

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 14 February 2017 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Westwood (Chair) Mr Grimmett (Vice Chair)
 Mrs Spooner Mrs Walker

County Cllr Mrs Hohler and Mrs Grimmett (Clerk)

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Cllr Balfour and Cllr Hewett

2 Reports

Borough: No report

County: Opinion is divided as to whether to keep the no right turn at the Castle Way / A228 junction and the proposal is going to the Transportation Board in March. If agreed adjustments will be made to lights and lines at the roundabout. Cllr Grimmett suggested hatch lines might make a difference which Cllr Hohler thought was a good idea and will suggest it. HGV sat navs won't take them where they shouldn't be and the Local Government Association is taking it up to see if it could be made law. The temporary Not Suitable for HGV signs have been removed as Jct 4 work has been completed. Cllr Hohler has had signage improved along Seven Mile Lane to try and avoid further damage to fencing. The KCC budget has been set, services haven't been cut and council tax will rise by the maximum allowed. Libraries will be retained after consultation as to what services the public want them to provide. Following an earlier consultation changes made to the provision of mobile library services have resulted in increased usage at reduced costs. Cllr Walker asked about the withdrawal of Ryarsh School's application for a new hall as the Environment Agency said the floor level needs to be raised in case of flooding. Cllr Hohler said that several comments from a neighbouring property also need more investigation and that it was a disappointment that the hall would now not be ready for the 2017 autumn term. Cllr Westwood asked about the parking problems in the A228 layby and Cllr Hohler advised that a No Parking sign had been put up. A further sign restricting waiting times had been put up in the layby near Sue's Snack Bar.

Crime: Cllr Walker advised that a van in Ryarsh Road and a couple of vehicles in Ryarsh had been broken into the previous evening.

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 10 January 2017 be **APPROVED** and they were **SIGNED** by the Chair.

5 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Actions from January's meeting:

Vacancy for Clerk – Michelle Rumble had accepted the offer and will start on 1 March 2017 with a one month handover to include the existing Clerk completing the 2016/17 yearend figures.

Repairs to Footbridge on Footpath – reported and on list for repair.

TMBC – Open Churchyards - Letter received advising that a recommendation by the Management Team that TMBC should not continue to fund maintenance for

open churchyards had been endorsed by the Cabinet. A “capacity study” of burial places within the borough has commenced with the Rural Deans.

Street Light outside 1 Bull Road - Hasn't been on during the day

Damage to pavement at Ryarsh Road/Masters Lane Jct – defer until construction finished.

(b) **Faster Broadband** – Notification had been received from the Project Officer at KCC. BT OpenReach are to install a new cabinet in Bull Road between April and June 2017 to increase speeds up to 24mbps.

(c) **No Right Turn Sign Bull Road/Birling Road Junction** - Has been replaced

(d) **Snodland Road Sign** - Has been put on wall of The Old Post Office

(e) **Village Party** - 8 July cancelled as double booked. New date to be advised.

(f) **Any other matters arising**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

6 **Parish Business and Decisions**

(a) **Action for Communities in Rural Kent**

It was **DECIDED** not to subscribe.

(b) **Any other Parish business**

John May Charity

Cllr Walker to consider replacing the outgoing Clerk as Trustee.

Nothing further was raised under this heading.

7 **Correspondence / Communications**

Ryarsh School – letter about withdrawal of the planning application for new school hall
Cllr Walker to reply expressing BPC's disappointment that the hall won't be going ahead at the present time. **See (2) above**

A228 Castle Way Parking - Letter received from a resident of Castle Way about vehicles, including HGVs, using the residential layby as a rest area, commuter parking, litter and even using the area to sell cars. Matter had been referred to Clls Hohler and Balfour and signage erected.

TMBC – Spring Clean 3-5 March 2017 – Noted

Action: Cllr Walker to ask Simon Houldsworth if he would like to organise it.

Paul Cheeseman, Masters Lane – Hedge of native shrubs and trees to be planted to the side and bottom of garden 20 February – access will be maintained for walkers.

TMBC – Consultation for Public Space Protection Order in Tonbridge & Malling - Noted

Boundary Commission for England Consultation – Acknowledgement of BPC's comments which will be included on the Commission's website in the spring.

KCC Internal Audit Services – As their services have a much higher cost without the benefit of assistance it was **DECIDED** to remain with the existing auditor.

8 **Financial Matters**

(a) January & February reconciliation sheets, bank statements and PAYE records were Signed.

NatWest balances as at 31 January 2017:

Current £18734.02 **Reserve** £100.46 **Secure Trust Bank** £17325.69

(b) **Cheques to be signed**

The following cheque was signed:

	Net	VAT	Gross
1523 Mrs Grimmett Feb salary + reimbursements			£337.19

(c) **Any other financial business**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

9 **Roads**

(a) JPCTCG

Minutes of the January meeting had been circulated and the date of the next meeting is still to be advised.

(b) Any Other Business

A member of the public had reported that part of the sandbag wall to the stream in Bull Road was collapsing.

Action: Clerk to report to Kent Highways

No other roads business was discussed.

10 **Planning**

New:

TM/16/03472/AT Mobile Snack Bar Layby West of Malling Rd Larkfield

Hoarding sign advertising location of Blue Gem Snack Bar – Not in Birling Parish

BPC:

TM/17/00166/FL Highfield House 62 White Horse Road DA13 0UF

Extension to existing garage and formation of annex ancillary to existing house within adapted roof space over garage.

BPC: Extension cumbersome and bulky addition to the front of the property.

TM/17/00307/FL Langold House 285 Snodland Road ME19 5JQ

Demolition of existing coach house, relocation and construction of new coach house with ancillary accommodation.

Action: BPC's initial comments were that the height seemed more intrusive, was the relocation of access to the bridle way really necessary and why demolish an existing building rather than refurbish. Cllr Hewett to review the application.

Decisions:

TM/16/03785/FL 3 Bull Road Birling ME19 5JR

Demolition of existing conservatory, kitchen & bathroom & replace with ground floor family room & 1st floor bathroom plus internal alterations

BPC: No objections to plans provided that materials used are in keeping with the village.

Decisions:

TM17/00044/TPOC 15 Ryarsh Road Birling ME19 5JW

Reduce large conifer tree to height of road (approx 1/3 of total height) to prevent overshadowing neighbouring property.

BPC: No objections **TMBC: Approved**

None

Ryarsh School – New Hall

Application withdrawn – see 2 County reports

11 **Any Other Business**

Vacancy for Parish Councillor

As no applications had been received Councillors would approach anyone they thought might be suitable.

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 14 March 2017**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.