

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 11 October 2016 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Westwood (Chair) Mr Grimmett (Vice Chair)
 Ms Harrington Mr Hewett
 Mrs Spooner

Mrs Grimmett (Clerk) and County Cllrs Sarah Hohler & Matthew Balfour

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

No apologies were received.

2 Reports

Borough: Cllr Balfour said he had nothing to report at this time.

County: Councillors were concerned to hear the sad news of the death of Anne Maloney, Vice Chair of Snodland Town Council. Cllrs Hohler and Balfour reported on the issues of HGVs and said that another reason for HGVs being driven through the village is that some drivers are not using specialist HGV satnavs which would show the roads best suited to them and that Paddock Wood & Paddlesworth get mixed up. Consultations on the proposed no right turn at Castle Way continue, the likelihood being that if it goes ahead the roundabout at the A228/Bull Road junction will be remodelled. In response to Cllr Hewett's question as to whether a decision had been made on Ryarsh School's application for a new hall, Cllr Hohler said that objections and comments are being looked into and the application will probably go to Committee in November or December. Cllr Hewett also asked if TMBC would be submitting a response to the Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries Report and Cllr Balfour replied that no discussions had yet taken place. Cllr Hohler reported that the results of Kent Schools are impressive despite Ofsted being tougher. The KCC Budget will be announced next week.

Cllrs Hohler & Balfour left at 8.25pm.

Crime: Nothing picked up from EWatch.

3 Open Forum

Nothing was raised under this heading.

4 Approval and Signing of Minutes of Previous Month's Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 September 2016 be **APPROVED** and they were **SIGNED** by the Chair.

5 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) **Actions from September's meeting:**

Unsuitable for HGVs sign – the illuminated sign at the A228 and Bull Road junction had been replaced but was facing the wrong way. The Clerk had spoken to the Highways Steward who was hoping to turn it round in the next few days.

Mr Tugendhat's contribution to Parish magazine – as Cllr Walker was absent deferred to November's meeting

Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries – It was **AGREED** that the letter drafted by Cllr Westwood be sent to the Boundary Commission.

(b) **Website training**

The Clerk had attended the training session but had been at a disadvantage as other attendees had been issued with a training manual prior to the session. She now has the manual and will request a further training session in the next few weeks. The Clerk

expressed concerns about having time to fully utilise and upload information onto the website and asked if anyone would be able to assist. Cllr Harrington offered to help but stated that she would need training.

(c) Tree Walk

Cllr Harrington had organised the walk on Sunday 9 October. Only 4 people had attended but they had all learnt a lot. The tree warden who conducted the walk had been extremely knowledgeable and very enthusiastic.

(d) Any other matters arising

Nothing was raised under this heading.

6 Parish Business and Decisions

(a) Appointment of Internal Auditor

Support and estimated hours to complete the audit being the same as the previous auditor it was **AGREED** that Mr Robbins be appointed auditor for BPC.

(b) Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The Chair and Clerk had reviewed the Financial Regulations but there had been insufficient time to review the Standing Orders.

Action: Deferred until November.

(c) Charitable Donations

It was **AGREED** to make the following charitable donations of £50 each:

Age Concern	The Beat Project
Heart of Kent Hospice	Kent Air Ambulance Trust
Tonbridge & Malling CAB	Victim Support

Action: The Clerk to establish to whom a cheque should be sent to at Kent Association of Youth/Try Angle Awards as in previous years cheques had gone astray causing much additional work.

(d) Asset Register

Having discussed PKF Littlejohn's comments regarding non-listing of assets on the Audit with Kevin Funnell, the Clerk advised that it was up to Council to decide what value of assets should be listed.

Action: Deferred until November to be reviewed with Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

(e) Any other Parish Business

2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement – Technical Financial Consultation

Cllr Hewett asked whether Birling PC should reply to this consultation given the draft response provided by the National Association of Local Councils. The clerk advised that a draft response was required for approval.

Action: The Chair agreed to review the matter outside the meeting and draft a response for ratification by councillors.

Community Awards Scheme

It was **DECIDED** not to take part in this scheme

Secure Trust Bank

The Clerk reported that Secure Trust had notified a reduction in the interest rate from 2%AER to 1.25%AER wef 13 February 2017.

Action: Decision to remain with or leave Secure Trust deferred until November.

Testing of Street Light Columns

TMBC had asked if BPC would like their only 2 street light columns (o/s Birling Park and o/s The Close) to be included in TMBC's regulatory survey programme at a cost of £9.95

each. Cllr Walker and the Clerk had **AGREED** that this should be done.

Action: Clerk to arrange for ivy on column o/s Birling Park to be removed.

Ham Hill Quarry Liaison Group

Cllr Westwood will attend the next meeting on 20 October.

7 Correspondence

TMBC - Local Plan The Way Forward Consultation

Cllrs Westwood and Hewett will attend a meeting at Kings Hill on 17 October. Cllr Hewett advised that there are also public exhibitions being held in the borough.

Action: Cllr Hewett to produce notes to be distributed prior to November's meeting when BPC will prepare their response.

KALC Notice of 69 AGM 19 November

KALC response to cap parish council – re precept

8 Financial Matters

(a) The quarterly reconciliation sheet, bank statements & PAYE records were signed. NatWest balances as at 30 September 2016:

Current £20897.20 Reserve £100.45 (Interest £0.01 received 30/9/2016)

Secure Trust Bank: £17239.22 (Interest £86.04 received 30/9/2016)

(b) Cheques to be signed

The following cheques were signed:

			Net	VAT	Gross
1506	Mrs Grimmett	October salary & reimbursements			£371.21
1507	Public Clocks Ltd	Church Clock resetting	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00

(c) Any other financial business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

Cllr Harrington left the meeting at 9.30pmdue to a prior engagement.

9 Roads

(a) JPCTCG

Minutes of the meeting on 21 September not yet received.

(b) Any other roads business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

10 Planning

New:

TM/16/02658/FL Timberley, 19 Masters Lane ME19 5JP

Demolition of existing detached house and replacement with 2 detached dwellings with garaging & parking & widening & improvement of the vehicular access

BPC: Comments made

Decisions:

TM/16/02313/FL 4 Dykes Place, 354 Stangate Road ME19 5JJ

Rear ground & 1st floor extension with internal reconfiguration & additional side windows.

BPC: No objections

TMBC: Approved

TM/16/02266/FL The Cottage, Masters Lane ME19 5JP Mr Cheeseman

Demolition of lean to and single storey extension to side & rear of property.

BPC: No objections

TMBC: Refused

11 Any Other Business

Nothing was raised under this heading

12 Date of next meeting

As previously agreed the next meeting will be held at **8pm on Tuesday 8 November 2016**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.