

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 12th October 2021

Birling Church

Present: Councillors Mrs J Westwood (Chair)
Mr N Hewett
Mr S Hirst
Mr G Nevill
Mrs S Spooner
Mrs H Walker
Mr D Yates

Also in attendance: Clerk Ms J Miller; County Councillor Sarah Hohler.

88. Apologies for absence

There were none. External apologies were received from Cllr Kemp.

89. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

Cllr Hirst declared an interest in the planning application on Bull Road due to the culverts.

90. Reports

There had not been a police report for September.

Cllr Hohler explained that she had attempted to reduce the speed limit to 40mph on Stangate Road however the concern is that drivers then perceive this to be a safe limit, which makes the road more dangerous. Cllr Hohler suggested that green lanes with signage about horses and pedestrians would be more effective. Meetings are ongoing with Mark Simmons.

The lack of response from KCC to the parish council Highways Improvement Plan was discussed and Cllr Hohler suggested that the parish council write to Claire Venner. It was noted that David Brazier is now the cabinet member for Highways.

Cllr Hohler reported on the collapsing fence on Ryarsh Road (ref 41202611) and that KCC have advised that the owner needs to repair it.

Cllr Hohler reported that the bank had been dug back on 8th July and that KCC will clear this on a regular basis, as a gesture of good will to the parish. Cllr Hohler recalled that a gabion net had been installed at the site around 1992 and that if the land is unregistered the closest land owner should take responsibility.

Potholes were discussed and Cllr Hohler confirmed that KCC had resurfaced 1.1m square metres of road this year. The new surface is reportedly cheaper and quicker to install and vehicles give off 5% less emissions when using it.

91. Approval and signing of minutes of meeting of 14th September 2021.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the signing of the minutes of 14th September 2021

92. Open Forum – Public Participation Session

There were none.

93. Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Matters arising and last month's circulation

i. Ryarsh School

To receive update from Cllr Walker on meeting with Ryarsh PC and head teacher.

This is ongoing.

ii. Culverts

To note site visit with Emma Burdett KCC booked for 21st October at 11am.

iii. Box Tree

To note works completed. Thanks were noted to Cllr Hirst.

iv. Benches

To note contractor found and works to be planned for spring.

It was suggested that all the village benches could be renovated at the same time. A quote will be obtained. Thanks were noted to Cllr Walker for identifying the local contractor.

v. Village Hall access

To receive an update on availability of hall

Cllr Nevill reported that the village hall is open as it was before the pandemic. Users are required to provide a risk assessment when booking, otherwise there are no additional restrictions.

94. Matters for Information circulated to councillors

02/09/2021 Parish Partnership Panel – 2nd September
03/09/2021 KALC website
04/09/2021 Local Government Bulletin 2 September
04/09/2021 Weekly Trackers
04/09/2021 KCC Vision Zero Road Safety Launch
04/09/2021 Weekly Waste Update
04/09/2021 Local Government Bulletin 1 September
06/09/2021 Data Protection Event for councillors
06/09/2021 SBS Mens Shed Conference 9 October
06/09/2021 KALC News August 2021
06/09/2021 Local Government Bulletin 3 September
06/09/2021 Kent Police rural task force report
06/09/2021 T&M Neighbourhood Engagement Meeting 22 September
11/09/2021 KALC Flyer introduction to planning
11/09/2021 KALC Project Management Event Flyer 9th October
11/09/2021 Preparation for Remembrance
11/09/2021 Minutes Parish Partnership Panel
11/09/2021 Electoral Boundary Review First submission
11/09/2021 Electoral Boundary Review Second submission
11/09/2021 KALC Learning and Development
11/09/2021 Special edition Kent PCC newsletter
11/09/2021 Waste Collections – Weekly update briefing
11/09/2021 Volunteer flood warden training
16/09/2021 Local Government Bulletin September 14
16/09/2021 Local Government Bulletin September 15
16/09/2021 JPCTC Zoom
16/09/2021 KALC Finance Conference
16/09/2021 E Watch 1904
16/09/2021 NALC Chief Executives Bulletin
17/09/2021 TMBC Audit committee agenda
17/09/2021 KALC Event Project Management
17/09/2021 The rural bulletin
21/09/2021 E Watch 1906
21/09/2021 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin
21/09/2021 Local Government Bulletin September 17
21/09/2021 A big win for the countryside
21/09/2021 Waste collection weekly update
27/09/2021 Adult and Social Care consultation
27/09/2021 E Watch 1907
27/09/2021 Public Speaking for councillors
27/09/2021 Waste collection weekly update
28/09/2021 The rural bulletin
28/09/2021 Advance notice KALC area committee meeting
28/09/2021 Covid 19 Grants
28/09/2021 Agenda General Purposes Committee TMBC

28/09/2021 E Watch 1908
29/09/2021 Swanscombe event
29/09/2021 Road Safety Week
30/09/2021 Resignation of KALC Area Committee chairman
02/10/2021 Learning and development survey
02/10/2021 Covid infection control training
02/10/2021 Community Payback Service
02/10/2021 Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Committee TMBC
02/10/2021 Supplementary report planning committee TMBC
02/10/2021 E Watch 1909
02/10/2021 Agenda for Joint Standards Committee TMBC
02/10/2021 Kent PCC Survey
02/10/2021 Waste collection weekly update
02/10/2021 KALC AGM notice
02/10/2021 Reconnect Locality Grant
02/10/2021 PWCAC AGM
02/10/2021 Queens Green Canopy Project

The changes to the Parish Partnership Panel were noted.

For the request on Health and Wellbeing case studies the clerk will submit the ideas from councillors, including the campsite.

95. Meetings

(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council

13/09/2021 JPCTCG – none in attendance.

(b) Future meetings

21/10/2021 KALC area committee AGM - Cllr Westwood will feedback on the changes to chairmanship.

13/11/2021 KALC AGM – Cllr Westwood

96. Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Remembrance 2021

To note road closure application submitted and wreath ordered.

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Nevill to lay the wreath on behalf of the parish council. It was **RESOLVED** to order the yellow notice sign, a ROAD AHEAD CLOSED, and 2 x ROAD CLOSED SIGNS and possibly some cones. The clerk will arrange the road closure marshalling with Cllr Hewett.

(b) Highways Improvement Plan

To note two requests sent to KCC to progress the HIP plans.

It was **RESOLVED** to contact Claire Venner for a progress update.

(c) Bank Infringement

i. To note legal advice in progress

ii. To note FOI request made and deadline of 15th October for response

The FOI response had been received on 13th October however it was noted that it was just a list of jobs that had been raised following reports from residents.

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Westwood to review the minutes from around 1992 to examine whether the details of the gabion nets installation were recorded so that the parish council can make a further FOI request for details of the job and request all records pertaining to the installation of the gabion nets on the bank.

It was **RESOLVED** to ask UKPN who owns the land that the pole is on the bank. Councillors to supply the pole number.

(d) Local Plan

To note Local Plan update

It was noted that the government have stated that brownfield sites will be taking priority over green belt.

(e) Rural Broadband

To note Openreach to be approached for next stage of application – noted.

(f) Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022

To receive update from Cllr Nevill regarding village hall committee and organising joint celebrations. To note letter to from the Lord Lieutenant.

It was noted that the village fete committee may be interested in taking forward a jubilee celebration.

It was noted that walnut trees could be planted along Birling Road.

It was **RESOLVED** to respond to the request from the Lord Lieutenant with the parish council's ideas.

It was suggested that a street party could be held in the village hall carpark / churchyard on Sunday 5th June 2022. Cllr Nevill will investigate with the village hall committee if the hall can be booked. Cllr Walker will investigate permission from the church. A committee can be formed from the council to organise the event. The clerk will draft an event action plan to consider at the next meeting and assist with the organisation of the event.

(g) Woodland Management Plan

To consider comments to plan.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the woodland management plan.

(h) Police and Crime Survey

To complete the survey at the meeting

The survey was completed during the meeting.

(i) TMBC proposed Boundary Changes

To note update from Ryarsh PC on Birling PC proposals and agree actions.

It was **RESOLVED** to comment that Birling PC maintains that it would be better suited with other rural parishes that are within the AONB/Green Belt that have common interests in tackling rural issues. It was also discussed that should the parish be joined with Leybourne, Birling and Ryarsh would not have democratic voting power to elect a council member to represent their interests. Cllr Westwood will draw up a response and circulate to councillors.

(j) Budget 2022-23

To consider first draft budget and precept for 2022-23

The first draft was noted and further consideration will take place at the next meeting.

97. Parish Business for Noting

(a) To note the following added to the website:-

- Road closure
- Road safety week
- TMBC neighbourhood engagement meeting

(b) Parochial Church Council

i. To receive regular update

It was noted that the re-organisation continues.

(c) Whatsapp Group Matters

- i. To note any issues raised on the Birling Whatsapp Group
It was noted that the fuel crisis was the main subject matter on the Whatsapp group.

(d) TMBC Waste Collections

- i. To note weekly reports
It was noted that nothing had changed in some time.

98. Correspondence

- (a) Email from resident concerning lack of planning consultation from TMBC for 3 Bull Road – noted.

99. Finance & Accounts

(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation September 2021.

Net Bank Balances as at 30/09/2021 £25,943.73

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation for September 2021.
The Chairman and RFO duly signed the bank reconciliation and bank statements.

(b) To note budget position year to date September 2021 - noted.

(c) To approve PAYE record October 2021

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record for October 2021

(a) BACS to be approved and signed

The following BACS payments were **APPROVED**:

Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Amount Net	VAT	Description
J Miller	Staff Costs	£283.29	N/A	N/A	Oct Salary
HMRC	Staff Costs	£176.00	N/A	N/A	Oct PAYE
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£72.00	£60.00	£12.00	Domain update for website - Cloudfare
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£45.60	£38.00	£7.00	Sept Monthly Mailbox charge
KCC	Streetlights	£44.24	£42.13	£2.11	Sept Streetlighting energy
J Miller	Expenses	£60.75	N/A	N/A	Expenses payment Mar - Sept 2021
J Miller	Contingency	£62.40	£52.00	£10.40	Replacement defib pad reimbursement
Down to Earth Trees	Contingency	£297.00	£247.50	£49.50	Box Tree works

100. Roads

(a) To report any road issues.

It was noted that the vegetation had still not been cut back by the A228 roundabout.
The clerk will chase this with the highways steward.

(b) To receive update on M20 motorway noise problem.

It was noted that there had been no further updates.

(b) Road Closures – see website for details

- i. To note temporary road closures affecting Birling:
Birling Road,

101. Planning

(a) Applications to be considered

TM/21/02134/FL 3 Bull Road, Birling
Proposed crossover and drive widening.

It was **RESOLVED** to comment to TMBC should ensure that the culvert crossing does not restrict water flows or exacerbate flood risk. The parish council note that the wall that is intended for removal is historical and wish to know if the loss of the wall has any significance on the conservation area.

(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

i. TM/21/01305/LB Frindale Cottage 80 Ryarsh Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JR
Listed Building Application: Installation of secondary windows Approved on 13 September 2021

ii. TM/21/01357/FL Pear Tree House Sandhole Snodland Kent ME6 5LG Development over existing garage to provide additional bedrooms Application Withdrawn on 4 October 2021

102. Matters for future meetings

The usual substantive items shall remain, the campsite presentation shall be received in November, the jubilee party will be added.

103. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 9th November 2021 8pm

Meeting closed at 22:37pm

Signed..... Date.....