



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

6 Shires Close, Great Notley, Braintree, Essex CM77 7FT

Tel: 01376 550927 E-mail: birchparishclerk@aol.com

www.birchpc.org.uk

Minutes of a meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on
Tuesday 7 July 2020, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs: *Bowtle, Boyce, Campian, Cottrell, Ninnim, Sherlock & Walsh*
In the Chair: Cllr *Bowtle*
Clerk: Angela *Balcombe*
Also present: *Two representatives from County Broadband, Borough Cllr Ellis,*
and three members of the public.

20/07. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

20/08. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies

20/09. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 3 March 2020 were approved as a correct record of events.

Proposed: Cllr Boyce. All agreed.

County Broadband – a presentation was given showing the proposed route of where the cabling would be going, showing locations of over-head poles or underground cabling as appropriate.

20/10. 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.

20/11. REPORTS.

County Council – apologies were received from Cllr Bentley.

Borough Council – Cllr Ellis gave a brief report of Borough Council matters including an update on the Local Plan which the Inspectorate has found unsound in its current form with regard to the proposed Garden Communities. With regard to the proposal to charge for collection of garden waste, it has been confirmed that the Council's Coalition, which runs the Council, has dropped its proposals to change the garden waste service.

Zone Warden – the clearance of hazardous waste at Blind Lane is in hand, the Borough Council are awaiting a quote to have it removed.

20/12. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

20/13. PROGRESS CHECK.

A brief update on any actions from the last meeting.

St Peters Church – a recent inspection from the Diocese insurers recommends that security fencing should be extended to cover the entire perimeter of the building, which they will be putting in place. There has been no further update on the planning application.

20/14. PLANNING.

Application Nos: 200826 & 200827. Change of use of former agricultural buildings to one residential unit.

Location: Shemmings Farmhouse, Hardys Green, Birch CO2 0NY. **Approved.**

20/15. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

April

101713 £243.75 EALC (Annual Subs.)

101714 £75.00 Birch Memorial Hall (Hire)

101715 £357.31 A Balcombe (Salary/Expenses)

(101716 & 101717 cancelled)

May

101718 £791.59 Zurich Municipal (Insurance Premium)

101719 £720.00 Hill Farm Landscapes (Grass Cutting)

101720 £352.61 A Balcombe (Salary/Expenses)

101721 £120.00 Netscan UK Ltd (Website/Domain Name)

June/July

101722 £710.55 A Balcombe (Salary/Expenses)

101723 £72.60 RCCE (Annual Subs.)

101724 £60.00 Clacton Business Services (Payroll)

101725 £1,440.00 Hill Farm Landscapes (Grass Cutting)

20/16. ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 2019/20.

As the gross income/expenditure for 2019/20 exceeds £25,000, the accounts must be audited by the external auditor.

The accounts for the year ending 31 March 2020 were approved by the Council.

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

The Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer signed:

(i) Annual Governance Statement.

(ii) Accounting Statements.

20/17. BIRCH MEMORIAL HALL.

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would pay for new curtains for the Memorial Hall. The Hall had received the £10,000 grant from Government which has gone towards redecorating the Hall. The Council wished to note its thanks to Cllr Ninnim and Mr Bowtle for all their hard work in getting the Hall ready to re-open during the Coronavirus pandemic.

20/18. CORRESPONDENCE.

Church Safety Inspection – reply from the Diocese of Chelmsford.

Residents email: fly-tipping, including asbestos, at the side of the road, Blind Lane, Birch. The Borough Council are aware of the issue and are dealing with it.

Proposed Solar Farm (West of Layer de la Haye) – a meeting has been arranged for 15 July, 10am at Wood House to visit the site and view the plans. Cllrs Bowtle and Boyce to attend.

ECC – various Temporary Road Closure notices for the installation of Broadband (circulated).

ECC - Chelmsford North East Bypass and Beaulieu Station virtual Microsoft Teams briefing on Friday 10th July at 10am. Information regarding the scheme, including a short film, can be found using the following link www.essex.gov.uk/chelmsford-north-east-bypass

20/19. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

Play Area – the Play Area can now be re-opened, a notice giving advice on how users of the Play Area can protect themselves, their children and others when using the equipment and help limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) to be displayed.

Dangerous Trees/Hedges – a letter to be sent to a resident in Mill Lane regarding trees that are in urgent need of attention. A letter regarding hedges overhanging the highway to be sent to a resident in School Hill.

Blind Lane – a clear up to be arranged.

Speeding, School Hill/Layer Breton – the Clerk to contact the traffic police to ask for occasional speed checks and also to report parked cars causing an obstruction of the highway by the Church. (Ref: CDS-95489-20-4200-000)

20/20. MEETING DATES 2020.

1 September, 6 October, 3 November (Budget Meeting), 1 December.

The meeting closed at 20.45

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: