

Birling Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 11 June 2013 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Jacquie Westwood (Chair) Mr Ron Nudd (Vice Chair)
Mr Colin Grimmett Mr David Hopper
Mr Guy Nevill Mrs Sylvia Spooner
Mrs Helen Walker

Cllr Matthew Balfour, Mrs Grimmett (Clerk) and PCSOs Laura Bullen and Mark Thomas and Mr Tony Beadle

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Sarah Hohler and Ann Kemp

2 Reports

Cllr Balfour reported that TMBC are progressing with the development of leisure centre management to effect savings of approx £500,000 pa and the local plan which will be discussed at the next Parish Partnership Panel meeting.

PCSO Bullen reported that there had been a spate of shed break-ins recently particularly in the Fairseat and Stansted areas and a ride on mower and chainsaw had been stolen from Ryarsh. An arrest had been made but it was not yet known whether the individual was responsible for all the break-ins. A very noisy birthday party at a property in Snodland Road had kept residents in Birling and Ryarsh awake all night resulting in the police receiving 6 calls between 11.30pm Saturday and 6am Sunday. Unfortunately, all officers in the area were otherwise engaged and no-one had been available to attend.

PCSO Bullen had called at the property the following Monday but the tenant was out and PCSO Bullen had since been off shift but will continue to try and make contact. As an ex councillor, Mr Beadle had been asked by several of his neighbours to attend the meeting and convey their complaints, TMBC Environmental Health Officer had received 1 complaint, Cllr Westwood 1 complaint and the Clerk emails from 2 residents and Ryarsh Parish Council. The property is owned by Birling Estate and Cllr Nevill said that they had written to the tenants to say that they were in breach of their tenancy agreement and will write to them again next year ahead of the birthday to ensure that the situation does not occur again. The Clerk had spoken to the Environmental Health Officer who said that, as it was a one off, there was little they could do but they will be writing to the household. In light of this Birling PC felt that the matter was in hand with the appropriate agencies.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2 April 2013 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by the Chair.

4 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Traffic calming repairs

The tarmac around the cobbles had been replaced but at a lower level than the road Surface causing puddles when wet. Clerk waiting for a response from Kent Highways.

(b) Committees

Cllr Balfour will continue to represent the Parish Council on the John May, Goddens and Holmes Foundation committees

(c) Salt bin in Stangate Road

This has been replaced.

(d) Special Joint Committee meeting 14/3/13 re Provision of Bus Services for Pembury Hospital

This was not to discuss the provision of additional bus services but to clarify technicalities on existing services.

(e) Community Art Project

The picture is now stored in Cllr Hopper's stables but a permanent home still needs to be found.

(f) Birling Road

Sandbagging the bank of the ditch had been completed. The men at work signs and cones had been removed from the motorway bridge. The work had not been completed as a telegraph pole needs to be removed before the final railing post can be installed and the verges need to be levelled. No dates have been given for this work.

(g) Any other matters arising

The Clerk had asked Kent Highways to cut back vegetation along The Bank which is scheduled for 26 June..

5 Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Review of Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

Chairman and Clerk had not yet done this – to be raised next month.

(b) Any other business

Cllr Westwood said that the war memorial might benefit from professional cleaning and/or some restoration to the engraving. Cllr Walker agreed to photograph the memorial and circulate the pictures to confirm what renovation works may be required. It was agreed that any required works should be undertaken in order to have the memorial in a good condition for the forthcoming centenary of the first World War. Clerk to obtain advice and quotes.

6 Open Forum

Nothing was raised under this heading.

7 Correspondence

KALC re Mobile connectivity in England - in the bag

KALC Community Infrastructure Levy - in the bag

Emails from PCSO Bullen and resident re noisy party in Snodland Road – already dealt with
KCC – Vegetation clearance on public rights of way – Cllr Westwood to give Clerk details of additional paths needing to be cut

Email from JPCTCG re M25 slip Ron can't make it but Colin will cover.

Email - Lower Thames Crossing Consultation – no response

In the Bag

Department for Communities & Local Government – Community Infrastructure Levy

TMBC – Joint Transportation Board agenda 10/6/13

TMBC – Standards & Training Committee agenda 12/6/13

TMBC – PPP agenda 13/6/13

8 Financial Matters

(a) **Monthly reconciliation sheets, statement & PAYE forms**

Monthly reconciliation sheet, bank statement and PAYE forms were signed and monthly record handed out.

(b) **NatWest Bank**

All 7 signatories now held by NatWest.

(c) **Cheques to be signed**

The following cheques were signed:

1305	Mrs Grimmett	June salary & expenses	£279.68
1306	Birling Village Hall CT	Hire of hall	£42.00
1307	HMRC	PAYE	£195.00
1308	Malling Area Community Service (replaces 285 incorrect payee)	S137 donation	£50.00
1309	TMBC	Lighting maintenance	£144.00

(d) **Any other financial business**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

9 Roads

Nothing was raised under this heading.

10 Planning

New Applications:

TM/13/01148/FL TQ 567093 162469

Applicant: David Dow

Location: Holly Hill Lodge, Holly Hill, Meopham DA13 0UB

Proposal: Demolition of existing dwelling(s) and erection of single storey house

Location: as above

The planning committee had visited the site and been shown round by the applicant. Concerns had been raised which they felt warranted discussion by all Councillors. After this discussion it was agreed that TMBC should be advised that BPC had concerns as to whether the buildings to be demolished had previously been residential or agricultural, the visual impact of the proposed dwelling and whether it was appropriate to describe the proposed construction as a single storey dwelling house.

Cllr Nevill declared an interest in the following application and took no part in the discussion but was invited to explain the ethos behind the project.

TM/13/00547/FL TQ 566312 162095

Applicant: Birling Farms

Location: Whitehorse Wood, White Horse Road, Meopham

Proposal: Temporary planning permission for 50 tent pitch camp-site with ancillary facilities.

Site visit arranged for planning committee.

Decisions:

TM/13/01365/TNCA TQ 568040 160579

Applicant: Birling Village Hall Snodland Road Birling ME19 5JG

Proposal: T1 Larch tree fell to ground

BPC: No objections

TM/13/01364/TNCA TQ568108 160439

Applicant: Marchant Garden Services on behalf of:

Location: 21 Bull Road Birling ME19 5JE

Proposal: Work to various trees

BPC: No objections

None

11 Any Other Business

Cllr Hopper advised that a resident had asked him whether anything could be done about children causing a disturbance outside the village hall in the evenings. Cllr Hopper will monitor.

Cllr Westwood said that she was concerned that the War Memorial needed cleaning and perhaps some restoration ahead of the 2014 centenary celebrations. Everyone was in agreement that it was important to keep the war memorial in good condition and the Clerk was asked to get professional opinions on what needed doing and obtain quotes.

12 Date of next meeting:

As previously agreed **9 July 2013 at 8.00pm**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10pm.