

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 9th March 2021 via Video Conference Call at 8pm

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

Clerk Ms J Miller

Also in attendance: County Councillor Hohler; Borough Councillor Montague

355. Apologies for absence

There were none.

356. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

357. Reports - County, Borough and Police

Cllr Hohler reported that the new initiative '1youkent' has been launched, giving advice on weight loss and healthy living.

Fly tipping was discussed and it was noted that the types of fly tipping found in Kent has not been linked to the charges for waste recycling sites.

Cllr Hohler reminded all that responses to the Vision Zero consultation are due by 15th March and encouraged everyone to take part.

It was confirmed that elections are going ahead on 6th May in a COVID secure environment.

Cllr Hohler was thanked by councillors for assisting with the parish fly tipping issues.

Cllr Montague reported that Birling has had a lot of fly tipping issues.

A strategy for measuring and actioning fly tipping will be put into place and is now a priority at the borough council at meeting of the Street Scene and Environment Services Advisory Board on 8th June

Cllr Montague reported that the inspectors continue to disagree with TMBC over the local plan. TMBC has appealed to the Secretary of State to intervene. Judicial Review is the only route to challenge the decision however as this has not been successful in the past for other authorities it is not seen as a viable option

It was suggested and Cllr Montague agreed, that he would contact Cllr Betts to investigate Maidstone BC strategies for tackling fly tipping. It was noted that Birling, West Peckham have the most amount of fly tipping but Cllr Montague was unsure if they were a 'hot spot'.

Cllr Yates noted the lack of published statistical information for fly tipping from TMBC as compared with other Local Authorities and requested this matter urgently be resolved.

358. Open Forum – Public Participation Session

There were none.

359. Approval and signing of minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meetings on 9th February 2021.

360. Matters arising and last month's circulation

i. Parking issues

To receive update from Cllr Hirst regarding photographs of issues – it was noted that photos will be taken as soon as possible.

ii Meeting with Ryarsh School

It was noted that the meeting notes have been deferred due to the return to school.

iii. Culverts

Deferred due to Corona Virus.

To note KCC cleared culvert at Birling Park Estate

iv. Box Tree

It was noted that the tree surgeon will meet with Cllr Hirst to formulate a plan to report back to the next meeting.

361. Matters for Information circulated to councillors

03/02/2021 KALC News January 2021
03/02/2021 Joint Standards Board cancelled
03/02/2021 Local Government Bulletin 2 Feb
03/02/2021 RSN Rural Funding Digest
03/02/2021 JPCTCG Minutes
03/02/2021 KALC introduction to planning
03/02/2021 Local Government Bulletin 01 Feb
03/02/2021 Rural Bulletin
03/02/2021 E Watch 1840
04/02/2021 Parish Partnership Panel
09/02/2021 Financial support for councils COVID19
09/02/2021 Vision Zero
09/02/2021 NALC chief executive bulletin
09/02/2021 Domestic abuse posters
09/02/2021 National CSSC Green Message
09/02/2021 E Watch 1842
09/02/2021 Fly tipping duty of care campaign
09/02/2021 Waste updates
11/02/2021 Current consultations KCC and TMBC
11/02/2021 JPCTCG next meeting
12/02/2021 Bin collection updates
22/02/2021 Information on Parish Partnership Panel
22/02/2021 KCC public health services
22/02/2021 Gatwick Airport updates
22/02/2021 KALC Planning conference 17th March
22/02/2021 E Watch 1843
22/02/2021 Local Government Bulletin 11 Feb
22/02/2021 Petition for rural bus services
22/02/2021 KALC Upcoming Events
22/02/2021 E Watch 1845
22/02/2021 Local Government Bulletin 15 Feb
22/02/2021 Remote meetings KALC
22/02/2021 NALC chief executive bulletin
22/02/2021 Kent Wildlife Trust newsletter
22/02/2021 KALC workshop Zoom for beginners
22/02/2021 KALC CEO bulletin
22/02/2021 Local Government Bulletin 16 Feb
22/02/2021 KCC adult social care
22/02/2021 Agenda for area 2 planning committee
22/02/2021 Local Government Bulletin 18 Feb
22/02/2021 The rural bulletin

22/02/2021 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin
22/02/2021 Local Government Bulletin 12 Feb
27/02/2021 Innovation Park Medway
27/02/2021 Agenda Joint Transportation Board
27/02/2021 Local Government Bulletin 25 Feb

362. Meetings

(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council

25/02/2021 Tarmac Liaison Meeting – Cllr Westwood
08/02/2021 Standards Training TMBC – Clerk
03/03/2021 Vision Zero KCC – Cllr Hirst

(b) Future meetings

15/04/2021 JPCTCG – Cllr Hirst
24/03/2021 KALC – Cllr Westwood

363. Parish Business for Decisions

1. Highways Improvement Plan

- i. To note response from Ian Grigor
The highways plan will commence with the new Highways Officer Bradley Short who starts week commencing 15th March 2021.

(b) Bank Infringement

To consider legal advice at a cost of £1000+ VAT

It was **RESOLVED** to seek an alternative quote from ELS and to verify KALC's quote. It was discussed that the two questions being asked are (1) is the KCC advice correct and (2) what are the solutions open to the parish council.

Cllr Hewett left the meeting at 20:55pm

(c) Local Plan

- i. To note update
This item was covered earlier in the meeting.

(d) Coronavirus updates

- i. To note roadmap to lifting national lockdown restrictions – noted.

- ii. To note community support efforts update from BART

There were no further updates.

- iii. To note Village Hall update

It was noted that litter found in the car park had been reported to TMBC as it contained a traceable fixed penalty notice document. TMBC and the police both confirmed that they couldn't act on the evidence unless there was a witness to the litter being dropped.

(e) Fly Tipping / Litter

- i. To consider Spring Clean litter pick 28th May – 13th June.

It was **RESOLVED** to arrange the litter pick for 12th June 2021.

The clerk will display the poster after Easter and arrange the risk assessment documents with TMBC.

- ii. To note Cllr Hohlers action and response from Cllr Betts – noted.

(f) Model Design Code

- i. To consider response to NALC/MCHLG

It was **RESOLVED** that the KALC response was sufficient.

(g) Streetlighting

i. To consider contractors advice

It was **RESOLVED** to share the information received from the contractor with the resident to advise the resident that the parish council shall not be taking any further action.

(h) Strategic Plan

i. To note survey delivered and advertised online
Reminders will be sent nearer to the closing date.

Cllr Hewett re-entered the meeting at 21:33pm

It was **RESOLVED** to investigate the Kent Rural Fibre Broadband Project with George Chandler at KCC.

ii. To consider format of results analysis and presentation at Annual Parish Meeting
It was **RESOLVED** to formulate the responses in a similar style to the last consultation, with all comments listed.

364. Parish Business for Noting

(a) Website update

i. To note the following added to the website:-

- Road Closures and M20 Updates
- Corona Updates
- Covid scams
- Domestic Abuse help
- Bin updates (snow)
- Parish Survey

365. Correspondence

(a) Email from resident asking about next litter pick – clerk to respond.

(b) Email from resident asking about plaque – clerk to respond and explain it's an imported bridge so the person is unknown.

366. Finance & Accounts

(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation February 2021.

Net Bank Balances as at 28/02/2021 £21,532.04.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation for February 2021

(b) To note budget position year to date February 2021

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget position to date February 2021.

(c) To approve PAYE record March 2021.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record for March 2021.

(d) BACS to be approved and signed (in person at next face to face meeting):

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the BACS payments for January.

J Miller	Staff Costs	£283.29	N/A	N/A	Salary March
HMRC Cumbernauld	Staff Costs	£176.00	N/A	N/A	PAYE March
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£45.60	£38.00	£7.60	monthly mailbox charge

J Miller	Clerk Expenses	£138.37	N/A	N/A	Ink, Paper, Mileage Clerk
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It was **RESOLVED** to donate to the Air Ambulance, Citizens Advice Bureau, Kenward Trust, Heart of Kent Hospice £125 each.

367. Roads

(a) To report any road issues

There were none.

(b) To report any updates on M20 Smart Motorway Works

It was **RESOLVED** to respond to Highways England regarding the small size of the trees that had been planted.

(c) Road Closures

A road closure had been notified after the agenda had been issued. It was **RESOLVED** for the clerk to find out where the road will be closed for resurfacing.

368. Planning

(a) Applications to be considered

There were none.

(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

TM/19/02491/FL Former Manor House Walled Garden, The Birling Estate, Stangate Road, Birling
Redevelopment, restoration and change of use of former kitchen garden into a wellness centre with treatment rooms, yoga studio, café and ancillary accommodation.

369. Matters for future meetings

The standing items shall be added to the agenda. Feedback from the consultation will be added to the next agenda.

The legislation for remote meetings will need to be discussed at the next meeting.

370. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 13th April 2021

Meeting closed at 22:12pm

Signed.....

Date.....