

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 12th September 2023 Birling Church at 8pm

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

Also in attendance: Clerk Ms J Miller; Borough Councillor Paul Boxall

72. Apologies for absence

It was **RESOLVED** to receive an approve apologies for absence from Cllr Walker and Cllr Nevill with reasons given. Apologies were also received from Mrs Hohler

73. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

74. Approval and signing of minutes of meeting of 11th July 2023

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the minutes of the meeting of 11th July 2023.

75. Reports

(a) County Council – Sarah Hohler
Mrs Hohler had sent apologies.

(b) Borough Councillors – Paul Boxall and Bill Banks

Cllr Boxall reported that TMBC will be starting a Regulation 18(b) for the Local Plan very soon.

Cllr Boxall spoke about how parishes can suggest projects for s106 funds using the Parish Infrastructure Statement.

Cllr Boxall also reported that Larkfield FC have been offered a new site for their football ground by local developers.

Cllr Boxall advised on the restrictions on borough councillors regarding planning matters but was aware that Borough Councillors are working on a response to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan to protect the area from disruption.

(c) Kent Police a report was received.

Motorbike nuisance and speed checks were noted.

76. Open Forum – Public Participation Session

There were none.

77. Matters arising and last month's circulation.

i. **Ryarsh School**

To receive any updates.

It was reported that the PTFA AGM is this week.

ii. **Village Hall access**

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

78. Matters for Information circulated to councillors.

12/07 KALC Meeting July 2023

19/07 Call in protocol

19/07 Local Plan Update

19/07 Kent County Council transport consultation

19/07 KALC Weekly Update

19/07 Snodland Asphalt Meeting

19/07 E Watch 2095

19/07 E Watch 2095
 19/07 E Watch 2096
 19/07 TMBC Regulation 18 Local Plan ID Numbers
 26/07 Kent and Medway Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy
 26/07 Kent Family Hub Public Consultation
 26/07 All Day August
 31/07 E Watch 2097
 31/07 E Watch 2098
 31/07 E Watch 2099
 31/07 KALC Annual General Meeting Motions
 31/07 E Watch 210131/07 Update on London Gatwick Northern Runway development
 04/08 Thanet Parkway Station Update
 04/08 RSN Rural funding digest
 04/08 NALC Events
 04/08 August Scam alerts
 04/08 KALC Weekly Bulletin
 14/08 E Watch 2102
 14/08 KALC News August
 14/08 E Watch 2102
 14/08 NALC Events
 14/08 The Rural Bulletin
 14/08 Annual Survey on Kent Police
 20/08 E Watch 2014
 20/08 NALC Events
 20/08 The Rural Bulletin
 20/08 Chief Executives Bulletin
 20/08 Ramblers Walks
 20/08 Kent Family Hub Consultation Reminder
 20/08 Gatwick FASI South IOA Outcomes Stakeholder engagement
 20/08 Rural community engagement
 20/08 E Watch 2105
 20/08 State of the Green Belt report
 04/09 Parish Partnership Panel 31/08
 04/09 News highlights for TMBC
 04/09 Kent Mineral and Waste Sites Plan – hard rock
 04/09 E Watch 2109
 04/09 Annual Canvass
 04/09 Chief Executives Bulletin

79. Meetings

(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council

- i. KALC T&M Area Committee 13/07/2023 – Cllr Westwood reported that there were updates on the Local Plan and Climate Action Plans. J5 Slips is being reinstated as a project, bus services are running well, and KCC budgets are being reduced.
- ii. Parish Partnership Panel 31/08/2023

(b) Future Meetings

- i. KALC T&M Area Committee 28/09/2023
- ii. Snodland Asphalt Meeting 24/10/2023
- iii. Parish Partnership Panel 02/11/2023
- iv. KALC T&M Area Committee 14/12/2023
- v. Parish Partnership Panel 08/02/2024
- vi. Parish Partnership Panel 30/05/2024

80. Parish Business for Decisions

(a) OEP Protected Sites Call for Evidence

- i. To consider sending a response (responses still being accepted)
[Call for Evidence - Protected sites for nature in England and Northern Ireland | Office for Environmental Protection \(theoep.org.uk\)](#)
This item was removed due to the amount of time lapsed since the original request.

(b) Highways

- i. To receive update from Cllr Hirst on Highways Improvement Plan.
The average speeds were 1.5mph over the limit to endorse a 20mph zone.
It was noted that soft measures are being investigated to reduce speeds, this will help reduce the speed for a future attempt at a 20mph zone application.
- ii. To receive update on bank infringement.
Photographs of the spoils falling down the bank were sent to Kent County Council to raise with the contractor that dug back the bank and further updates are awaited.
- iii. To receive update on safety issues at Leybourne Chase junction.
KCC have said there are already markings, give way signs and 30mph approach and there doesn't appear to be anything more that can be done.
The matter will be closed.

(c) Local Plan

- i. To note update
It was noted that the update on the KALC meeting was that a spread of development is preferred.
The general view appears to show a wish to retain the Strategic gap between East and West Malling.
The reason for the delayed public release of the Call for Sites information is unknown.
The reference number for Birling Parish Council does not refer to the consultee response and the Clerk will raise this with TMBC.
Councillors were referred to the CPRE paper on Green Belt policy.

(d) Community Transport Grant / Bus Services

- i. To receive update on KALC T&M parish council initiatives – there was no further update.

(e) Jubilee and Coronation

- i. To receive update on visit to Gallaghers to choose stone – dates are being investigated.
- ii. To receive update on Burslem response to sketch – there was no response as yet.
- iii. To receive update from Cllr Nevill on tree planting – there was no further update.

(f) Local Charities

- i. To receive update from Cllr Yates on hardship fund proposal
Cllr Yates reported that the cost for a child with additional health and educational needs such as half an hour of therapy is £50. £200 would help four children for one session. £200 could go towards training a member of staff to support children.
Cllr Yates will investigate further options around equity of access to sports and the cost of training a staff member.
Cllr Yates will remind the school that if there are children in Birling in need that the parish council is approached for funding options.

(g) Village Maintenance, Waste and Litter

- i. To approve contractor to cut grass around war memorial.
It was reported that the contractor may no longer be interested, and the Clerk will investigate.
- ii. To approve Box Tree works quote of £100.
It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the box tree works.
- iii. To note update on litter pick 07/10/2023 – noted.
Clerk to make the necessary arrangements for the litter pick.

(h) Climate Action

- i. To review and update the Climate Action Plan.
It was noted that Cllr Westwood attended the Fete and collected residents views on the plan.
It was noted that one of the comments from residents was that the Gooden's Trust is not promoted in Birling.
Lack of interest was thought to be the main issue causing a lack of engagement.
The lack of direct communication due to the termination of the church newsletter.
Concerns about the quarry were expressed.
A neighbouring resident was very interested and took photos.
The Parish Council could circulate a regular newsletter with advice and tips on actions residents can take to mitigate climate change.

Cllr Wright and the Birling Fete Committee were formally thanked for all the organisation of the Birling Fete.

It was **RESOLVED** for the parish council to fund £250 towards the band.

(i) Strategic Plan Update

- i. To review strategic plan – this item was deferred to the next meeting.

(j) Joint Standards Committee

- i. To consider appointing a representative – a representative will not be appointed.

(k) Website Charges

- i. To note website no longer free of charge and to consider bronze package at £9.99 per month – It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the bronze package.

(l) Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2023

- i. To note road closure applied for and wreath ordered.
The Clerk will email the stickers to Cllr Hirst to update the signs.
Cllr Walker would be asked if she would present the wreath on behalf of the parish council.

(m) Ryarsh Quarry Proposal

- i. To consider response.
Cllr Hewett shall prepare a response covering the issues debated by members and further to review it will be submitted.

81. Parish Business for Noting

(a) Website/Social Media platforms updates

To note the following added to online platforms:

- "All Day August"

- Rambling Dates for September
- Scam alerts
- Air Ambulance fundraising
- Birling Summer Fete and Cake Competition
- Kent Police Survey
- Parish Infrastructure survey decisions
- Climate action plan

(b) Parochial Church Council

- i. To receive regular update – no further update.

(c) Resident Matters

- i. To note any recent local issues raised – no significant matters raised.

82. Correspondence – all noted.

(a) Request for grant funding from Victim Support

It was **RESOLVED** to donate £50 to Victim Support.

(b) Email from resident concerning speeding vehicles – the clerk will respond with details of the survey and highways improvement plan that the parish council is working on with Kent County Council to address speeding.

83. Finance & Accounts

(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation August 2023

Net Bank Balances as at 31/08/2023 £16,242.22

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliation of August 2023.

(b) To note budget position year to date August 2023.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the budget position.

(c) To approve PAYE record September 2023.

BACS to be approved and signed.

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the following:

Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Amount Net	VAT	Description
Various	Staff Costs	£994.72			Staff costs Aug & Sept
LASER	Streetlighting	£23.92	£22.82	£1.10	Streetlight energy costs Sep
LASER	Streetlighting	£23.16	£22.00	£1.16	Streetlight energy costs Aug
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£62.73	£ 52.27	£ 10.46	Monthly Mailbox Costs
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£62.73	£ 52.27	£ 10.46	Monthly Mailbox Costs
KALC	Training	£5.00			KALC Training AGM

84. Road

(a) To report any road issues.

Pavement parking issues were noted.

(b) Road Closures – see website for details.

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

85. Planning

(a) Applications to be considered

There were none.

To note applications received during summer break:

i. TM/23/01689/TNCA Edward Jones All Saints Church Snodland Road Birling West Malling Kent Removal of trees referenced 3,4,5,13 and 15, being a Norway Maple and four Irish Yews, all of which are crowding the Chancel.

ii. TM/23/01772/TNCA Edward Jones 19 Ryarsh Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JW T1. Robinia at front gates, currently encroaching neighbouring garden. Proposed crown reduction by approx 40% from existing height and lateral spread of 6m x 6m respectively to 4m x 4m. to ensure a balanced, shaped, and visually appealing canopy. Removal of deadwood as found.

(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

There were none.

86. Matters for future meetings.

The usual substantive items will be on the agenda.

87. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10th October 2023

Meeting closed at 21:41pm

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