

# **Birling Parish Council**

## **Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 8 July 2014 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm**

**Present:** Councillors      Mrs Jacquie Westwood (Chair)      Mr Colin Grimmatt  
   Mr David Hopper                              Mr Guy Nevill  
   Mrs Helen Walker

Borough Cllr Matthew Balfour, PCSO Laura Bullen, Mrs Grimmatt (Clerk) and 2 members of the public

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

County Cllr Sarah Hohler , Borough Cllr Ann Kemp and Cllr Nudd.

### **2 Reports**

PCSO Bullen reported that travellers, who had broken a gate to gain entry to a field, were still in Leybourne. Another set of 12 Irish travellers had attempted to get on to sites in Stansted. Officers from Snodland are still keeping an eye on the village hall car park but BPC had received no further reports of anti- social activity. Cllr Westwood thanked PCSO Bullen for changing shifts to visit the Council.

Cllr Balfour said that government had recently announced LEP funding of £2.19M towards an eastern overbridge at junction 4 of the M20 and an Urban Development Corporation has been announced for Ebbsfleet. Cllr Balfour went on to say that no data on the Local Plan was yet available to the general public.

### **3 Open Forum**

In order to allow members of the public to leave the following item was discussed at this point:

**5(f) Local Plan** (Cllr Nevill declared an interest in this item but was asked to comment by the Chair)

No data was yet available from TMBC so BPC had no idea of whether any local land owners had submitted plans. Cllr Nevill was asked for his comments and he advised that Birling Estate had put forward 3 proposals for 2 sites. The first site, to the west of Bull Road, could allow a development of approximately 8 dwellings by continuing the run of housing down the road. A larger area from Bull Road to Masters Lane could accommodate approximately 20 dwellings and mirror Birling Park in terms of scale. Some form of recreation area could be incorporated, possibly a cricket pitch, tennis courts, village green or play area. The second site put forward is the bottom of the field opposite the more recent Clacketts Farm development. This proposal would mirror the existing Clacketts houses and take it to the Birling boundary. Cllr Nevill said that local residents should be involved in discussing what sort of housing might be desirable if any development were to go ahead ie should it be for the elderly, first time buyers or affordable housing, flats, bungalows or houses, along with any other community benefits. Any development should be in keeping with the character of the village.

Cllr Westwood advised that she had recently completed an online questionnaire stating that BPC wouldn't necessarily object if there wasn't an allocation of affordable housing. A lack of facilities ie shops and public transport doesn't always encourage people to move to rural locations.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 June 2014 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by the Chair. The Minutes of the AGM and the meeting held on 13 May, which were approved at June's meeting, were also signed.

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

(a) **Overview of TMBC Planning Department Process**

Cllr Balfour explained that several years ago TMBC changed their planning process to allow applications to be considered by delegated powers rather than committee to save time. However, if there was a good planning reason any member could call for an application to be decided by committee rather than by delegated powers.

(b) **Churchyard**

The probation service were again helping to maintain the churchyard.

(c) **Footpath opposite church**

The extension to the handrail and steps is due to be done towards the end of August.

(d) **HGV sign**

Kent Highways had now advised that there had been a delay. The sign had now been ordered but an installation date was yet to be advised.

(e) **Restoration of War Memorial**

The cleaning and re-letting had been completed. The rendering had been done and would be sanded down in a couple of days once it had dried out. Councillors commented on how good the memorial now looked.

(f) **Local Plan**

See 3 **Open Forum**

(g) **Any other Matters Arising**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

6 **Parish Business for Decisions**

(a) **Review of Financial Regulations & Standing Orders**

It was **AGREED** that, as BPC would not be changing to electronic banking for the foreseeable future, no amendments to the Financial Regulations or Standing Orders were necessary.

(b) **Flower Festival Plant Stall**

It was unanimously **AGREED** that the Parish Council would prefer NOT to be involved. However, councillors would continue to provide support on a personal basis. Cllr Westwood would advise the Flower festival committee of this decision.

(c) **Laptop**

Due to the age of the laptop Microsoft support/updates were no longer available. The laptop would not be at risk unless the internet was used and, as the clerk only used the laptop to take minutes at meetings, it was **DECIDED** not to replace it at this time. The matter would be reviewed if circumstances changed.

(d) **All Saints' Church – invoice for call out to church clock**

As reported in June the Clerk had been asked by the PCC to call out Public Clocks as the clock had stopped following the maintenance work. Public Clocks had inspected the clock and found that the power supply had been switched off at the mains but could find no reason for it to have been done. An invoice for £90 + VAT had been received. It was **AGREED** that BPC should pay the invoice and advise the PCC that the amount will be deducted from monies to be paid later in the year.

(e) **Any other business**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

## 7 Correspondence

**Phone call from resident re property value** - Cllr Westwood had received a call from a resident in Sandy Lane who thought that having a Snodland post code was adversely affecting the value of his property. Cllr Westwood had advised him that the Parish Council had no jurisdiction over post codes and had referred him to TMBC.

**Letter from walker re footpath** – the Clerk had received a letter from a member of the public saying that MR63 was overgrown where it meets the Pilgrims Way. The KCC footpath team had advised that it was not on the cutting rota but that there were some funds available and they would see what they could do.

**Letter from TMBC re Community Enhancement Fund** - Councillors had several ideas. Details to be circulated but as applications have to be in by 2/9/2014 a decision will have to be made by email or at an interim meeting.

**Letter from London Resort Company Holdings Ltd re “London Paramount”**

Letter re proposed Entertainment resort on the Swanscombe Peninsula – circulated.

## 8 Financial Matters

### (a) **Quarterly accounts, statements & PAYE records to be signed**

The quarterly reconciliation sheet, bank statements and PAYE forms were signed.

### (b) **Cheques to be signed**

The following cheques were signed:

1348	Mrs Grimmer	July salary & expenses	£277.49
1349	Birling Village Hall CT	Hire of hall	£42.00
1350	Public Clocks Ltd	Call out for Clock	£108.00

### (c) **Quarterly Review**

The only unexpected expense had been the printer which is within the contingency fund. All other costs are in line with the budget.

### (d) **Any other financial business**

No other financial business was raised.

## 9 Roads

### (a) **Any other roads business**

A resident had reported to Cllr Hopper that there was a water leak along Snodland Road. No one was aware of this but a member of the public advised that there had been a major leak 2 weeks ago resulting in the water supply to residents being cut off while repairs were done.

Nothing further was raised under this heading.

## 10 Planning

### **New Applications:**

None

### **Decisions**

TM/14/01153/LDP

Applicant: Mr P Cheeseman

Location: The Cottage 30 Masters Lane Birling ME19 5JP

Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate : detached garage

Decision: Certificate granted 11/6/2014

**11 Any Other Business**

Cllr Walker said that she had contacted TMBC planning office direct regarding a construction in a neighbour's garden and roof lights as she thought it more appropriate than going through BPC.

No councillors were able to attend TMBC's Mayor's garden party.

**12 Date of next meeting:**

As previously agreed **9 September 2014 at 8pm**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.45pm.