

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 13th December 2022 Birling Church at 8pm

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

Also in attendance: Clerk Ms J Miller

114. Apologies for Absence

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies for absence from Cllr Wright and Walker with reasons. County Councillor Hohler, Borough Councillors Kemp and Montague had sent apologies.

115. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest
There were none.

116. Approval and signing of minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the minutes of 8th November 2022.

117. Reports

(a) County Councillor Sarah Hohler

Cllr Hohler submitted a report prior to the meeting.

(b) Borough Councillors Piers Montague & Ann Kemp

No report received.

(c) Police update circulated prior to the meeting – flytipping incident.

118. Open Forum – Public Participation Session

There were none.

119. Matters arising and last month's circulation

i. Ryarsh School

To receive any updates – there were none.

ii. Street lighting

To note lamp outside the Willows damage reported – this is a mains fault due to the damage caused by lorries entering the development site. The repair is £171.25 + VAT and this will be sought from the developer's insurance.

iii. Remembrance Sunday

To note thanks to volunteer road marshals – noted.

iv. Defibrillator Training

To note training organisation being sought – noted.

v. Village Hall access

To receive any updates on availability of hall – none of note.

vi. Christmas Community Event

To note update on Christmas event – it was noted that this was a very successful event.

120. Matters for Information circulated to councillors

07/11 JPCTCG agenda items
 07/11 Environment and waste update from TMBC
 07/11 E Watch 2023
 07/11 An introduction to planning
 07/11 One.network for parishes
 07/11 National CSSC message
 07/11 NALC chief executive bulletin
 07/11 Kent minerals and waste local plan consultation
 07/11 DLUHC Committee funding
 09/11 KALC AGM papers
 18/11 Advanced topics in planning
 18/11 Civility and respect newsletter
 18/11 E Watch 2027
 18/11 KALC AGM papers update
 18/11 KALC T&M Committee
 18/11 JPCTCG meeting
 18/11 KFRS Update
 18/11 E Watch 2026
 21/11 NALC response to Autumn Statement
 23/11 E Watch 2023
 28/11 Kent Rail summit
 28/11 NALC chief executive bulletin
 28/11 Energy cap update
 28/11 TMBC winter warmer grants
 28/11 KALC T&M Area Meeting
 28/11 E Watch 2025
 28/11 E Watch 2029
 28/11 Local Election Materials
 28/11 KALC News
 28/11 Kent Dementia Action Alliance events
 28/11 Flood warden training events
 28/11 Boundary Commission for England consultation
 02/12 E Watch 2030
 02/12 Kents Plan Bee Summit
 04/12 NALC Chief Executive bulletin
 04/12 E Watch 2031
 04/12 KALC news November

121. Meetings

(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council

- i. KALC Annual General Meeting 19/11/2022 (in person)
 The county council budget deficit was noted and a parish support scheme will be launched to assist parishes that are struggling financially. Adult Social Care and Children's services will take priority as the statutory services. Parishes were recommended to seek qualified Highways advice when developments are being built as this will be considered in addition to any County Council planning application responses.
- ii. JPCTCG – 23/11/2022
 It was noted that the group has folded, and all transport issues will be dealt with by the KALC area meetings in the future. It was noted that the 58 and 70 buses are being removed in February 2023. KCC are receiving an increased grant for community buses and there is some government funding available. Parishes are looking to run their own bus service. This will be

further explored urgently, due to timescales for funding, at the forthcoming KALC meeting this week. Other items discussed were Kings Hill phase 3/Broadwater Farm. J5 slips, 20 is plenty.

(b) Future meeting

- i. KALC T&M Committee 15/12/2022 (Zoom)
Cllr Westwood will explore the bus route options with the other parishes to replace the bus to the hospital.

122. Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Strategy Update

- i. To review strategic plan progress.
It was **RESOLVED** to refresh the plan in May 2023 for the next four years.

(b) Highways Improvement Plan

- i. To receive any updates from Cllr Hirst.
It was noted that Claire Venner has moved on and Cllr Hirst will seek advice from the new officer.

(c) Bank Infringement

- i. To note new director of Kent Highways invited to review the bank infringement – no response and chase up sent.
The pathway had been cleared and it was noted that the salt bins will be replenished this week.

(d) Local Plan

- i. To note update
It was noted that the responses have not yet been collated by TMBC. It is expected that the considerations will take place at the committee in March 2023.

(e) Community Transport Grant

- i. To consider application
As discussed earlier in the meeting, Cllr Westwood will explore other options at the next KALC meeting.

(f) Kent Fire and Rescue Service

- i. To consider hosting fire safety talk
It was **RESOLVED** to arrange a fire safety talk for the annual parish assembly meeting. The date of the Annual General Meeting will be slightly later due to the pending elections, Tuesday 16th May 2023. The annual parish assembly can be held in April if more convenient.

(g) Boundary Commission Consultation

- i. To consider response.
It was noted that Birling parish is included in the Tonbridge constituency in the current review.

(h) Jubilee

- i. To receive update on visit to Gallaghers to choose stone
Cllr Nevill will provide some dates.
The breakdown of the cost of the jubilee was discussed.
- ii. To receive update from Cllr Nevill on treeplanting.

It was noted that an application for planting is being worked on.

(i) Local Charities

- i. To receive list of all local charities and objectives – noted.
Cllr Nevill will investigate the Holme charity.
- ii. To receive update from Cllr Yates on hardship fund
It was agreed that the need for a hardship fund exists at Ryarsh School and this will be investigated with the other parishes. Cllr Yates will draft a proposal and how this could possibly be administered and present to the next meeting.

(j) Waste and Litter

- i. To note any updates.
There were no further updates.
- ii. To note missed bins reported
It was noted that missed bin collections on the estate had been reported.

123. Parish Business for Noting

(a) Website update

To note the following added to online platforms:

- Road closures
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service update
- TMBC winter warmer grants
- Foodbank information

(b) Parochial Church Council

There were no further updates.

(c) Whatsapp Group Matters

There were no further updates.

124. Correspondence – all noted.

There was none.

125. Finance & Accounts

(a) To consider budget and precept for 2023-24

The subscription for the JPCTCG to be removed and the draft budget to be added to the website.

(b) To consider donation to Maidstone Mediation

It was decided not to donate at this time.

(c) To approve Bank Reconciliation November 2022

- i. Net Bank Balances as at 30/11/2022 £18,670.27 – noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation November 2022.

(d) To note budget position year to date November 2022 – noted.

(e) To approve PAYE record December 2022.

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

(f) BACS to be approved and signed:

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

Payee	Budget	Amount	Details
Various	Staff Costs	£ 740.96	Staff costs Dec + backdated cost of living rise
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£ 57.53	Monthly mailbox charges
J Miller	Expenses	£ 29.40	Printer ink reimbursement

126. Roads

(a) To report any road issues

- i. To note winter salt bag delivered – noted.

(b) Road Closures – see website for details

- i. To note temporary road closures affecting Birling:
A228 Castle Way; A228 Ashton Way; Stangate Road; Birling Road

(c) Bus Services – to receive any updates

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

127. Planning

(a) Applications to be considered

There are none.

(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

- i. TM/22/00544/FL Rowan House 10 Ryarsh Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JW Single storey rear extension, new front entrance canopy, extension of driveway and external alterations Approved on 31 October 2022
- ii. TM/22/02088/TNCA 7 Bull Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JE T1. Lilac, to be dismantled and removed to ground level due to close proximity to house, severe over shading inc the neighbour's house/garden and having little amenity value. One of the large limbs currently rests upon the shed roof, the applicant has drainage problems due to debris No Objection on 4 November 2022

128. Matters for future meetings

The usual substantive items will be on the agenda and the budget and precept for 2023/24 will be confirmed following the publication on the draft budget for consultation. Bus services will be reviewed.

Date of next meeting: 10th January 2023, there will be an extra-ordinary meeting on 20th December 2022.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press may be asked to leave the meeting during consideration of item 129

129. Clerk Appraisal – to receive update.

It was **RESOLVED** to investigate staff reward.

Meeting closed at 21:38pm

Signed.....

Date.....