



## **BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**

*Clerk – Angela Balcombe*

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Minutes of a meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on  
Tuesday 3 September 2019, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

*Present: Cllrs: Boyce, Bowtle, Campian, Cottrell, Ninnim & Sherlock.*

*In the Chair: Cllr Bowtle.*

*Clerk: Angela Balcombe.*

*Also present: Five members of the public.*

### **19/11. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **19/12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Walsh.

### **19/13. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

The minutes of 2 July 2019 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

### **19/14. 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.

### **19/15. COUNTY / BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Bentley and Cllr Ellis.

### **19/16. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

- A member of the public asked the Council if they had received notice of a planning application for 7 holiday chalets behind the Hare and Hounds Public House (the site borders Layer Breton). No application has yet been received but the Council will let the member of the public know when it arrives.
- St Peters Church – no further news.
- A drain at the corner of Lower Road/School Hill has been reported to Highways, ref: 2627432.

### **19/17. PROGRESS CHECK.**

- Channel Sweeping – during autumn CBC concentrate on clearing leaves and sometimes postpone other road clearing duties, cleaning schedules resume as normal in January.

- Vehicles blocking the highway leading to St Peters Church; a list of the offending registration numbers has been sent to the North Essex Parking Partnership.

#### **19/18. PLAY AREA.**

The Dolphin springer seat has been repaired, the Aero Speed deck boards have been replaced and bonded mulch has been installed under the nest swing. The nest swing will be installed soon. An application for funding has been submitted to the Community Initiatives Fund and a decision will be made when the panel meets at the end of September

#### **19/19. SPEEDING ISSUES.**

- A complaint had been received about the speed of a tractor.
- Hedingham School Bus Service – the bus is now being used by members of the public as well as the school children. Concerns have been raised by parents. Cllr Bowtle has contacted Hedingham Buses. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Hedingham Buses and copied to Cllr Bentley.
- Community Speed Watch – information can be found at [www.saferessexroads.org](http://www.saferessexroads.org) under Police/Community. To include a piece in the next newsletter asking for volunteers.

#### **19/20. EMERGENCY PLAN.**

The Clerk will put together the final Plan and circulate it prior to sending a copy to Colchester Borough Council.

#### **19/21. MOBILE LIBRARY VAN PARKING.**

The Mobile Library is still parking on the dangerous bend outside hall, the Clerk to contact ECC again and ask for it to park at the safer and more central location at Luard Way. (Ref: FEED1292175).

#### **19/22. PLANNING.**

**Application No: 191284.** Proposed Orangery extension.

**Site Address:** Alfriston, Hardys Green, Birch CO2 0NY. Approved Conditional.

#### **19/23. HEDGE CUTTING.**

Residents are reminded to cut back any shrubs/hedges that are overhanging footways/roads that they are responsible for. A resident has been sent a letter as their hedges are overhanging the footway making it dangerous for pedestrians to pass, but has not taken any action. A second letter has been sent but as it has still not been cut back the Clerk will report it to ECC for their attention.

#### **19/24. FINANCE.**

Payments made / money received:

August:

101687 £240.00 Playquip Leisure (Safety Inspection).

101688 £1,440.00 Hill Farm Landscapes (Grass Cutting).

101689 £352.60 A Balcombe (Clerks Salary & Expenses).

September:

101690 £369.87 A Balcombe (Clerks Salary & Expenses).

101691 £3,221.30 Playquip Leisure (New Play Equipment)

101692 £1,720.24 Playquip Leisure (New Cradle Swing & Nest Swing).

**Income**

£1,250.00 Push Energy (Solar Farm Community Benefit).

£2,010.74 Zurich Insurance (Play Equipment).

**19/25. POPPY WREATH FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY.**

Agreed to order a poppy wreath to the value of £50 - £60 for Remembrance Day.

**19/26. POT HOLES AROUND ROAD DRAINS.**

Two collapsed manhole covers to be reported, one opposite Pudding Lane and the other opposite the hall.

**19/27. CORRESPONDENCE.**

**EALC** – AGM (11.45am) and ECC/EALC Joint Conference (2pm), Thursday 19 September at the Foakes Hall, Great Dunmow.

**NALC** – Annual Conference, 28/29 October at Milton Keynes.

**RCCE** – Neighbourhood Planning Coffee Morning, Friday 27 September, 10.30am at Woodham Ferrers Village Hall.

**ECC Highways** – Annual Plan 2019-20.

**19/28. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.**

- Cllr Sherlock reported a robbery that took place at Birch Primary School, the police arrived promptly but were unable to trace the culprits who returned later and took the abandoned equipment that hadn't been secured. A piece to be included in the press release reminding residents to be vigilant and report anything suspicious to the police.
- To signposts have gone missing, the three-way directional sign at Beckingham Hall signposting Copford/Birch and a 30mph sign outside the Hare and Hounds Public House.
- A recently scheduled CALC meeting has been cancelled, the next meeting is on Thursday 5th December 2019 at 7pm
- Information received: advert re outdoor table tennis, A.R.M. Parking Enforcement leaflet regarding the removal of abandoned vehicles and notice of the Local Plan Consultation.

**19/29. MEETING DATES 2019.**

1 October, 5 November, 3 December.

*The meeting closed at 20.38*

**SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):**

**DATE:**