

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2014 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Jacquie Westwood (Chair) Mr Ron Nudd (Vice Chair)
 Mr Colin Grimmett Mr David Hopper
 Mr Guy Nevill Mrs Sylvia Spooner
 Mrs Helen Walker

County Cllr Matthew Balfour and Mrs Grimmett (Clerk)

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

County Cllr Sarah Hohler and PCSO Laura Bullen

2 Reports

Cllr Balfour reported that it was not yet known if council tax will increase. The new school at Leybourne Chase has been approved and it's not yet known whether children from Leybourne chase will take precedent over those from Birling. The recent floods, fracking and the Local Plan presentation to the PC in February (which other parishes have found very informative) were briefly discussed.

PCSO Bullen's emailed report showed 2 crimes. An Ipad and Xmas presents had been stolen from a house in Masters Lane. A rock from the garden had been used to smash a window. Number plates had been removed from a vehicle in Bull Road. Nominated for ANPR cameras should it be used in crime. Both cases filed pending further information.

3 Approval and Signing of Minutes of Previous Month's Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 December 2013 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by the Chair.

4 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Restoration of War Memorial & Funding

Cllr Hopper had passed on information on War MemorialsTrust, a charity which works to protect and conserve memorials in the UK and administers grants, to the Clerk. The Clerk had spoken to the Trust explaining that BPC needed assistance to decide what repairs were necessary to the base of the memorial. Photos of the memorial and details of the 3 quotes had been sent. The Trust had recommended that the proposed cleaning method and solutions to be used should be discussed with them before any further action be taken and this information had been requested from A K Landers. They did not think that having the cleaning and re-lettering carried out would affect a grant being made for work to the base. Sarah Hohler had advised that she had authorised the grant but was not sure of the amount. It was **AGREED** not to pay the deposit until discussed further with War Memorials Trust. The Clerk would contact A K Lander Ltd and pass on the information to Cllr Hopper who offered to deal with the matter in her absence.

(b) Footpath Opposite Church

The Clerk had contacted Lawrensons, who advertise in Pilgrims magazine but, due to pressure of work, they would be unable to quote until mid February.

(c) Contribution to Landscape PCSO

Valley of Visions Kent Downs AOB had advised that the funding period runs from 5/1/2014 to 3/1/2015 and that no contributions bring with them an expectation of

continuing annual contributions. The role and its success will be reviewed in the final quarter of the year and they will be looking to secure a more stable form of funding.

(d) Precept – Council Tax Support Grant

TMBC had advised that the Grant would be the same as had been estimated. The Precept upon TMBC would result in an approximate increase to Band D equivalent properties in Birling of £3.79.

(e) New E-mail Address

Birlingclerk@hotmail.co.uk or similar are available at no cost. Cllr Grimmatt offered to set up the new address.

(f) Local Plan Meeting

TMBC Planning Officers will attend the February meeting to present the Local Plan. Details of the presentation had been circulated to Councillors and were discussed. It was decided that it was an important meeting for residents to attend and Cllrs Westwood and Walker offered to draw up a flier for the noticeboard and distribution. As it was likely to be a long meeting it was **AGREED** that it should commence at 7.30pm.

(g) Any other matters arising

The Clerk's scanner was not working so she had been unable to circulate the Leybourne Chase consultation response form. Cllrs completed the form for the Clerk to send off.

Nothing else was raised under this heading

5 Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Any other business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

6 Open Forum

Nothing was raised under this heading.

7 Correspondence

Invitation to Lord Lieutenant of Kent's Civic Service, Canterbury Cathedral 11/3/2014
No-one being available to attend, the Clerk was asked to respond accordingly.

8 Financial Matters

(a) Monthly reconciliation sheets, statement & PAYE forms

Quarterly reconciliation sheet, bank statement and PAYE forms were signed and monthly record handed out.

(b) Cheques to be signed

The following cheques were signed:

1330	Mrs Grimmatt	December salary & expenses	£277.99
(The following cheque was not signed see 4(a))			
1331	A K Lander Ltd	Memorial work deposit	£720.00)
1332	KCC	Landscape PCSO	£250.00

(c) Any other financial business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

9 Roads

(a) JPCTCG

Cllr Nudd will attend the next meeting to be held on 28 January 2014.

(b) Street light at Parsons Corner

This light has been damaged, possibly by a falling tree and the lamp needs to be replaced. TMBC have quoted £330 + VAT. The Clerk was asked to investigate whether this would be covered by insurance.

(c) Any other business

Cllr Westwood had witnessed an accident at the village gateway as a vehicle approaching the village did not give way to a vehicle leaving the village.

Cllr Hopper reported that Kent Highways had advised him that the new "Unsuitable for HGV" sign has been approved and ordered.

Nothing further was raised under this heading

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Planning

New Applications: None

Decisions:

TM/13/03181/FL TQ568640 161076

Applicant: Mr R Thorogood

Location: 5 Legge Lane, Birling, West Malling, ME19 5JH

Proposal: Single storey orangery style extension and internal alterations

BPC: No objections

TMBC: Approved

TM/13/03396/FL TQ567762 160795 & TM/13/03397/FL TQ567762 160796

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Watkins

Location: Ley Farm Barn, Snodland Road Birling, West Malling, ME19 5JF

Proposal: Split of existing single dwelling house into 2 self-contained homes

BPC: No objections but queried if trees to front of property to remain

TMBC: Approved 19/12/2013

The new property is to be names The Cundells

TM/13/02785/FL TQ567718 160311

Applicant: Mr Dave Allen

Location: Tanbryn, 92 Ryarsh Road, Birling, West Malling ME19 5JR

Proposal: Front extension and convert garage to living accommodation

BPC: No objections

TMBC: Approved 7/1/2014

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Any Other Business

(a) Litter in Car Park behind Church

Cllr Westwood has received 2 reports of night time drinking sessions taking place in the village hall car park. Cans and smashed bottles were left. Cllr Nevill said he would contact the Landscape PCSO and ask her to visit the car park.

(b) Leybourne Grange Riding for the Disabled

Cllr and Mrs Grimmett had attended, and thoroughly enjoyed, the carol concert.

(c) Meeting Dates for 2014

These were diarised and Cllrs reminded that March's meeting would be 1 week early.

(d) Birling Estate

Cllr Nevill advised that sycamores around the manor are being felled over the next few Months.

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Date of next meeting:

As previously agreed **11 February 2014 at 7.30pm**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.50pm.