widely circulated. The information on the calendar is minimal and not publicised enough.

It was reported that a large school coach was currently being used which was making it difficult for heavy trucks to get through. Cllr Bowtle will contact the school.

### **19/57. PROGRESS CHECK.**

- St Peters Church – no further update. Following the incorrect article in the local paper, an article with accurate information was published in the Parish News.
- Footpath outside the hall – should be done next month.

**19/58. LITTER CONTRACT WITH COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL.**

The contract for the litter collecting service for 2019/20 was approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

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

**19/59. EMERGENCY PLAN.**

To sign off the final version of the Emergency Plan. Next agenda.

**19/60. FINANCE.**

Payments made / money received.

101669 £317.18 A Balcombe (Clerks Salary & Expenses).

101670 £360.00 Hill Farm Landscapes

101671 £75.00 Birch Memorial Hall (Hire – January, February & March)

101672 £234.27 EALC (Annual Subscription)

**19/61. PLAY EQUIPMENT.**

The damaged swing has been reported to the police and an insurance claim is currently being processed. Cllr Gidlow and Cllr Ninnim met with a local company who will provide an itemised quote.

**19/62. PLANNING.**

**Application No: 190799.** Erection of detached garage for the storage of tractors and other horticultural/maintenance equipment necessary for the upkeep and cultivation of the field which is alongside.

**Location:** Storrs, Hardys Green, Birch CO2 0NY. No objections.

**19/63. CORRESPONDENCE.**

NHS – invitation to attend public, open house meetings.

PCC – thank you for donation towards the cost of producing the Parish Newsletter.

Seafarers UK – request to ‘Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day’ on 3 September.

**19/64. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.**

- Pot holes – these can be reported directly on the ECC website or reported to the Clerk (with an accurate description of where they are).
- Complaint about a white van parked inconsiderately. The Clerk to write to the owner.
- The bottom of Lower Road has worn away and is quite dangerous – to be reported to ECC.

**19/65. MEETING DATES 2019.**

7 May (Annual Council Meeting 8pm preceded by the Annual Assembly 7.30pm), 4 June, 2 July, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November, 3 December.

**CLOSE OF MEETING**

*The meeting closed at 20.31*

**SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):**

**DATE:**