

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 14th September 2021 Birling Church

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

Also in attendance: Clerk Ms J Miller; County Councillor Sarah Hohler.

72. Apologies for absence

There were none.

External apologies were received from Borough Cllr Kemp, Montague and County Councillor Hohler.

73. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

74. Reports

The police report was circulated prior to the meeting.

75. Approval and signing of minutes of meeting of July 13th 2021.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the signing of the minutes of July 13th 2021

76. Open Forum – Public Participation Session

Cllr Hohler discussed the issue of narrow pavements between Birling and Ryarsh. It was noted that Mrs Hohler was successful in having the footway up to the school laid in 1989, the parish council will continue to work with KCC officers to see what can be done to improve pedestrian safety around the parish.

Cllr Hohler reported that investigations are ongoing into road safety near the pit.

Cllr Hohler also reported that KCC did not support the proposed HGV park at Wrotham, opposite the Shell garage, despite this being reported on social media.

Other information discussed included the training of new blue badge enforcement officers to check use of disabled parking bays and the re-commencement of caring for asylum seeking children.

It was noted that the consultation on waste recycling bookings had received a record response and improvements are underway to make contact with adult social care better for residents.

The Kent Community Foundation 20th anniversary and the Turner Contemporary 10th anniversary was noted.

Recycling was discussed and it was suggested that residents cover their green boxes, as when cardboard gets wet it is not possible to recycle.

77. Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Matters arising and last month's circulation

i. Ryarsh School

To note hedge to north side reported for cutback.

Cllr Walker reported that the head teacher is looking for a more permanent solution rather than relying on PCSO visits to address the traffic safety issues. Cllr Walker will contact the head teacher and suggest a meeting between the school and the two parish councils, inspector of the CSU and the chair of governors to work on a solution.

ii. **Culverts**

To note site visit with Emma Burdett KCC requested – noted.

iii. **Box Tree**

It was noted that there is no objection from TMBC for box tree works. Cllr Hirst will arrange for the works to be done.

iv. **Benches**

To note appeal for quotes posted on carpentry/trades websites as no response from nearby traders – noted.

Cllr Walker will contact a neighbouring parishioner to see if they can help.

v. **LED Lighting Costs**

It was noted that the inventory had been updated with UK Power Networks, although the costs may not change due to some of the lamps being on overnight.

vi. **TMBC proposed Boundary Changes**

It was agreed that Birling fitted better into 'Pilgrims Ward' as rural parishes together in the ANOB with the historic BART connections. It was agreed to send an email to Ryarsh PC and ask their view. Clerk to draft a response to Ryarsh and circulate to members.

78. Matters for Information circulated to councillors

- 17/07/21 Review of Parish Partnership Panel
- 19/07/21 T&M KALC area committee 22nd July 21
- 20/07/21 KCCs reconnect programme
- 20/07/21 Stagecoach newsletter
- 20/07/21 KALC CEO Newsletter July
- 20/07/21 NALC chief executive bulletin
- 20/07/21 E Watch 1888
- 20/07/21 Rural Bulletin
- 20/07/21 Kent Plan Bee Newsletter
- 21/07/21 Local Government Bulletin 19 July
- 21/07/21 E Watch 1887
- 21/07/21 What does the countryside mean to you
- 27/07/21 E Watch 1890
- 27/07/21 E Watch 1890
- 27/07/21 Rural Bulletin
- 27/07/21 Local Government Bulletin 26 July
- 27/07/21 Draft KCC Adult Social Care Strategy
- 27/07/21 National CSSC message
- 27/07/21 Garden Waste
- 27/07/21 2021 Y2 Crew
- 27/07/21 Hedgerows
- 27/07/21 Parliamentary Boundary Review
- 27/07/21 COVID 19 recovery
- 29/07/21 Local Government Bulletin 28 July
- 29/07/21 NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme
- 30/07/21 E Watch 1891
- 30/07/21 Invitation to KCC Road Safety Strategy Launch
- 30/07/21 Gatwick in touch Newsletter
- 02/08/21 KALC News July
- 02/08/21 All Members Weekly Update
- 02/08/21 Local Government 27 July
- 02/08/21 NALC Chief Executives Bulletin
- 02/08/21 Local Government Bulletin 30 July
- 03/08/21 E Watch 1892
- 03/08/21 The Rural Bulletin 3 August 21
- 03/08/21 Agenda for Area 2 Planning Committee

03/08/21 E Watch 1889
 03/08/21 Police Parish Newsletter
 06/08/21 E Watch 1893
 16/08/21 E Watch 1894
 19/08/21 The Rural Bulletin
 16/08/21 Local Government Bulletin 9 August
 16/08/21 Local Government Bulletin 10 August
 16/08/21 Supplementary Reports Director Planning, Housing and Environmental Health
 16/08/21 Summer edition of the Kent PCC's newsletter
 16/08/21 Local Government Bulletin 11 August
 16/08/21 KCC NEW Covid – safe reopening of community venues
 16/08/21 Through your eyes a week in our countryside
 16/08/21 E Watch 1895
 16/08/21 Local Government Bulletin 12 August
 16/08/21 KALC Events for September
 16/08/21 Waste weekly update briefing
 16/08/21 NALC Chief Executives Bulletin
 16/08/21 North Downs Way Ambassadors
 16/08/21 Local Government Bulletin
 16/08/21 NALC Newsletter
 16/08/21 National Resilience Strategy Call for Evidence
 18/08/21 E Watch 1896
 18/08/21 The Rural Bulletin 17-08-21
 18/08/21 Local Bulletin 16 August
 19/08/21 KALC T&M Area Committee Meeting
 19/08/21 KCC Consultation – KCC Household Waste Recycling Centres Booking
 31/08/21 E Watch 1897
 31/08/21 KALC CEO Bulletin
 31/08/21 Waste Collections – weekly update briefing
 31/08/21 For your information – latest adult social care engagement opportunities
 31/08/21 Papers for KALC T&M meeting
 31/08/21 KALC News August 21

79. Meetings

(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council

22/07/2021 KALC T&M Area Committee – Cllr Westwood
 28/07/2021 Ryarsh PC/MP M20 Noise meeting – unable to attend
 25/08/2021 KALC T&M Area Committee – Cllr Westwood
 01/09/2021 Kent Community speedwatch – Cllr Hirst
 03/09/2021 Parish Partnership Panel – Cllr Westwood

(b) Future meetings

16/09/2021 JPCTCG – Cllr Hirst had sent apologies
 13/11/2021 KALC AGM – Cllr Westwood will be attending

80. Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Highways Improvement Plan

- i. To note update from Cllr Hirst comments forwarded to Cllr Hohler.
 It was noted that Cllr Hohler will be asked for feedback from the speed survey. A response from KCC officers is awaited.

(b) Bank Infringement

- i. To note legal advice in progress, delayed due to changes in personnel.

The minutes were interrogated back to 2001 and it was **RESOLVED** to make a FOI request to Kent County Council for all reports and internal correspondence in reference to the bank infringement on Ryarsh Road, Birling from 2012. It was **RESOLVED** to send copies of the minutes to the solicitor for information purposes.

(c) Local Plan

i. To note Local Plan update

It was noted that the Local Plan has been withdrawn, the next advisory committee at the borough council is on 10th November.

(f) Strategic Plan

i. To conduct quarterly review (Sept, Dec, Mar, June)

Cllr Westwood and Walker shall order the bulbs for planting from the 2021-22 contingency budget.

It was noted the clock needed to be re-set at the Church. The clerk will make arrangements.

(g) Rural Broadband

i. To note awaiting return of KCC officer on 13th September to proceed with project.

It was noted that the details are now being sent to Openreach for quotes.

(j) Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022

i. To receive update from Cllr Nevill regarding village hall committee and organising joint celebrations.

It was noted that the village party committee may arrange a 'Big Lunch' event or similar.

(i) KCC Consultation on Recycling arrangements

i. To consider response.

It was **RESOLVED** for the parish council not to respond as a corporate body. Individual councillors will respond as they see fit. The council noted that the booking system appears to be working well.

81. Parish Business for Noting

(a) Website update

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

Summer holiday activities

Litter petition

Emergency contact details

Bus timetable

(b) Parochial Church Council

i. To receive regular update

It was noted that the financial position had not improved. The reorganisation is underway and the squirrel issues are being investigated.

ii Parish Magazine – possibility of continuation

It was noted that the parish council could advertise in a parish newsletter from the church.

(c) Whatsapp Group Matters

i. To note any issues raised on the Birling Whatsapp Group

There was nothing further to report.

ii. To note Village Fete held on 4 September

It was reported that the fete was a huge success.
 It was noted that concerns had been raised during the fete to parish councillors about the apparent restricted access to the village hall for residents. Cllr Nevill agreed to raise the matter with the Trustees.

(d) TMBC Waste Collections

- i. To note weekly reports
 It was noted

82. Correspondence

- (a) Tom Tugendhat letter to the Secretary of State for Transport regarding issues concerning traffic noise on the M20 – noted.
- (b) Request from resident to be added to village Whatsapp group – this had been done.

83. Finance & Accounts

(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation July and August 2021.

Net Bank Balances as at 31/08/2021 £21,659.72.

The bank statements shall be signed at the next meeting.

(b) To note budget position year to date August 2021 – noted.

(c) To approve PAYE record September 2021

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record for July 2021

(d) BACS to be approved and signed

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

Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Amount Net	VAT	Description
J Miller	Staff Costs	£283.69	N/A	N/A	Sept Salary
HMRC	Staff Costs	£175.60	N/A	N/A	Sept PAYE
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£45.60	£38.00	£7.60	August Monthly Mailbox Charge
KCC	Streetlights	£49.30	£46.95	£2.35	August Streetlighting energy
Birling Church	Donation for hire	£300.00			Meeting hire 2021-22
Birling Village Fete	Donation	£250.00	£0.00	£0.00	Annual donation

84. Roads

(a) To report any road issues

Items were discussed earlier in the meeting.

(b) Road Closures – see website for details

- i. **To note temporary road closures affecting Birling:**
 Paddlesworth Road.

85. Planning

(a) Applications to be considered

There were none.

(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

- i. TM/21/02071/TNCA All Saints Church Snodland Road Birling West Malling Kent Works to reduce the height and spread of a Box tree by 1m to form a rounded balanced shape and raise low crown to give a 2m ground clearance

- ii. TM/21/01748/FL Land East Of Sandy Lane Birling West Malling Kent Section 73 Application: Variation of condition 9 (working hours) and condition 11 (out of hours working) submitted pursuant to planning permission TM/17/03515/FL – WITHDRAWN.

86. Matters for future meetings

Clerk annual appraisal – due September 2021; Budget 2022-23; Cllr Nevill asked for Birling PC to be a consultee on the Woodland Management Plan; Cllr Nevill advised that a planning application for cabins at the camp site will be presented in December.

87. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 12th October 2021 8pm

Meeting closed at 22:30pm

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