

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 12th July 2022

Birling Church at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mr N Hewett (Vice Chair)
Mr S Hirst
Mrs H Walker
Ms H Wright

Also in attendance: Clerk Ms J Miller, County Councillor Hohler, two members of the public.

54. Apologies for Absence

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies from Cllrs Westwood, Nevill and Yates. Apologies were received from Borough Councillors Kemp and Montague.

55. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

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

56. Approval and signing of minutes of meeting of 7th June 2022

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the minutes of 7th June 2022.

57. Reports

(a) Police update circulated prior to the meeting – noted.

(b) County Council

Cllr Hohler gave an update on the Reconnect Kent initiative to help young people with activities and mental health support. It was noted that Kent Children Services has been declared as one of the leading departments in the country. Cllr Hohler updated members on an interesting conference that she had attended on museums in Kent and how they work together. The solar farm in Offham was discussed and it was reported that Tom Tugendhat had written to the developer to ensure that the panels are not manufactured under slave labour in China. Cllr Hohler spoke on the proposed bus service reductions and the difficulties surrounding it, some discussion was had on how the funding can only be spent on bus routes that are commercially viable. Cllr Hohler gave an update on the Ukrainian refugee situation, there are more sponsors and visas in Kent than any other part of the country and guests are keen to work. There is government support for hosts to support the guests being distributed. The total number of guests in Tonbridge and Malling is currently 298. COVID advice is that members are tested before attending meetings at the County Council, although the government does not restrict those who test positive from going to work. Primary school children and over 55s infection rates are increasing. It was discussed that side effects are less severe but the strain of COVID is more easily spread. Cllr Hohler encouraged children to take part in the annual reading challenge at libraries, which this year is based on scientific books.

Cllr Hohler was thanked for supporting the parish council.

(c) Borough Councillors – No report was provided.

58. Open Forum – Public Participation Session

A member of the public spoke in opposition to the building of the garage at The Willows as it would be higher than the current fencing. The size and position of the house was highlighted. Potential highways safety issues with building contractors parking on the road were also raised.

It was **RESOLVED** to move the planning item forward on the agenda for a decision to be considered.

Cllr Hirst and Walker did not take part in the discussion.

59. Applications to be considered

(a) TM/22/01292/FL The Willows 81 Ryarsh Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JR Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling
It was **RESOLVED** no objection.

(b) TM/22/01293/FL The Willows 81 Ryarsh Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JR Erection of garage
It was **RESOLVED** to object to the garage for the same reasons as raised before.

60. Matters arising and last month's circulation

i. **Ryarsh School**

To receive any updates – it was noted that the school fete was the most successful to date and the parish council was thanked for its contribution.

ii. **Defibrillator Training**

To note training being organised – noted.

iii. **Village Hall access**

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

61. Matters for Information circulated to councillors

06/06 E Watch 1979
06/06 Parish Partnership Panel 1st September 2022
07/06 E Watch 1980
07/06 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin
07/06 KALC News May 2022
16/06 E Watch 1981
21/06 E Watch 1982
21/06 May elections training
21/06 E Watch 1983
21/06 Local government bulletin
21/06 Fire Stoppers campaign toolkit
21/06 Strike information south east trains
21/06 KALC councillors conference 30/06/2022
21/06 E Watch 1984
21/06 Minutes for Parish Partnership Panel
21/06 NALC Events
21/06 The rural bulletin
21/06 NALC chief executive bulletin
21/06 Dementia Survey
27/06 Local government bulletin
27/06 E Watch 1985
29/06 E Watch 1986
29/06 Census results published
29/06 Holiday activities for young people
29/09 Rural bulletin
29/06 Chief executives bulletin
29/06 Rural housing week
29/06 Review of Polling District/Places/Stations
29/06 PPP notes

02/07 Local government bulletin
02/07 June parish police newsletter
02/07 KALC Area meeting Agenda
02/07 E Watch 1987
02/07 T&M Ramblers
02/07 JPCTCG Bus Consultation updates – it was noted that the parish council are disappointed with the decisions by KCC with the bus reductions and will be monitoring this issue for further action.

62. Meetings

(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council

It was noted that Cllr Nevill had investigated the meetings of the Holmes foundation and sadly the charity had been struck off the register due to its inactivity. It was **RESOLVED** to nominate Cllr Nevill as a trustee on behalf of Birling Parish Council and for the council to request it to be resurrected for the benefit of local children. Ryarsh and Leybourne Parish Council's shall be encourage to take part.

(b) Future Meetings

- i. T&M KALC – 21/07/2022 – Cllr Westwood
- ii. Tour of asphalt plant 28/07/2022 – Cllr Westwood
- iii. TMBC Parish Partnership Panel – 01/09/2022 (online) – Cllr Westwood
- iv. TMBC Parish Partnership Panel – 03/11/2022 (in person) – Cllr Westwood

63. Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Highways Improvement Plan

- i. To receive any updates – there was no further update.

(b) Bank Infringement

- i. To note solicitor requested to provide information regarding the evidence sent in relation to any precedents set by KCC maintaining the verge.
It was noted that the request had been sent and were no further updates.

(c) Local Plan

- i. To receive any updates – there was no further update.

(d) Rural Broadband

- i. To receive any updates – there was no further update.

(e) Queen's Jubilee

- i. To receive update on visit to Gallaghers to choose stone – it was noted that Cllr Nevill and Cllr Westwood will be visiting the plant.
- ii. To receive update from Cllr Nevill on treeplanting – it was noted that this will take place in the winter.

(f) Freedom of the Parish

- i. To note no response from Malling Action Partnership or councillors – noted. Cllr Walker will investigate a further contact, Cllr Yates is working on this too.
- ii. To review wording of scroll and approve order.
It was **RESOLVED** for the clerk to obtain a draft and following circulation to councillors for checking, the scroll shall be ordered.
- iii. To consider arrangements for 6th September meeting.
It was agreed to proceed with the plan.

(g) Review of Polling District/Places/Stations

- i. To consider response
It was **RESOLVED** to note and support the proposal to keep Birling Village Hall as a polling station.

64. Parish Business for Noting

(a) Website update

To note the following added to the website:-

- Rail strike information
- Holiday activities
- Road closures
- Free bus pass for school holidays

(b) Parochial Church Council

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

(c) Whatsapp Group Matters

- i. To note any issues raised on the Birling Whatsapp Group
It was noted that there were no significant updates.

(d) TMBC Waste Collections

- i. To note weekly reports – noted.

65. Correspondence – all noted.

There was none.

66. Finance & Accounts

- (a)** To sign new bank mandate form to add Cllr Yates and remove Cllr Spooner. To approve Bank Reconciliation June 2022.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation for June 2022.
Net Bank Balances as at 30/06/2022 £18,272.82

- (c)** To note budget position year to date June 2022 – noted.

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

- (d)** To approve clerk overtime for Jubilee – 5 hours.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the clerk's overtime.

- (e)** To approve PAYE record July 2022.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record for July 2022.

- (f)** BACS to be approved and signed

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

Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Amount Net	VAT	Description
Various	Staff Costs	£540.26	£436.06	n/a	July Staff costs
Public Clocks Ltd	Reserves	£182.51	£152.09	£30.42	Clock service for jubilee
LASER	Streetlights	£8.67	£8.26	£0.41	Streetlight energy May 2022
Streetlights	Streetlights	£178.80	£149.00	£29.80	Half yearly street light maintenance contract
STL	Reserves	£478.32	£398.60	£79.72	Generator and fuel for jubilee picnic
Waveney IT (Direct Debit)	IT Costs	£57.53	£47.94	£9.94	Monthly mailbox hosting

67. 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 Ashton Way; White Horse Road

68. Planning

(a) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

There were none.

69. Matters for future meetings

The usual substantive items will be on the agenda.

Date of next meeting: Extra Ordinary Meeting - Tuesday 6th September 2022, Tuesday 13th September 2022.

Meeting closed at 21:34pm

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