

## **Birling Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

#### **Birling Church at 8pm**

**Present:** Councillors Mrs J Westwood (Chair)  
Mr S Hirst  
Mr G Nevill  
Mrs H Walker  
Mrs Hayley Wright  
Mr D Yates

Also in attendance: Clerk Ms J Miller, Borough Cllr Montague (TMBC)

**169. Apologies for absence**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Hewett with reasons given. Borough Cllr Kemp and County Cllr Hohler also sent apologies.

**170. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest**

There were none.

**171. Co-option**

It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Hayley Wright to the parish council. Cllr Wright's notable contribution to the community was congratulated.

**172. Reports**

- (a) Police update circulated prior to the meeting – noted.
- (b) To note PCSO unable to attend meeting until June/July.  
It was noted that the PCSO and Inspector will be invited to village events.
- (c) To note crimes listed in E Watch: issues 1948 & 1500 – noted

Cllr Montague reported that the brown bin service is almost back to normal. Cllr Montague confirmed that Operation Assist is taking place. This is a joint police and borough council initiative to inspect waste carrier licences. The results from the February operation had not yet been published.

Cllr Montague advised that the borough council is looking into how private companies can be contracted to perform litter enforcement duties.

Cllr Montague advised that Urbaser crews have been diverted from litter picking to perform waste collections and the lack of litter picking was discussed as a problem in Birling. The return of the Saturday freighter service was also discussed, Cllr Montague stated that no other council in Kent offers this service therefore it is unlikely to recommence. BPC considered that this service was valued by the community and should be reinstated.

Cllr Montague was asked for his view on the proposed bus reductions by Kent County Council. Cllr Montague advised residents to contact the local MP and it was unlikely that TMBC would take a view on the matter.

Cllr Montague advised that the Local Plan next stages are due in September.

**173. Approval and signing of minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the signing of the minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

**174. Open Forum – Public Participation Session**

There were none.

**175. Matters arising and last month's circulation**

- i. **Ryarsh School**  
To receive any updates.  
There was no further update.
- ii. **Culverts**  
To receive update from Cllr Hirst on outstanding information from KCC.  
There were no further updates and it was agreed that the matter would be removed from the agenda until another flood occurs.
- iii. **Benches**  
It was noted that contractor will carry out refurbishment works to the three benches in the Easter Holidays.
- iv. **Defibrillator Training**  
To note training being organised.
- v. **Village Hall access**  
To receive any updates on availability of hall following removal of government restrictions – there were none.
- vi. **Boundary Review**  
To note Tonbridge and Malling final recommendations. It was noted that the parish council is disappointed with the final result.

**176. Matters for Information circulated to councillors**

04/01 Ewatch 1936  
05/01 South eastern reduced service  
07/01 Garden waste update  
07/01 Local government bulletin  
07/01 M20 Smart Motorway documents  
07/01 RSN Rural update  
10/01 Nominations for vice chairman  
10/01 KALC bitesize courses  
10/01 M20 Smart Motorway  
11/01 TMBC questionnaire  
11/01 Rural bulletin  
11/01 Carbon footprint calculator  
18/01 E Watch 1940  
18/01 The rural bulletin  
19/01 PPP Agenda  
21/01 NALC open letter  
21/01 KALC T&M meeting  
21/01 Easter activities for children  
21/01 E Watch 1941  
21/01 KALC members newsletter  
21/01 KALC events  
25/01 Garden waste update  
25/01 Rural bulletin  
25/01 NALC chief exec bulletin  
25/01 Adult social care consultation  
25/01 KALC Community Awards  
25/01 KALC event schedule  
25/01 KALC Chairman networking event  
25/01 Local Government Bulletin  
28/01 TMBC call for sites  
28/01 KALC events  
28/01 E Watch 1943  
28/01 NALC Ofcom postal regulations consultation

**177. Meetings**

**(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council**

24/02/2022 KALC T&M Area Committee

The usual subjects were discussed at the meeting. It was noted that the police Inspector will be holding surgeries locally and the parish council will be advertising these.

01/03/2022 Snodland Asphalt meeting

It was noted that Tarmac is working to reduce carbon emissions on the site and mitigate the noise from the cement crusher.

**(b) Future Meetings**

31/03/2022 JPCTCG Meeting – Cllr Yates will attend.

**178. Parish Business for Decisions**

**(a) Highways Improvement Plan**

- i. To receive update on plan.  
An update of progress was noted.
- ii. To note HGV restriction order seal date – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- iii. To note 40mph consultation start date – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

**(b) Strategic Plan Quarterly Review**

- i. To review progress of plan  
It was noted to add to the updates that fly-tipping had been raised with the Cabinet Member for waste services and that residents had been written to reminding them to be consideration with parking on the road and requesting that bins are not left blocking the footpaths.  
Cllr Westwood agreed to speak to the owner of the telephone box regarding the book exchange idea.

**(c) Bank Infringement**

- i. To receive legal advice.  
It was noted that the advice had not been presented by the solicitor yet.

**(d) Local Plan**

- i. To note Local Plan update.  
There was no further update.

**(e) Rural Broadband**

- i. To note escalated issues with Openreach.

**(f) Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022**

- i. To note update on event plan and actions required.  
It was noted that the band had been booked and the DJ equipment will be borrowed from a local DJ.  
First Aid provision will be investigated with the insurance company.  
It was **RESOLVED** to investigate the freedom of the parish  
A plan will be drawn out to assess for a bouncy castle and power.
- ii. To receive update on site visit from Burslem regarding jubilee memorial.  
It was noted that the site visit will take place in the coming week.
- iii. To receive update from Cllr Nevill on tree planting.  
Cllr Nevill advised that the trees need to be planted in the autumn.
- iv. To receive updates on DJ from Cllr Hewett.  
It was noted that the DJ had offered equipment to be used and Cllr Hewett will be asked to arrange.
- v. To consider children's entertainment.  
It was agreed to contact Bellyflops in Snodland to book a bouncy castle.

- (g) **Annual Parish Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022**  
i. To agree format for meeting  
it was **RESOLVED** to present the Queen's jubilee updates to the annual meeting and hold an open forum. Highways and buses could also be included. The clerk will draft an agenda.
- (h) **Carbon Footprint**  
i. To consider use of gas, electric, oil and water in the parish  
This item was deferred.
- (i) **Great British Spring Clean**  
i. To note advertising for event on 26<sup>th</sup> March – noted.  
ii. To note update on dog fouling awareness.  
Glitter spray will be ordered to highlight the dog fouling issues. Litterpicking equipment will be ordered from TMBC. The clerk will submit the risk assessment to TMBC.
- (j) **Off Street Parking charges Proposal TMBC**  
i. To consider response  
It was **RESOLVED** to respond that the parish council is concerned about the impact on local business and driving people to shop out of town or online.
179. **Parish Business for Noting**  
(a) **Website update**  
i. To note the following added to the website:-
  - Waste collection updates
  - Jubilee Picnic
- (b) **Parochial Church Council**  
i. To receive regular update  
There were no further updates.
- (c) **Whatsapp Group Matters**  
i. To note any issues raised on the Birling Whatsapp Group  
It was noted that there was a great deal of support in providing medication and other items for Ukraine.
- (d) **TMBC Waste Collections**  
i. To note weekly reports – noted.  
ii. To note flytipping article in TMBC newsletter – noted.
180. **Correspondence – all noted.**  
(a) Email from new resident  
(b) Email from resident requesting draft minutes of extra-ordinary meeting  
(c) Email from planning applicant with updated plans for The Willows  
(d) Email from planning applicant for update on council comments
181. **Finance & Accounts**  
(a) To note streetlight billing issue at Laser – noted.  
**To approve Bank Reconciliation February 2022.**  
Net Bank Balances as at 28/02/2022 £21,567.59  
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation for February 2022  
(b) **To note budget position year to date February 2022.**

It was **RESOLVED** to note the budget position for January 2022.

**(c) To approve PAYE record March 2022.**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record for March 2022.

**(d) BACS to be approved and signed**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Amount Net	VAT	Description
Various	Staff Costs	£459.20	N/A	N/A	Staff Costs Mar
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£45.60	£38.00	£7.60	Mar monthly mailbox cost
J Miller	Clerk Expenses	£76.95	N/A	N/A	Mileage Oct 21 – Mar 2022

**(e) To note revision to Section 137 expenditure limit**

**(f) To note NALC had published the national salary settlement for 2021/22 for action.**

## **182. Roads**

**(a) To report any road issues.**

i. To note following reports

624368 Pot holes on Birling Road

624369 Litter on Birling Road verges

624370 Re-lining of Bull Road junction

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

It was noted that National Highways were not prepared to address the noise issues in the parish as there were areas of higher priority closer to the motorway.

**(c) Road Closures – see website for details**

i. To note temporary road closures affecting Birling Snodland Road, Birling.

**(d) To discuss: Government consultation on the Glover Landscapes Review – an opportunity to stop ‘off-roading’ in the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)**

Green lanes were discussed and it was noted that Holly Hill has issues.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the consultation as four wheel drive vehicles are using restricted by-ways locally and the proposed restriction is welcomed to protect pedestrians, cyclists and equestrian users.

## **183. Planning**

**(a) Applications to be considered**

There are none.

**(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council**

There were none.

## **184. Matters for future meetings**

The usual substantive items will be on the agenda. Cllr Nevill advised the campsite will be submitted to the planning authority in April.

## **185. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 7.30pm**

**Meeting closed at 22:21pm**

Signed.....

Date.....