

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 9th January 2024

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

Also in attendance: Clerk Ms J Miller; Cllr Bill Banks.

136. Apologies for absence

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Wright. Apologies were received from Mrs Hohler.

137. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

138. Approval and signing of minutes of meeting of 14th November 2023

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the minutes of the meeting of 14th November 2023.

139. Reports

(a) County Council – Sarah Hohler

Mrs Hohler had sent apologies, and a report was received.

(b) Borough Councillors – Paul Boxall and Bill Banks

Cllr Banks reminded the parish council that borough councillors needed reasons to “call in” planning applications for committee determination. The delays in the Local Plan were noted. It was reported that trade waste and limited DIY waste is now being accepted at recycling centres, to reduce flytipping. Cllr Banks also reminded councillors of his tree planting project.

(c) Kent Police - no report was received.

140. Open Forum – Public Participation Session

There were none.

141. Matters arising and last month’s circulation.

i. **Ryarsh School**

To receive any updates.

It was noted that the planning application affecting the school has been “called in” for committee determination at the borough council if the officer’s recommendation is approval. It was agreed to challenge the Kent County Council highways access response.

ii. **Village Hall access**

To receive any updates on availability of hall – thanks were noted to the village hall for their contribution to the Christmas party and church events.

iii. **Post Office**

It was noted that post is arriving more frequently.

142. Matters for Information circulated to councillors.

10/11 E Watch 2129

10/11 KALC AGM Documents

14/11 E Watch 2130

14/11 Environment and Circular Economy Newsletter

14/11 M2 Stockbury
 15/11 Tree words for List B
 15/11 Expanding video opportunities across Tonbridge and Malling
 15/11 Parish Partnership Panel
 17/11 Chief Executive Bulletin
 17/11 KALC Training
 17/11 KALC Bulletin
 17/11 E Watch 2131
 17/11 News from TMBC chief announces retirement
 17/11 Update on pay scales and parish seminars
 17/11 KALC Chief Executive's Bulletin
 17/11 West Kent Rural Grants Scheme
 17/11 E Watch 2128
 20/11 Revised date for Tarmac liaison meeting
 21/11 KCC Highways Parish Seminars
 21/11 E Watch 2132
 21/11 The Rural Bulletin
 21/11 KCC Highways Seminars
 21/11 NALC Events
 21/11 **On and Off street parking restrictions**
 23/11 Chief Executive's Bulletin
 24/11 NALC Newsletter
 24/11 E Watch 2133
 24/11 NALC Events
 24/11 Keep safe – stay alert
 28/11 E Watch 2134
 28/11 The Rural Bulletin
 28/11 NALC Events
 01/12 Christmas refuse and recycling collections
 01/12 Tonbridge and Malling Violence Against Women and Girls consultant
 01/12 Training bulletin
 01/12 KALC AGM 2023
 04/12 E Watch 2135
 04/12 Strike action
 04/12 Family Hub and Commissioned Youth Decision

143. Meetings

(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council

- i. KALC T&M Area Committee 14/12/2023
 Cllr Westwood attended. Community resilience planning was discussed, and it was agreed to review the Birling emergency plan at a future meeting. The Kent Resilience Team are available to visit parish council's to give advice and this could be useful for the Annual Parish Meeting. It was reported that the Community Safety Unit has a new local PC to support the parishes. D-Day commemoration on 6th June 2024 was noted and National Fish and Chip day could be promoted in Birling, this will be discussed at the next meeting. The next Climate Change meeting at TMBC is scheduled for February. There was an update on the bus service and it was reported that an application for £10,000 funding has been submitted to Kent County Council and the National Lottery.

(a) Future meetings

- i. Parish Partnership Panel 08/02/2024
- ii. Parish Partnership Panel 30/05/2024

144. Parish Business for Decisions

- (a) **Highways**
- i. To receive update from Cllr Hirst on Highways Improvement Plan.
There was no further update.
 - ii. To receive update on bank infringement.
There was no further update.
- (b) **Local Plan**
- i. To note update – there is no further update.
- (c) **Community Transport Grant / Bus Services**
- i. To receive update on KALC T&M parish council initiatives. This was covered earlier in the meeting.
- (d) **Jubilee and Coronation**
- i. To receive update on visit to Gallaghers to choose stone.
There was no further update.
 - ii. To receive update from Cllr Nevill on tree planting.
There was no further update.
- (e) **Village Maintenance, Waste and Litter**
- i. To any updates from Costa and MacDonalds. The response from MacDonalds was noted as disappointing, there was not further update from Costa.
It was **RESOLVED** to arrange the litter pick for Sunday 24th March 2024 at 10am.
- (f) **Climate Action**
- i. To review and update the Climate Action Plan.
The draft plan for Birling Estate was discussed and comments invited. An organised walk was discussed as a future activity. Comments will be noted at the next meeting.
- (g) **Strategic Plan Update**
- i. To review updated strategic plan.
It was agreed to refer to physical environment as ‘sense of place’ and ‘climate actions’ and split into two parts.
Health and Wellbeing – Climate change will move to a separate section.
Community Resilience Plan to be included under Climate Change, along with flooding, treeplanting and energy and the council’s action plan.
Physical activity under Health and Wellbeing, food/allotments.
Community Engagement – include School, remove book exchange project, learn issues through community network groups e.g.Whatsapp, church.
Annual Meeting.
Sense of Place – church, pub, village hall, war memorial, play area, footpaths, school, mobile library.
This will be prepared for comment at the next meeting.
- (h) **Annual Budget and Precept 2024/25**
- i. To consider final draft of budget and precept.
Following consultation on the website it was **RESOLVED** to approve a budget of £11,935 and precept of £11,625 which equates to £57.94 per Band D property, compared to £57.85 per Band D property in 2023/24.
- (i) **Beam** – to agree a donation.
It was **RESOLVED** to donate £50.00 to Beams.

145. Parish Business for Noting

(a) Website/Social Media platforms updates

To note the following added to online platforms:

- Road closures
- Christmas waste collections

(b) Parochial Church Council

- i. To receive regular update.

Thanks were noted to the parish council for support over the Christmas weekend.

(c) Resident Matters

- i. To note any recent local issues raised.

Christmas tree disposal and waste collection was noted as issues raised recently.

146. Correspondence

There were none.

147. Finance & Accounts

(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation December 2023

Net Bank Balances as at 31/12//2023 £18,543.02

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliation for December 2023.

(b) To note budget position year to date December 2023

The budget position as at December 2023 was noted. Reserves will be discussed at a future meeting. The reserves list will be moved from the separate worksheet to the budget worksheet for ease of review.

(c) To approve PAYE record January 2024.

The PAYE record was approved.

(d) BACS and DD to be approved and signed for January 2024

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Amount Net	VAT	Description
Various	Staff Costs	£527.84			January staff costs
LASER	Streetlighting	£28.57	£27.14	£1.43	Streetlight energy costs
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£62.73	£ 52.27	£ 10.46	Monthly Mailbox Costs
HugoFox	IT Costs	£11.99	£9.99	£2.00	Monthly website costs
Public Clocks	Clock	£191.63	159.69	£31.94	Clock service

148. Road

(a) To report any road issues

Gritting was discussed. It was noted that the KCC salt delivery had not been notified to the parish council and this will be chased. The Horse Chestnut tree had lost a branch.

(b) To note update on Stangate Road pothole

It was noted that the road needs to be closed to repair the pothole. The works to the Box Tree will be checked.

(c) Road Closures – see website for details.

- ii. To note temporary road closures affecting Birling Stangate Road to be notified.

149. Planning

(a) Applications to be considered – there were none.

(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council - there were none.

150. Matters for future meetings.

The usual substantive items will be on the agenda. Future meeting dates will be reviewed at the next meeting.

151. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 13th February 2024

Meeting closed at 21:39pm

Signed..... Date.....