Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 12 November 2013 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Jacquie Westwood (Chair) Mr Colin Grimmett

Mr David Hopper Mrs Sylvia Spooner

County Cllr Matthew Balfour and Mrs Grimmett (Clerk)

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

County Cllr Sarah Hohler, Cllr Nudd, Cllr Walker, Cllr Nevill and PCSO Bullen. Cllr Westwood declared an interest in item **10** Planning Applications for Ley Farm Barn and Cllr Hopper declared an interest in item **10** Planning Application to remove tree from 10 Ryarsh Road. Neither councillor took part in the discussions.

2 Reports

Cllr Balfour said that KCC need to make budget cuts of £90M per year for the foreseeable future. Funding had been approved for new primary schools at Leybourne Chase, Kings Hill and Holborough Lakes all opening in September 2015. Dates for exhibitions to discuss the plans are: Leybourne Chase Community Centre 21 November, The Youth Hall, Kings Hill Community Centre 22 November and Holborough Lakes Village 27 November.

CPCSO Bullen's emailed report showed 2 crimes. The first was an incident in Legge Lane when walkers had been bitten by a dog and the other was an aggravated burglary on the Birling Estate. Two male offenders, one brandishing a knife, had barged past a home owner when he opened the front door but then ran off without stealing any property. This is still being investigated.

3 Approval and Signing of Minutes of Previous Month's Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 October 2013 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by the Chair.

4 <u>Matters arising and last month's circulation</u>

(a) Restoration of War Memorial

Cllr Nevill had not had an opportunity to discuss a further quote for repairs to the base of the war memorial but would endeavour to do so shortly.

Cllr Westwood had been contacted by a resident in the village about items previously discussed.

(b)1 Footpath Opposite Church

The resident had slipped several times at the top of the path. Cllr Westwood said she too had slipped there and that the path was being eroded, partly due to the bad weather but also to the increased usage of the path with walkers following the Community Trail. The Clerk was asked to contact the Footpaths team again and ask whether they had received any comments about the path, and, now that a complaint had been received, would they reconsider widening the upper part and extending the handrail. Alternatively, could BPC have the work done, although concerns were expressed about public liability?

(b)2 Foreign HGVs in Village

The resident said that the number of foreign vehicles coming into the village at night had increased recently whilst work was being carried out on the A228 and that he frequently had to help drivers negotiate the Bull Road/Ryarsh Road/Snodland Road junction. Clls Hopper and Spooner both live on the junction and confirmed that vehicles attempt to turn there both day and night. Cllr Hopper has had to assist drivers on many occasions. A request for a larger "Not suitable for HGVs" sign had been denied by Kent Highways as there had been no recorded accidents although Councillors knew that several vehicles had been damaged. Cllr Hopper mentioned that Five Oak Green have a large sign and would contact their Parish Clerk to find out how this had come about. He also mentioned the recent communication about KCC's Lorry Watch Scheme and offered to get more information about it.

(b)3 Increased Traffic Through the Village

The resident was concerned that increased traffic through the village, again due to road closures during the work on the A228, would continue when the work was completed. Clirs agreed that this was an ongoing problem but that nothing could be done to stop drivers choosing a particular route.

(c) Removal of Vegetation from Church Wall

Councillors were pleased to note that work had been started and would be completed soon.

(d) Beech Tree in Churchyard

The tree has now been felled.

(e) Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The Clerk had noticed that the sign had been removed on 11 October and reported it as stolen. After making further enquiries she discovered that it had been removed by Kent Highways as it was in danger of subsiding into the stream and it was also thought that it had not been sited in the correct position. A site visit had established that the sign had been correctly sited but that the post was too short. New contractors would replace the sign, date yet to be advised.

(f) Any other matters arising

Nothing was raised under this heading

5 Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Request for Donation to The Beat Project re All Our Stories

Cllrs Spooner and Grimmett and the Clerk, and Mrs Ivell, one of Birling's contributors, had attended a presentation on the All Our Stories project at East Malling Research and been very impressed with the book and the website. A copy of the All Our Stories book had been presented to every contributor and to each Parish Council. The Clerk is to keep the book which residents and visitors can view by contacting her. It was **AGREED** to purchase an additional 2 books to be displayed at the Flower Festival to promote further sales and the Clerk would order these for delivery before Xmas. Heritage Lottery funding of £10K had funded the project so far but further funding to continue the project was needed. It was **AGREED** to make a donation of £50.

(b) War Memorial Restoration

The Council, being aware that stonemasons will be extremely busy next year, **DECIDED** to go ahead with the cleaning of the memorial and restoration of the lettering. It was **AGREED** that A K Landers Limited be asked to carry out the work. The Clerk was asked to complete the forms for Sarah Hohler's Member's Grant towards the cost.

(c) Any other business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

6 Open Forum

Nothing was raised under this heading.

7 Correspondence (all placed in the bag)

TMBC – Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2013

KALC – Letter from Paul Carter re KCC's "Facing the Challenge" programme

Kent Police – Oil tank safety precautions

West Kent Wheels 2 Work – poster on noticeboard

In the Bag

Came & Co Parish Matters Autumn 2013

KALC Annual report 2012/13

Kent Police Rural Matters Autumn 2013

Clerks & Councils Direct November 2013 Issue 90

Commonwork Winter Workshop details

8 Financial Matters

(a) Monthly reconciliation sheets, statement & PAYE forms

Monthly reconciliation sheet, bank statement and PAYE forms were signed and monthly record handed out. After consulting with HMRC, PAYE input for the current year had been amended to correct errors made under the new RTI process.

(b) Cheques to be signed

The following cheques were signed:

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1317	Mrs Grimmett	November salary & expenses	£285.50
1318	All Saints' Church	S127 Donation Flower Festival	£250.00
1319	Kent Air Ambulance	S137 Donation	£50.00
1320	Age Concern	S137 Donation	£50.00
1321	T&M CAB	S137 Donation	£50.00
1322	Malling Area Community	Service S136 Donation	£50.00
1323	Victim Support	S137 Donation	£50.00
1324	All Saints' PCC	S136 Donation	£1712.00
1325	The Beat Project	S137 Donation	£50.00

(c) Notification of Precept 2014-2015

The Clerk had forgotten to bring this file for which she apologised. This point will be discussed at December's meeting.

(d) Any other financial business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

9 Roads

(a) JPCTCG

An interim meeting had been held on 8 November but neither Cllr Nudd nor Cllr Grimmett had been able to attend.

(b) Any other business

Several councillors commented that the recent repair to a large pothole on the A228 at the M20 junction roundabout was already breaking up and the Clerk was asked to report it. Nothing further was raised under this heading.

10 Planning

New Applications:

TM/13/03166/TNCATQ567966 160493 Applicant: Mr S Houldsworth

Location: 10 Ryarsh Road Birling, West Malling, ME19 5JW

Proposal: Remove fruit tree causing damage

BPC: No objections

TM/13/03181/FL TQ568640 161076 Applicant: Mr R Thorogood

Location: 5 Legge Lane, Birling, West Malling, ME19 5JH

Proposal: Single storey orangery style extension and internal alterations

BPC: No objections

TM/13/03358/TNCA TQ568073 160478

Applicant: Mr A Beadle

Location: 15 Bull Road, Birling, West Malling, ME19 5JE

Proposal: Fell Norway spruce which has outgrown it's situation and replace

BPC: No objections

TM/13/03396/FL TQ567762 160795 Applicant: Mr & Mrs Watkins

Location: Ley Farm Barn, Snodland Road Birling, West Malling, ME19 5JF Proposal: Split of existing single dwelling house into 2 self-contained homes

BPC: Still with the Planning Committee

TM/13/03397/FL TQ567762 160795 Applicant: Mr & Mrs Watkins

Location: Ley Farm Barn, Snodland Road, Birling West Malling, ME19 5JF Proposal: Split of existing single dwelling house into 2 self-contained homes

BPC: Still with the Planning Committee

Decisions:

TM/13/02562/FL TQ566842 162453 Applicant: Mr B Hitchcock

Location: Highfield House, 62 White Horse Road, Meopham DA13 0UF Proposal: Alterations to roof over garage to form annexe ancillary to house

BPC: No objections

TMBC: Refused 16 October

11 Any Other Business

Cllr Grimmett was thanked for attending the Remembrance Day service and laying the wreath on behalf of the council and there being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

12 Date of next meeting:

As previously agreed 10 December 2013 at 8.00pm