

## Birling Parish Council

### Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 13 December 2016 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

**Present:** Councillors      Mrs Westwood (Chair)                      Mr Grimmett (Vice Chair)  
   Mr Hewett    Mr Nevill  
   Mrs Spooner

Mrs Grimmett (Clerk) and County Cllrs Sarah Hohler & Matthew Balfour

#### **1      Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Helen Walker. Cllr Westwood advised that Cllr Harrington had tendered her resignation with immediate effect just prior to the meeting.

#### **2      Reports**

**Borough:** Cllr Balfour advised that the Receivers of the Aylesford Newsprint site have put in a planning application for a mixture of homes and commercial properties. As the application was received after the Local Plan Call for Sites the proposed development does not form part of the Local Plan. Cllr Westwood advised Cllr Balfour that various Parishes had concerns that Parishes are no longer invited to planning committee site visits and that the matter will be raised at the next Parish Partnership Panel meeting.

**County:** Cllr Hohler's ½ yearly report had already been circulated. Cllr Hohler advised that South East Water would be installing a new water main between the junction of Roughetts Road/Woodgate Road and the new development opposite Rosehaven. Work will commence 23 January and is expected to take 6 weeks. The planning application for the new hall at Ryarsh School is going to Committee 18 January. If permission is granted work could be completed in time for start of the September term.

**County:** Cllr Balfour said there had been recent press coverage saying that, in order to fund the deficit in the cost of social care, Councils could raise the Precept. He felt that this was inappropriate and that, as far as he is aware, KCC's view is that it should be funded by central government by changes in the way that NHS is funded.

**Crime:** Nothing on EWatch

Clls Hohler and Balfour left at 8.13pm

#### **3      Open Forum**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

#### **4      Approval and Signing of Minutes of Previous Month's Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 November 2016 be **APPROVED** and they were **SIGNED** by the Chair.

#### **5      Matters arising and last month's circulation**

##### **(a)      Actions from November's meeting:**

**Kent's Police & Crime Commissioner - Policing in Kent 2017-21 Autumn Survey** - Cllr Nevill apologised that he hadn't had time to complete the survey

**Snodland Road Sign** – TMBC had agreed to erect a sign and the owners of The Old Post Office had given permission for it to be placed on their wall.

**Action:** Clerk to check it will be in keeping with the sign for Ryarsh Road

**Faster Broadband – Underground Cables on Birling Estate.** Cllr Nevill said that all the above ground power lines have now been removed, funded by AONB at a cost of £550K for 1.3km. Discussions have started with UK Power Network about the possibility of extending the project as far as Snodland. This would be a long

term project which might be carried out in 2018.

**Action:** Cllr Hewett volunteered to research how/who to complain to about slow internet speeds.

(at January's meeting Cllr Hewett asked that this action be amended to replace complain with improve.)

**Replacement of Street Lights with LED** – Contact will be made once KCC's contract for the whole of Kent has been completed. The survey conducted by TMBC reports that the column outside The Close has some minor internal rusting and the one outside Birling Park has a very minor lean, internal rusting and EPC (External Paint Condition) fading. The recommendation is that they be retested in 3/5 years time but they may have been replaced before retesting is necessary.

**Vacancy for Clerk**– A Vacancy Notice with a closing date of 5 January had been placed in BART magazine, on the noticeboard and on KALC website and 1 application had been received.

**(b) Any other matters arising**

The Clerk advised that she was still waiting for KCC's invoice for the Landscape PCSO. Nothing further was raised under this heading.

**6 Parish Business and Decisions**

**(a) Response to TMBC Local Plan: The Way Forward**

Cllrs Hewett's response had been agreed by Councillors online since November's meeting and submitted.

**(b) Budget**

The budget was **AGREED** with the inclusion of £250 for the landscape PCSO.

**(c) TMBC – Funding Arrangements with Parish Councils (FAPC) 2017-18**

A long discussion took place about the withdrawal of the FAPC (£4215 in 2016-17) and Council Tax Support Grant (£399 in 2016-17) and in particular to ongoing dialogue between TMBC and Diocese of Rochester about the withdrawal of payments to Parish churches for the upkeep of open churchyards.

**(d) Precept for 2017 – 2018**

After a long discussion it was **AGREED** to set the precept at £9262.00.

**Action:** Cllr Westwood to draft a letter to All Saints' Parish Church explaining why the Parish Council will not be making payments for the upkeep of the open churchyard in 2016/17.

**(e) Adoption of Standing Orders & Financial Regulations**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and they were signed by the Chair.

**(f) Asset Register**

It was **DECIDED** that only assets with a value of £1000.00 or more be shown on the annual accounts.

**(g) Addition of Cllr Hewett to Bank Signatories**

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Hewett be added to and Cllr Harrington removed from the list of signatories and the necessary paperwork was completed.

**Action:** Clerk to send papers to NatWest.

**(h) Kent Highways Verge Cutting**

Details had been received and, as grass cutting costs £45.07pa, it was **AGREED** not to take on this task.

**(i) Job Description for Parish Clerk**

The job description was **AGREED**.

**(j) Dates for 2017 meetings**

These were agreed as:

10 January 2017	11 July 2017
14 February 2017	12 September 2017
14 March 2017	10 October 2017
11 April 2017	14 November 2017
9 May 2017	12 December 2017
13 June 2017	

**(k) Any other Parish business**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

**7 Correspondence / Communications**

**Anonymous letter** - Cllr Westwood read out the letter in which the sender complained that a house in Bull Road has stones outside their property which are on the road not on the verge and that this is dangerous. The sender also commented that parked cars are obstructing Bull Road.

**Action:** Cllr Grimmett to speak to the resident about the stones.

**Village Hall** - Concerns had been expressed to Cllr Grimmett about difficulties in hiring the hall and access to the disabled toilets. Cllr Nevill reported that at a recent meeting of the Village Hall Charitable Trust Committee it had been decided that, due to the expansion of the Montessori Nursery being held in the hall, changes were needed. With the amount of equipment used on a daily basis and lack of storage making it difficult to clear the hall during the week, it had been agreed that there would be different levels of clearance of the hall with full clearance only taking place for weekend events. Councillors expressed their concerns that this would mean that the hall would no longer be a village hall for use by residents and Cllr Westwood suggested that the Charitable Trust check what effect these changes would have on their charitable status.

**S137 Payments** - Thank you letters for donations had been received from Age Concern & Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance.

**TMBC – 2017 Holiday Activity Schemes for Young People** - a letter had been received requesting support for this scheme. A decision was deferred until March 2017.

**8 Financial Matters**

**(a)** The monthly reconciliation sheet, bank statements & PAYE records were signed. NatWest balances as at 30 November 2016: **Current** £19956.83 **Reserve** £100.46 **Secure Trust Bank** £17239.22

**(b) Cheques to be signed**

The following cheques were signed:

			<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>
1517	Mrs Grimmett	Dec salary + reimbursements			£344.81
1518	HMRC	PAYE			£189.40
1519	Birling Village Hall CT	Hire of Hall			£42.00

**(c) Any other financial business**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

**9 Roads**

**(a) JPCTCG**

Next meeting 23 January 2017

**(b) Any other roads business**

Cllr Grimmett commented that the works to remedy the water leak in Bull Road is causing confusion amongst drivers.

Cllr Hohler had arranged for the traffic survey to be carried out in 2017.

**Action:** Clerk to ask which roads will be surveyed.

Nothing further was raised under this heading.

**10** **Planning**

**New:**

**TM/16/03129/TNCA Mrs West 13 Bull Road, Birling ME19 5JE**

Fell old laburnum tree as it has dead branches and trunk is in decline

**BPC:** No objections

**TMBC:** No objections 22/11/2016

**Decisions:**

**TM/16/02658/FL Timberley, 19 Masters Lane ME19 5JP**

Demolition of existing detached house and replacement with 2 detached dwellings with garaging & parking & widening & improvement of the vehicular access

**BPC:** Comments made

**TMBC:** **Approved 10/11/2016**

**11** **Any Other Business**

Cllr Grimmett said that it was a shame that BPC had not been invited to the Riding for the Disabled Nativity service held on 9 December.

Cllr Westwood advised that the Heart of Kent Hospice is having financial problems with a decision being made soon about possible cutbacks.

Resignation of Cllr Harrington - **Action:** Clerk to advise TMBC.

Nothing further was raised under this heading

**12** **Date of next meeting**

As previously agreed the next meeting will be held at **8pm on Tuesday 10 January 2017**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.25pm.