

Birling Parish Council
MINUTES of the MEETING held on
Tuesday 4th November 2025 at 8pm All Saints Church, Birling.

Present: Cllr Westwood (chair); Cllr Hewett; Cllr Hirst; Cllr Nevill; Cllr Wright; Cllr Walker; Cllr Yates.

Also Present: J Miller Clerk.

82. Apologies for absence

There were none.

83. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

84. Approval and signing of minutes of meeting of 14 October 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of 14 October 2025.

85. Monthly Reports - County, Borough and Police Reports

(a) County Councillor Dodger Sian – no report

(b) Borough Councillors Paul Boxall and Bill Banks – email received

(c) Kent Police – no report

86. Open Forum – Public Participation Session - There were none.

87. (a) Matters arising and last month's circulation

i. **Ryarsh School**

ii. **Village Hall**

To receive any updates on availability of hall – there were none.

iii. **Horse Rider Safety**

To note update from Cllr Sian – awaiting engineer update.

(b) Matters for Information circulated to councillors

14/10 TMBC Local Plan Reg 18
15/10 Landscape Adhoc Works raised – the Bank
27/10 Chief executive's bulletin – 9th October
27/10 Parish Council Autumn update 2025
27/10 Weekly trackers
27/10 Road safety and active travel group
27/10 E Watch 2330
27/10 TMBC Public Space Protection Orders
27/10 E Watch 2331
27/10 Parish Partnership Panel 20th November 2025
27/10 Update bulletin week ended 17th October 2025
27/10 Counter terrorism security coordination
27/10 Peer group review /audit lead TMBC planning
27/10 Help us shape Kent's new walking and cycling
27/10 Support us in promoting Tonbridge library Rail200
27/10 Southeastern Stakeholder Engagement
27/10 Annual Policing Survey
27/10 Beat Officer Wards T&M Area
27/10 Domestic Violence Charity Donation request
27/10 Communication re Gatwick

Donations towards the Hospice, Domestic Violence charity and contributing to the Kent Walks initiative were resolved to be taken forward.

Cllr Nevil is speaking at the forthcoming KCC meeting on the Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy Launch.

88. Meetings

(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council

There were none.

(b) Future meetings

- (c)**
- i. KALC TM Area committee 06/11/25 - Cllr Westwood to attend
 - ii. KALC AGM 22/11/2025 – Cllr Hewett to attend.
 - i. Parish Partnership Panel – 20/11/2025 – Cllr Westwood to attend.
 - ii. Snodland Asphalt Meeting – 26/11/2025 – Cllr Hewett to attend.
 - iii. KALC T&M Committee - 15/01/2026

89. It was RESOLVED to move the following item ahead of business:

(a) Focus Session on Long Term Vision

- i. To review session on future Long Term Vision.

A document will be created and circulated to councillors outlining how the Community Governance Review process can be used to protect Birling as a parish.

Key points discussed:

- **Importance of the school:** The school plays a central role in creating and sustaining a strong sense of community.
- **Community priorities:**
 - Safe walking routes and footway access to local facilities.
 - Housing that supports all stages of life, enabling families to remain in the village across generations.
- **Village vision:**
 - While a range of views were expressed regarding the long-term vision, there was broad agreement on the core qualities that make Birling a good and sustainable village.
 - Discussion focused on different approaches to achieving sustainability while preserving these valued characteristics.
- **Next steps for councillors:**
 - Consider the available options and assess whether each option helps maintain the strengths of the village.
 - Identify external risks that could impact Birling's character or governance.
- **Further work:**
 - A 15-minute radius from the centre of Birling will be mapped to understand access to key services, shops, and facilities.
 - **Cllr Nevill** will prepare and circulate supporting notes.

90. Parish Business for Decisions

- (a) **Oast Park Golf Course**
 - i. To receive any updates
It was noted that the community group are seeking funding to perform a toxicology survey.
 - ii. To note no response from TMBC regarding TPO application, chase up emails have been sent – noted.
- (b) **Highways Improvement Plan**
 - i. To receive update from Cllr Hirst on request for annual review – there was no further update.
 - ii. To note lining of Bull Road referred to Cllr Sian – there was no further update.
- (c) **Local Plan**
 - i. To receive any updates.
It was noted that the consultation will begin in January 2026.
 - ii. To note meeting being organised with Snodland Town Council to discuss development at Paddlesworth – noted.
- (d) **Community Transport Grant / Bus Services**
 - i. To receive update on KALC T&M parish council initiatives – there as no further update.
- (e) **Jubilee and Coronation**
 - i. To receive update. The stone is cut and is at Gallaghers – base will be concreted on Saturday, asked to be tidy for Remembrance.
- (f) **Remembrance 2025**
 - i. To note road closure organised and volunteer marshals being sought- it was noted Cllr Hewett will be in attendance, a second person is still required. Large poppies shall be ordered for the war memorial railings next year.
- (g) **Village Maintenance, Waste and Litter**
 - i. To receive any updates – there were none.
 - ii. To note further quotes being obtained for noticeboard and funds agreed from KCC member fund.
 - iii. To note bank works job raised on KCC portal.

91. Parish Business for Noting

(a) Website/social media update

- i. To note the following added to the website:-
 - Road Closures
 - KCC budget consultation

(b) Parochial Church Council

- i. To receive regular update.
It was **RESOLVED** to fund three Christmas Trees supply and installation at a cost of £150.

(c) Resident Matters

- i. To note any recent local issues raised.
Speedwatch had been discussed on the resident group,

There were a lot of messages about fireworks and the implications for pets.

92. Correspondence

- (a) Emails from anonymous resident group from Leybourne/West Malling about Gypsy Traveller application on Birling Road – noted.

93. Finance & Accounts

- (a) **To approve Bank Reconciliation October 2025**

Net Bank Balances as at 01/11/2025 £19,195.85

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliation for October 2025

- (b) **To note budget position year to date October 2025-**
noted.

- (c) **To approve PAYE record November 2025**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record for November 2025.

- (d) **BACS to be approved and signed:**

Supplier	Budget	Gross	Detail
Various	Staff Costs	£ 770.55	Oct staff costs
Hugo Fox	IT Costs	£ 11.99	Monthly website costs
Laser	Streetlighting	£ 37.56	Streetlight energy
Ryarsh PTA	Donation	£ 250.00	Donation
Streetlighting	Streetlights	£ 195.24	Part 2 of maintenance payment
Air Ambulance	Donation	£ 75.00	Donation

- (e) **To approve donation to Domestic Violence charity**

To be discussed at the next meeting.

- (f) **To consider Budget and Precept forecasts for 2026/27**

This will be looked at next meeting.

94. Roads

- (a) **To report any road issues**

There was none.

- (b) **Road Closures**

- i. To note temporary road closures affecting Birling.
There were none.

95. Planning

- (a) **Applications to be considered**

There are none.

- (b) **Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council**

There are none.

96. Matters for future meetings – budget and precept, local plan,

97. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 2nd December 2025 followed by Tuesday 6th January 2026; Tuesday 17th March 2026; Tuesday 26th May 2026.

Meeting closed at 21:42pm

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