

## **Birling Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

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

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

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

**88. Apologies for absence**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence from Cllr Wright with reasons given. Apologies were also received from Mrs Hohler.

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

There were none.

**90. Approval and signing of minutes of meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the minutes of the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**91. Reports**

(a) County Council – Sarah Hohler

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

(b) Borough Councillors – Paul Boxall and Bill Banks

Cllr Banks gave updates on budgets and the planning portal. Further updates were given about the Larkfield Football Club development on the old golf course. Cllr Boxall offered to donate funds for future tree planting and work with councillors to identify possible sites.

(c) Kent Police a report was received and no incidents were reported.

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

There were none.

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

i. **Ryarsh School**

To receive any updates.

The Firework Display is taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

ii. **Village Hall access**

To receive any updates on availability of hall. It was noted that there had been two enquiries for the hall.

iii. **Ryarsh Quarry Proposal**

To note response sent.

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

06/09 TMBC online surveys

06/09 NALC events

06/09 Land west of Roughetts Road update from Ryarsh PC

18/09 M20 Moveable Barrier

18/09 E Watch 2113

18/09 TMBC Neighbourhood engagement

18/09 Chief Executive Bulletin

18/09 RSN Rural funding digest  
18/09 NALC Newsletter  
18/09 Kent and Medway domestic abuse event  
18/09 The Rural Bulletin  
18/09 E Watch 2112  
18/09 KALC Bulletin  
19/09 KALC T&M Area meeting  
25/09 KALC T&M Area meeting agenda  
27/09 KALC T&M nominations  
02/10 NALC Newsletter  
02/10 E Watch 2114  
02/10 E Watch 2115  
02/10 E Watch 2116  
02/10 The Rural Bulletin  
02/10 Chief Executives Bulletin  
02/10 E Watch 2117  
02/10 Biodiversity net gain  
02/10 58&70 Buses  
02/10 Chairmanship Conference  
02/10 KALC events  
02/10 KCC Rail Summit  
02/10 Draft Economic Strategy TMBC  
02/10 NALC Events

**95. Meetings**

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

There were none.

**(a) Future meetings**

- i. Snodland Asphalt Meeting 24/10/2023
- ii. Parish Partnership Panel 02/11/2023
- iii. KALC T&M Area Committee 14/12/2023
- iv. Parish Partnership Panel 08/02/2024
- v. Parish Partnership Panel 30/05/2024

**96. Parish Business for Decisions**

**(a) Highways**

- i. To receive update from Cllr Hirst on Highways Improvement Plan.  
It was noted that there was no further update and Cllr Hirst is following up with Highways Officers.
- ii. To receive update on bank infringement.  
It was noted that there was no further update and Cllr Hirst is following up.

**(b) Local Plan**

- i. To note update  
It was noted that there was no further update.

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

- i. To receive update on KALC T&M parish council initiatives  
The financial contributions per parish population have been calculated to cover the cost if no grant is secured next year. It was noted that 58 service is well used by the parish residents.

**(d) Jubilee and Coronation**

- i. To receive update on visit to Gallaghers to choose stone.  
This will be chosen once the price from Burslem is received.
- ii. To receive update on Burslem response to sketch.  
Cllr Nevill will respond to the request for information from Burslem in order that they can provide a price.
- iii. To receive update from Cllr Nevill on tree planting.  
It was noted that there was no further update.

**(e) Local Charities**

- i. To receive update from Cllr Yates on hardship fund proposal.  
It was noted that this item is no longer required on the agenda, and should the school require training funds they will approach the parish council.

**(f) Village Maintenance, Waste and Litter**

- i. To note contractor unable to cut grass around war memorial.  
The area will be tidied up ahead of Remembrance.  
Four Seasons to be contacted for a quote.
- ii. To note Box Tree works being organised – noted.
- iii. To note update on litter pick 07/10/2023.  
It was **RESOLVED** to write to Costa and MacDonaldis to advise of the level of litter and request a donation towards future litter picks.  
The next litter pick will be held on Sunday to encourage more attendance.

**(g) Climate Action**

- i. To review and update the Climate Action Plan.  
It was noted that there were no further updates.

**(h) Strategic Plan Update**

- i. To review strategic plan – this will be prepared for next meeting.

**(i) Remembrance Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

- i. To note any updates.  
It was noted that the road closure order had been submitted and the plan will operate the same as last year. Cllr Westwood will approach a local resident to lay the wreath on behalf of the council.

**97. Parish Business for Noting**

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

To note the following added to online platforms:

- Road closures
- Litter pick
- My Community Voice
- TMBC Neighbourhood engagement
- Ryarsh PTFA fireworks event

**(b) Parochial Church Council**

- i. To receive regular update.

A church tidy up is taking place on 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10am. The church will be open for the Big Christmas Weekend on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023. There will be no services in Birling over Christmas.

**(c) Resident Matters**

- i. To note any recent local issues raised.

It was **AGREED** for Cllrs Westwood and Hewett to draft a letter to Tom Tugendhat to raise the issues with the post office deliveries in the parish.

**98. Correspondence – there was none.**

**99. Finance & Accounts**

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

i. Net Bank Balances as at 30/09/2023 £21,558.66

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation for September 2023.

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

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

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record October 2023.

**(d) BACS and DD to be approved and signed for October 2023:**

Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Amount Net	VAT	Description
Various	Staff Costs	497.36			Staff costs October
LASER	Streetlighting	£23.89	£22.79	£1.10	Streetlight energy costs
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£62.73	£ 52.27	£ 10.46	Monthly Mailbox Costs
J Miller	Clerk Expenses	£40.50			Mileage
J Miller	Clerk Expenses	£71.86			Ink and paper
Birling Fete Committee	Donations	£250.00			Band for fete
HugoFox	IT Costs	£11.99	£9.99	£2.00	Monthly website costs
Victim Support	Donations	£50.00			Donation

**100. Road**

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

It was noted that the potholes are being repaired on Bull Road. Parking on footpaths on Ryarsh Road continues to be an issue.

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

i. To note temporary road closures affecting Birling Bull Road.

**101. Planning**

**(a) Applications to be considered**

There were none.

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

i. TM/23/01772/TNCA Edward Jones 19 Ryarsh Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JW T1. Robinia at front gates, currently encroaching neighbouring garden. Proposed crown reduction by approx. 40% from existing height and lateral spread of 6m x 6m respectively to 4m x 4m. to ensure a balanced, shaped, and visually appealing canopy. Removal of deadwood as found.

**102. Matters for future meetings.**

The usual substantive items will be on the agenda. The payment to the church for hire and 2024-25 budget will be on the next agenda.

**103. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Meeting closed at 21:17pm Signed..... Date.....