

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 12th December 2023

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

Also in attendance: Clerk Ms J Miller; Borough Councillor Paul Boxall

120. Apologies for absence

There were none. Apologies were received from Mrs Hohler.

121. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

122. Approval and signing of minutes of meeting of 14th November 2023

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the minutes of the meeting of 14th November 2023.

123. Reports

(a) County Council – Sarah Hohler

Mrs Hohler had sent apologies, and a written report was received.

Road repairs funds were noted and IT equipment recycling opportunities.

(b) Borough Councillors – Paul Boxall and Bill Banks

There were no reports.

(c) Kent Police no report was received.

It was noted that the manager of the Kent Rural Task Force is covering the Landscape PCSO role.

124. Open Forum – Public Participation Session

There were none.

125. Matters arising and last month's circulation.

i. **Ryarsh School**

To receive any updates.

It was noted that an outline planning application for six new houses next to the school is a worry and the council agreed to express concern about the level of traffic that will be generated in the narrow lane and the effect on the junction with the main road. It appears that the impact of these houses is detrimental to the school on due to the overlooking issues, safeguarding and road safety matters.

ii. **Village Hall access**

To receive any updates on availability of hall – there were none.

iii. **Post Office**

To note response from Tom Tungendhat – noted.

It was noted that letter deliveries continue to vary – either once or twice weekly.

Coverage is now on television and in the national newspapers.

126. Matters for Information circulated to councillors.

10/11 E Watch 2129

10/11 KALC AGM Documents

14/11 E Watch 2130
 14/11 Environment and Circular Economy Newsletter
 14/11 M2 Stockbury
 15/11 Tree words for List B
 15/11 Expanding video opportunities across Tonbridge and Malling
 15/11 Parish Partnership Panel
 17/11 Chief Executive Bulletin
 17/11 KALC Training
 17/11 KALC Bulletin
 17/11 E Watch 2131
 17/11 News from TMBC chief announces retirement
 17/11 Update on pay scales and parish seminars
 17/11 KALC Chief Executive's Bulletin
 17/11 West Kent Rural Grants Scheme
 17/11 E Watch 2128
 20/11 Revised date for Tarmac liaison meeting
 21/11 KCC Highways Parish Seminars
 21/11 E Watch 2132
 21/11 The Rural Bulletin
 21/11 KCC Highways Seminars
 21/11 NALC Events
 21/11 **On and Off street parking restrictions**
 23/11 Chief Executive's Bulletin
 24/11 NALC Newsletter
 24/11 E Watch 2133
 24/11 NALC Events
 24/11 Keep safe – stay alert
 28/11 E Watch 2134
 28/11 The Rural Bulletin
 28/11 NALC Events
 01/12 Christmas refuse and recycling collections
 01/12 Tonbridge and Malling Violence Against Women and Girls consultant
 01/12 Training bulletin
 01/12 KALC AGM 2023
 04/12 E Watch 2135
 04/12 Strike action
 04/12 Family Hub and Commissioned Youth Decision

127. Meetings

(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council

- i. KALC AGM 18/11/2023 – apologies were sent.
- ii. Snodland Asphalt Meeting 21/11/2023 – Cllr Hewett reported as follows:
 - a) There has been a restructuring of management within the organisation.
 - b) There has been a slow-down in work coming through in recent months, meaning that things are generally much quieter on site. The market is slowing down (large scale housing sites being put on hold, for example), but they are involved in the road works contracts at Stockbury. Othe big jobs are not materialising.
 - c) This has meant that they are not using up all their night-time work slots allocation (only one or two this year).
 - d) They will try to give advance notice of any extra working times that might be required.

- e) There have been issues with trespass onto the site – people breaking into the site and climbing onto plant – August was a problem. Security has been increased and fencing has been fixed. There is no-one on site overnight, so the sooner they know about any problems the better. There are CCTV cameras which are monitored and any intruders are challenged via loudspeakers; security guards are alerted and will visit the site if the incident does not go away.
- f) Issue with odour about a month ago; now resolved, but caused by heated but unused stone being put back onto a stockpile. They are now using low odour bitumen.
- g) There was a complaint about horns during the night; improved signs concerning operating times have been installed.
- h) Still issues with Tesco lorries coming on site; local manager to try to talk to Tesco managers.
- i) Christmas break is from 21 December and back on 2 January; no planned works during this time.
- j) Next liaison meeting in March or April.

(a) Future meetings

- i. KALC T&M Area Committee 14/12/2023
- ii. Parish Partnership Panel 08/02/2024
- iii. Parish Partnership Panel 30/05/2024

It was noted that the future KALC meeting dates have now been issued and Cllr Westwood and Hewett will arrange attendance.

128. Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Highways

- i. To receive update from Cllr Hirst on Highways Improvement Plan.
It was reported that a 20mph zone had been turned down by Kent County Council, but the parish council will continue to investigate the scheme using other methods.
- ii. To receive update on bank infringement.
It was noted that a response had not yet been received.

(b) Local Plan

- i. To note update – there was no further update.

(c) Community Transport Grant / Bus Services

- i. To receive update on KALC T&M parish council initiatives – no further update.

(d) Jubilee and Coronation

- i. To receive update on visit to Gallaghers to choose stone – there was no further update.
- ii. To receive update from Cllr Nevill on tree planting – there was no further update.

(e) Village Maintenance, Waste and Litter

- i. To any updates from Costa and MacDonalds.
It was noted that this is being investigated locally due to a lack of response from the main offices.

- (f) **Climate Action**
 - i. To review and update the Climate Action Plan – there was no further update.
- (g) **Strategic Plan Update**
 - i. To review updated strategic plan – there was no further update.
- (h) **Annual Budget and Precept 2024/25**
 - i. To consider final draft of budget and precept – the tax base letter had come in since the issuing of the agenda therefore the final budget and precept will be agreed at the next meeting.
- (j) **Beam** – to agree a donation – it was agreed to review this at the next meeting.

129. Parish Business for Noting

(a) Website/Social Media platforms updates

To note the following added to online platforms:

- Road closures
- Precept draft
- Postal service letter
- Christmas waste collections – it was agreed to place this in the noticeboard.

(b) Parochial Church Council

- i. To receive regular update.

It was noted that the clean up had been carried out and the Church festive decoration activities and carol service are to be held this coming weekend.

(c) Resident Matters

- i. To note any recent local issues raised.

Speeding and flooding issues were reported. The local repair cafes will be promoted on the parish council online platforms.

130. Correspondence

There were none.

131. Finance & Accounts

(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation November 2023

Net Bank Balances as at 3/11/2023 £19173.51

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliation for November 2023.

(b) To note budget position year to date November 2023

The budget position as at November 2023 was noted.

(c) To approve PAYE record December 2023.

The PAYE record was approved.

(d) BACS and DD to be approved and signed for December 2023

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

Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Amount Net	VAT	Description
Various	Staff Costs	£527.84			Staff Costs
LASER	Streetlighting	£29.03	£27.58	£1.45	Streetlight energy costs
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£62.73	£ 52.27	£ 10.46	Monthly Mailbox Costs
HugoFox	IT Costs	£11.99	£9.99	£2.00	Monthly website costs

JA Miller	Clerk Expenses	£85.13	66.99	£14.19	Printer Ink
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132. Road

(a) To report any road issues.

The pot holes in Stangate Road was noted and this will be telephoned through as an emergency.

(b) Road Closures – see website for details.

i.To note temporary road closures affecting Birling

133. Planning

(a) Applications to be considered

i. 23/02046/FL 15 Bull Road, Birling ME19 5JE

Demolition of existing single storey conservatory and replacement with single storey rear extension. Conversion of garage to habitable rooms

It was **RESOLVED** that the council ask that the finish on the front elevation is rag stone to match the rest of the property in keeping with the conservation area.

(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

There were none.

134. Matters for future meetings.

The usual substantive items will be on the agenda.

135. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 9 January 2024

Meeting closed at 21:10pm

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