

Birling Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 11 July 2017 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Westwood (Chair) Mr Grimmett (Vice Chair)
 Mr Neil Hewett Mr Stuart Hirst
 Mr Guy Nevill Mrs Walker

Mrs Grimmett (Clerk)

Cllr Grimmett extended his congratulations on behalf of the council to Mrs Westwood on her receipt of an OBE announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in July.

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sarah Hohler, Matthew Balfour & Sylvia Spooner.

2 **Reports**

None

3 **Open Forum**

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 June 2017 be **APPROVED** and they were **SIGNED** by the Chair.

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

(a) **Actions from June's meeting:**

Hawthorn Bush – It was agreed that the work needs to be carried out by a qualified tree surgeon. Cllr Stewart offered to obtain quotes from local businesses, with a view to ideally having the work completed before the Heritage Day

Came & Co – Response still awaited

(b) **Traffic Survey**

No news at present

(c) **Street Light Billing**

The clerk had been advised that invoices would be raised in June but to date have not been received.

(d) **KALC Chair Visit**

Patrick Thomas of Plaxtol PC met with Cllr Westwood and amongst other matters they discussed the JPCTCG, traffic problems in villages rather than just Jnct 5, HGV parking problems, the Old Chalk New Downs project and the Local Plan. Cllr Westwood had informed Mr Thomas that Cllr Hohler and Cllr Balfour regularly attend BPC meetings and that Councillors feel supported by them. Mr Thomas had been interested to learn that BPC makes a contribution to the local landscape PCSO (who is hopefully to be allocated her own vehicle) and said that Cllr Westwood had raised issues of which he was unaware. Cllr Westwood said that it had been a constructive meeting.

(e) **Vacancy for Parish Clerk**

Cllr Spooner had advised the clerk that she had spoken with a resident who was interested in applying for the position but nothing had been received.

(f) **Street Light Replacement**

The Clerk had met with Richard Emmett from KCC to look at all the street lights. A survey needs to be carried out and a quote detailing options will be sent, possibly by September.

(g) Any other matters arising

Cllr Hewett reported that a new chef is being trialled at the Nevill Bull with a provisional relaunch date of Friday 28 July.

6 Parish Business and Decisions

(a) Any other business to be decided

Nothing was raised under this heading.

7 Correspondence

Landscapes of the Mid Downs - Cllr Westwood reported that she had attended an interesting meeting of the Kent Downs AONB to discuss the management plan, looking particularly at the East Kent area. A lot of forestry management is being carried out at Holly Hill with various lottery funding and they would be prepared to run something for local schools to get children involved with tree recognition etc. Attendees were asked what would be of interest to them and the importance of protecting quiet/natural areas with the vast increase/development of housing to bring people to the area together with the benefits of encouraging rural business opportunities/tourism/farming were raised. All information discussed will be included in the plan. The next meeting in September will look at different areas.

KFRS/KALC Fire Hydrant Initiative – It was agreed not to participate

NALC Town & Parish Questionnaire – Cllr Westwood agreed to do draft

Vacancy for Parish Councillor – Correspondence had been received from a resident recording an interest in becoming a Councillor when another vacancy occurs.

KCC Ryarsh Brickworks – Related Bus Services

Cllr Hewett to prepare draft response.

8 Financial Matters

(a) The quarterly reconciliation sheet, bank statement & PAYE records were signed. NatWest balances as at 30 June 2017:

Current £19815.12 (£150.85 cheque not yet cashed) Reserve £100.47

Secure Trust Bank: £17447.14.

Reconciliation sheet incorrect to be corrected and presented in September

(b) Quarter 1 Budget Position Statement

Payments as per Budget – Budget endorsed.

(c) Cheques to be signed

The following cheques were signed:

	Net	VAT	Gross
1543 Birling Village Hall			£42.00
1544 Mrs Grimmett July salary & reimbursements			£300.24

(d) Any other financial business

It was noted that at the meeting held on 11 April 2017 Councillors had resolved to make a contribution for flowers for the Heritage Weekend to be held at All Saints' Church and Cllr Westwood suggested a sum of £250.

Action: Cllr Walker to find out to whom cheque to be made payable for signing at September's meeting.

No other financial business was raised.

9 Roads

(a) Street Light at Parsons Corner

Light has been checked and is not working and needs to be replaced and a quote requested from TMBC. As it is likely to be cheaper to replace as part of the LED replacement project it was decided to wait until the KCC quote had been received.

(b) Illegal Lorry Parking

No photos had been taken by councillors.

(c) Any Other Roads Business

Cllr Grimmett had responded to the Consultation on the proposal to keep the no right turn at Castle Way.

The next JPCTCG meeting is 27 September.

Nothing further was raised under this heading.

10 Planning

New:

TM/17/01417/FL Langold House 285 Snodland Road Birling ME19 5JQ

Proposal: Demolition, relocation and construction of coach house with ancillary residential annex.

BPC: No objections

Decisions:

TM/01039/FL 5 Legge Lane Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JH

Proposal: Erection of 2 storey infill extension

BPC: No objections

TMBC: Approved

TM17/01321/FL Timberley, 19 Masters Lane, Birling ME19 5JP

Proposal: Erection of wooden summerhouse

BPC: No objections

TMBC: Refused

TM/17/01156/FL 29 Ryarsh Road, Birling ME19 5JR

Proposal: Demolition of existing side extension & erection of single storey side extension & loft conversion including rear dormer & rooflights to front

BPC: No objections

TMBC: Approved

Revised plans showing wall received. Cllr Hewett to check and circulate details prior to responding to TMBC.

11 Any Other Business

(a) Cllr Walker reported that youths had been spotted by the stream in the field behind the church where drug debris had been found and that more youths had been in Birling Park being noisy and leaving litter. She had reported it to the Landscape PCSO and next time will also report to 101.

Cllr Nevill reminded everyone that the Village party is on 9 September and that there are travellers in the area.

It was noted that Ryarsh Road is to be closed at Masters Lane from 24 July for one week.

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 12 September 2017**. There being no further business the meeting closed at 10pm.