

## **Birling Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022** **Birling Church at 8pm**

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

Also in attendance: Clerk Ms J Miller, County Councillor Hohler, Mrs Margaret Ivell (Honorary Freewoman of the Parish)

#### **THE PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVED A ONE MINUTE SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE LATE HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

- 77. It was noted that the parish council had declared the proclamation of the new King Charles III on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in Birling Church.**

The meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> September had been cancelled due to the Period of National Mourning.

- 78. Apologies for Absence**

There were none. Borough Councillors Kemp and Montague had sent apologies.

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

Cllr Walker and Cllr Hirst declared an interest in the planning item for The Willows.

- 80. Approval and signing of minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 and 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

- 81. Reports**

- (a) County Councillor Sarah Hohler**

Cllr Hohler reported that KCC is working well with the borough councils to help residents with heating and bills, the clerk will advertise this on the parish website. The KCC budget is still being reviewed. The reading challenge had nearly 19,000 entries and resulted in 3,000 new library members, mostly from the new Tunbridge Wells branch. It was a great success. Lots of roads have been closed recently due to Southern Water repairing burst pipes. It was noted that road repairs are more carbon efficient and quicker now. Cllr Hohler reported that the Old Chalk New Downs event was very good, sheep are now grazing on the downs and children are being encouraged to appreciate the landscape and countryside.

Of the 12 country parks in Kent, 4 received gold awards and 8 have been awarded green flags. Kent now has a rural partnership meeting for all the parks to improve access. It was noted that the new Director of Highways has made a pledge to improve Highway Improvement Plan communications with parishes.

Bus strikes on Arriva was noted. NuVenture has been taken over by Autocar and the number 58 service will remain under a different number. School buses should be protected for this academic year.

Cllr Yates asked about the shortfall in budget. There is a £37m gap.

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

There was no report received.

- (c) Police update circulated prior to the meeting – noted.**

- i. Report for July received – no crimes
- ii. Report for August received – no crimes
- iii. Report for September received – no crimes

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

The Parish Freewoman thanked the chairman for delivering a dignified and professional proclamation.

The possible developments in and surrounding Birling on the Local Plan ‘call for sites; list were raised. The Castle Way postcode was noted as a Birling Postcode and will be checked.

The difficulties in contacting TMBC waste services was also discussed.

*Cllr Walker left the meeting at 20:33pm.*

**83. Matters arising and last month’s circulation**

**i. Ryarsh School**

To receive any update

It was reported that Cllr Wright has been appointed Chairman of the Ryarsh School PTFA. It was noted that the Fireworks will take place at Ryarsh Village Hall.

*Cllr Walker re-entered the meeting at 20:36pm*

**ii. Defibrillator Training**

To agree preferred days for training – noted.

**iii. Village Hall access**

To receive any updates on availability of hall

**iv. Holmes Foundation**

To receive any updates from Leybourne and Ryarsh Parish Councils.

It was noted that councillors from Leybourne and Ryarsh were happy to take part.

It was also noted that the Godden charity is folding with funds being distributed between the two parishes of Snodland and Birling. Further information will follow.

It was noted that an inventory of the local trusts would be useful.

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

26/07 E Watch 1994

02/08 E Watch 1995

02/08 The Great Big Green Week 24<sup>th</sup> September

02/08 Loneliness and the cost of living

02/08 E Watch 1996

02/08 PPP Terms of Reference

02/08 Kent Police Crime Commissioner Newsletter

03/08 Temporary Hose Pip Ban

03/08 KALC News July 2022

08/08 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin

15/08 Updates from Kent County Council

15/08 Minutes of Snodland Asphalt meeting

15/08 Emergency Plan

15/08 Local Government Bulletin

15/08 M20 Moveable Barrier

15/08 E Watch 1999

16/08 E Watch 2000

26/08 Kent’s Plan Bee

26/08 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin

26/08 Dementia Survey

26/08 E Watch 2001

26/08 News from TMBC littering enforcement  
 26/08 E Watch 2002  
 26/08 Parish Partnership Panel agenda and link for meeting  
 26/08 Short Term Holiday Lets  
 26/08 KALC Events  
 26/08 E Watch 1997  
 26/08 Introduction to Building Control and new Building Regulations  
 02/09 KALC News  
 02/09 Arriva industrial action 5<sup>th</sup> September  
 02/09 E Watch 2004  
 02/09 E Watch 2005  
 02/09 M20 moveable barrier update  
 21/09 E Watch 2007  
 21/09 E Watch 2008  
 21/09 Queen's Green Canopy Update  
 21/09 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin  
 21/09 KALC AGM Motions  
 21/09 E Watch 2009  
 21/09 Newsletter from CT Border Engagement  
 21/09 E Watch 2010  
 23/09 E Watch 2011  
 23/09 KALC T&M Area meeting 13/10  
 28/09 Pop Up Health Clinics  
 28/09 E Watch 2012  
 28/09 Train strikes  
 28/09 NALC newsletter  
 29/09 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin  
 29/09 KCC Environment briefing  
 29/09 Tree maintenance and risk management  
 29/09 E Watch 2013

**85. Meetings**

- i. **Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council**
- ii. Tour of asphalt plant 28/07/2022
- iii. TMBC Parish Partnership Panel – 01/09/2022 (online) – Cllr Westwood
- iv. TMBC Neighbourhood Engagement Meeting – 28/09/2022

**(b) Future Meetings**

- i. TMBC Parish Partnership Panel – 03/11/2022 (in person)
- ii. KCC Autumn Parish Seminars - 11/10/2000 & 13/10/2022
- iii. KALC Annual General Meeting – 13/10/2022 & 19/11/2022 (in person)

**86. Parish Business for Decisions**

**(a) Highways Improvement Plan**

- i. To receive any updates

It was noted that the 40mph speed limit had been installed and there was a noticeable reduction in speed.

It was agreed to review the seminar notes with a view to organising a traffic survey to support the 20mph zone. Cllr Hirst will contact the KCC officer.

**(b) Bank Infringement**

- i. To note solicitor advice and consider next steps

It was **RESOLVED** to invite the new Director of Highways to review the bank infringement issues.

The next digback will be requested as the footway is again unsafe for disabled resident's access.

**(c) Local Plan**

- i. To consider next steps for responding to Regulation 18  
It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Hewett to summarise the council's comments on the strategic options, greenbelt and the sites and for the clerk to submit under delegated authority.

**(d) Rural Broadband**

- i. To receive any updates.  
There was no further update, but it was noted that Trooli is being installed in the village therefore this would resolve the issue of slow broadband speeds.

**(e) Jubilee**

- i. To receive update on visit to Gallaghers to choose stone  
Cllr Nevill will arrange a date that suits and advice the clerk to make arrangements for Cllr Westwood to attend Gallaghers to choose a stone.
- ii. To receive update from Cllr Nevill on treeplanting  
Cllr Nevill reported that the area is being cleared for the treeplanting.

*Cllr Yates left the meeting at 21:50pm.*

**(f) Remembrance Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

- i. To consider plans for Remembrance Sunday  
It was noted that the road closures had been arranged. One marshal has been located. The clerk will approach local groups.  
It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Westwood to lay the wreath. Cllr Nevill will read the names.
- ii. To note road closure order and consider arrangements for marshals.  
The Lions and Rotary will be contacted for support.

**(g) Waste and Litter**

- i. To consider plans for next litter pick  
This will be in March 2023.
- ii. To note bulky waste collection cancelled by TMBC – noted with concerns raised for residents without transport.

**(h) Consultations**

- i. NALC Dementia Survey - noted
- ii. Climate Change questionnaire from T&M KALC  
This will be completed by the clerk.

**87. Parish Business for Noting**

**(a) Website update**

To note the following added to the website and online platforms:-

- Rail strike information
- Road Closures
- Hosepipe Ban
- Waste collection updates – hot weather
- Heat alerts
- Old Chalk New Downs Holly Hill Litter Pick
- Bus Strikes
- Operation Brock
- HM The Queen information

- Further rail strikes

**88. Correspondence – all noted.**

- (a) Facebook message from resident regarding flytipping – Whitehorse Lane
- (b) Request from Citizens Advice to host an energy advice session  
It was **RESOLVED** to investigate an energy advice session.  
The clerk will design an advice sheet for the KCC advice being offered.
- (c) Thank you letter from Ryarsh School for donation – noted.

**89. Finance & Accounts**

- (a) To consider opting out of central external auditor arrangements
- (b) To approve bank reconciliation August 2022

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation for August and September 2022.  
Net Bank Balances as at 30/09/2022 £20,069.77

- (d) To note budget position year to date September 2022.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the budget position for September 2022.

To approve PAYE record August - October 2022.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record for August and September and October 2022.

- (e) 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	£57.53	£57.53	£9.59	Monthly mailbox charges
Various	Staff Costs	£466.71			September Salary
Laser	Streetlighting	£13.17	£12.27	£0.90	Streetlighting energy costs July & August ... 3.44+4.92+4.81
Clerks and Councils Direct	Reserves	£175.32	£146.10	£29.22	Freedom scrolls 138.66+36.66
JA Miller	Reserves	£94.16			Freedom frame and ribbon and invites
JA Miller	Expenses	£68.85			Mileage April 22 - Sept 22
Angel Café Catering	Reserves	£840.00	£840.00	0.00	Catering for freeperson event
J Westwood	Reserves	£30.35		£30.35	Postage reimbursement
Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Amount Net	VAT	Description
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£57.53	£57.53	£9.59	Monthly mailbox charges
Various	Staff Costs	£466.91			October Staff costs
HMRC Cumbernauld	Staff Costs	£89.20			October PAYE
Laser	Streetlighting	£8.50	£8.09	£0.41	4.94+3.56 Streetlighting for September
JA Miller	Expenses	£59.00			Printer Ink reimbursement

It was noted that the clock maintenance is now due.

**90. Road**

- (a) To report any road issues.

The pot holes have been reported. The junction of Birling Road with Birling Road deterioration will be reported to KCC.

- (b) Road Closures – see website for details

- i. To note temporary road closures affecting Birling A228 Castle Way; Stangate Road; A228 Ashton Way

**(a) Bus Services – to receive any updates**

This was covered during Cllr Hohler's item.

**91. Planning**

**(a) Applications to be considered**

i. TM/22/02088/TNCA 7 Bull Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JE T1. Lilac, to be dismantled and removed to ground level due to close proximity to house, severe over shading inc the neighbour's house/garden and having little amenity value. One of the large limbs currently rests upon the shed roof, the applicant has drainage problems due to debris  
It was **RESOLVED** no objection.

ii. TM/22/02098/RD The Willows 81 Ryarsh Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JR Details of condition 06 (vehicle charging point) of planning consent TM/21/03361/FL (Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling)  
It was **RESOLVED** no comment.

**(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council – all noted.**

- i. Birling (Downs And Mereworth) TM/22/01132/RD The Willows 81 Ryarsh Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JR (A) Details of condition 3 (Slab levels) submitted pursuant to planning permission TM/21/03361/FL (Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling) (B) Details of condition 2 (Materials), 3 (Slab levels), 5 (Landscaping) and 7 (Foul water disposal) submitted pursuant to planning permission TM/21/03361/FL (Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling)  
Split Decision on 12 August 2022
- ii. Birling (Downs And Mereworth) TM/22/01488/TNCA Frindale Cottage 80 Ryarsh Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JR Works to T1 Silver birch. Proposed is the 30% reduction, to previously pruned points to remove growth from applicant's roof  
No Objection on 12 August 2022
- iii. Birling (Downs And Mereworth) TM/22/01665/TNCA Frindale Cottage 80 Ryarsh Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JR 1 x Maple (applicant's ref. T2) - Reduce by 25%, from 8m to 6m in height with some trimming back of those problematic west facing branches currently sweeping the neighbour's roof & gutters  
No Objection on 25 August 2022
- iv. Birling (Downs And Mereworth) TM/22/01795/RD The Willows 81 Ryarsh Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JR Details of condition 3 (Slab Levels) submitted pursuant to planning permission TM/21/03361/FL (Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling) Approved on 26 August 2022
- v. Birling (Downs And Mereworth) TM/22/01292/FL The Willows 81 Ryarsh Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JR Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling Approved on 8 September 2022 Birling (Downs And Mereworth)
- vi. TM/22/01486/FL Pear Tree House Sandhole Snodland Kent ME6 5LG First floor extension over existing garage and erection of an outbuilding Approved on 8 September 2022 Birling (Downs And Mereworth)
- vii. TM/22/01722/TPOC Land Adjoining Birling Village Hall Snodland Road Birling West Malling Kent Tree Species: Beech Remove eye bolts and netball hoop and paint cambium damaged areas with Arbrex. Where the large branch has failed target

prune. Crown reduce by thinning by 25%. Tree in Group G1 of Tree Preservation Order Approved on 7 September 2022

**92. Matters for future meetings**

The usual substantive items will be on the agenda and the budget for 2023/24. Clerk appraisal date will be set.

**Date of next meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Meeting closed at 22:02pm**

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