

## **Birling Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

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

Also in attendance: Clerk Ms J Miller

**182. Apologies for Absence**

There were none. Borough Councillor Kemp had sent apologies.

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

There were none.

**184. Approval and signing of minutes.**

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**185. Reports**

**(a) County Councillor Sarah Hohler**

It was reported that a new app called Kent Connected that includes maps of Kent with footpaths.

Mrs Hohler was asked about the tree grant and more information will be sent.

**(b) Borough Councillors Piers Montague & Ann Kemp**

No report received.

**(c) Kent Police update circulated prior to the meeting.**

- i. Report for March received – vehicle theft.

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

There were none.

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

**i. Ryarsh School**

To receive any updates

It was noted that the fete is planned for 17<sup>th</sup> June.

**ii. Village Hall access**

To receive any updates on availability of hall

It was reported that Cllr Nevill is now the chair of the Village Hall Committee and there are new members.

Cllr Nevill was asked to provide details of when the hall is available to residents to hire.

It was noted that the car park will be locked at night, and it will be kept locked.

**iii. Feedback from Annual Parish Meeting**

There was none.

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

06/03 Wellbeing Walks

06/03 Kent and Medway Active – Everyday Active Small Grant

06/03 Latest edition of the Tonbridge and Malling Community Partnership Safety

06/03 Nominations and Candidate briefing TMBC

06/03 E Watch 2057

06/03 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin  
 06/03 NALC Newsletter  
 06/03 Gatwick Stakeholder Engagement  
 08/03 Update on KCC Grants  
 08/03 KALC Climate Change  
 12/03 E Watch 2059  
 12/03 Kent Dementia Showcase Event  
 12/03 KALC News March 2023  
 12/03 Campaign to save Betteshanger Park Wildlife  
**12/03 OEP Protected Sites Call for Evidence – Cllr Nevill will investigate this.**  
 14/03 KALC T&M Area Meeting  
 14/03 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin  
 20/03 E Watch 2060  
 22/03 Urgent Gas Network Update  
 22/03 E Watch 2061  
 22/03 NALC Newsletter  
 22/03 E Watch 2062  
 22/03 58 and 70 Buses  
 01/04 NALC Newsletter  
 01/04 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin  
 01/04 KALC Planning Conference  
 01/04 KALC T&M Agenda  
 01/04 Community Payback Scheme – it was **AGREED** to follow up the use of Community Payback for the church yard or the footpath scheme.  
 01/04 E Watch 2063  
 01/04 Rural Projects Officer – Job opportunity  
 01/04 E Watch 2064  
 01/04 Rural Bulletin  
 01/04 Green Big Green Week  
 01/04 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin  
 01/04 E Watch 2065  
 01/04 Parish Alliances Buses Draft Agreement

## **189. Meetings**

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

- i. Climate Change Conference 17/03/23 - Cllr Westwood  
Air Quality was discussed, and the clerk will investigate how the parish council can access data about Birling.
- ii. Snodland Asphalt Meeting 22/03/2023 – Cllr Westwood  
It was noted that this meeting is incredibly positive, and they are very proactive.  
It was asked if the church project could be considered for the community support funding.
- iii. KALC Tonbridge and Malling Committee 30/03/2023 – Cllr Westwood  
The reorganisation of the Police community support team was noted that is due to be implemented in June: Neighbourhood Sergeant 4 x PCs and 4 x PCSOs. A children centred unit 2 x PCs and 2 x PCSOs and a beat officer team of 12 PCs.

### **(b) Future meetings**

- i. Parish Partnership Panel 15/06/2023

## **190. Parish Business for Decisions**

### **(a) Parish Infrastructure Statement**

- i. To complete statement

It was **AGREED** to brainstorm ideas for projects at the next meeting.

**(b) Highways Improvement Plan**

- i. To receive update from Cllr Hirst meeting with Highways Officer.  
It was noted that the bank and the 20mph schemes were discussed. It was noted that KCC will provide a team to cut the bank back. More monitors will be installed to track the speeds to see if 20mph is appropriate for the village.

**(c) Bank Infringement**

- ii. To receive any updates from Cllr Hirst meeting with Highways Officer.  
It was noted that the Highways Improvement Plan is covering this.

**(d) Local Plan**

- i. To note update  
It was noted that TMBC will need to complete another Regulation 18 to continue with the original Local Plan data, and there is an attempt to reduce housing numbers. Aiming for completion between January – March 2026. S106 funding at Ryarsh was discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Hewett will circulate the details.

**(e) Community Transport Grant / Bus Services**

- i. To receive update on KALC T&M parish council initiatives.  
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the signing of contract for the community bus service.

**(f) Jubilee and Coronation**

- i. To receive update on visit to Gallaghers to choose stone.  
It was noted that the Clerk is consulting with the quarry for an appointment.
- ii. To receive update from Cllr Nevill on tree planting.  
Cllr Nevill will investigate the tree grant from KCC.
- iii. It was noted that invoices will be submitted to the parish council by the team organising the Coronation celebration for payment.

**(g) Local Charities**

- i. To receive update from Cllr Yates on hardship fund proposal  
Cllr Yates reported that discussions are ongoing. There are three streams that the parish council could help with:
  - a) Funding could be provided for school trips and swimming lessons etc. to enable children to be equal in activities.
  - b) Play equipment could be provided.
  - c) Counselling/mental health sessions could be provided for children.

It was **AGREED** to request a plan from the school for the funding requirements for **specified projects** and details of how many pupils will benefit from an annual donation from the parish council.

**(h) Waste and Litter**

- i. To note successful litter pick on 25<sup>th</sup> March.  
Cllr Hirst and the clerk were thanked for the contribution to the litter pick success.

**(i) Climate Action**

- i. To review and update the Climate Action Plan – this item was deferred to the next meeting.

**(j) Election – review of nominations TMBC**

It was noted that all councillors had been elected uncontested.

**191. Parish Business for Noting**

**(a) Website/Social Media platforms updates**

To note the following added to online platforms:

- Road closures
- Litter Pick poster
- Bus Updates and timetables

**(b) Parochial Church Council**

- i. To receive regular update.  
There was no further update.

**(c) WhatsApp Group Matters**

- i. To note any issues raised on the Birling WhatsApp Group  
Traffic issues.

**192. Correspondence – all noted.**

- i. Requests for donation from Air Ambulance – this item was deferred to the next meeting.

**193. Finance & Accounts**

**(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation March 2023**

- i. Net Bank Balances as at 31/03/2023 £15,601.02 – noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation March 2023.

**(b) To note budget position year to date March 2023 – noted.**

**(c) To approve PAYE record April 2023.**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record for April 2023.

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

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

Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Amount Net	VAT	Description
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£62.73	£52.27	£10.46	Monthly mailbox charges
Various	Staff Costs	£497.36			April staff costs
Laser	Streetlighting	£29.92	£21.90	£1.07	Streetlighting for March 9.36+12.54 0.47+0.60
To be confirmed	Reserves	£750.00			Coronation event donation

**194. Roads**

**(a) To report any road issues and footpaths**

It was noted that the pothole in Bull Road had been repaired.

**(b) Road Closures – see website for details.**

- i. To note temporary road closures affecting Birling:  
The Street, Ryarsh; A228 Malling Road.

**195. Planning**

**(a) Applications to be considered**

There were none.

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

There are none.

**196. Matters for future meetings.**

The usual substantive items will be on the agenda.

**Date of Next Meeting: Annual General Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023.**

**Meeting closed at 22:06pm**

**Signed..... Date.....**