

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 13th April 2021 via Video Conference Call at 8pm

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

Clerk Ms J Miller

Also in attendance: County Councillor Hohler;

371. Apologies for absence

It was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr Spooner with reasons given. Borough Councillors Kemp and Montague also sent their apologies.

372. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

373. Reports - County, Borough and Police

Cllr Hohler reported that the management of Brexit traffic was going well and that there was nothing further to report prior to the forthcoming KCC elections.

The police report was circulated prior the meeting which reported the burglary of two bicycles. It was noted that further burglaries had been reported on e-watch. Reports continue of suspicious males in the area in connection with the theft of dogs.

The meeting was adjourned for a member of the public to address the meeting.

374. Open Forum – Public Participation Session

A member of the public addressed the meeting about the verge encroachment and agreed to submit a statement to the council on the matter.

375. Approval and signing of minutes

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

376. Matters arising and last month's circulation

i. Parking issues

To note photographs sent to Borough Councillors for action.

ii Meeting with Ryarsh School

Deferred due to Corona Virus

iii. Culverts

Deferred due to Corona Virus.

iv. Box Tree

Cllr Hirst reported that he is seeking a suitable tree surgeon.

v. Streetlighting

To note resident response and it was agreed to reiterate the previous comments and make a final response.

377. Matters for Information circulated to councillors

02/03/2021 Local Government Bulletin

02/03/2021 Community Led Housing in Rural Areas

02/03/2021 E Watch 1848

02/03/2021 The Rural Bulletin
02/03/2021 Local Government Bulletin
02/03/2021 Census 2021
03/03/2021 RSN Rural Funding Digest
03/03/2021 Kent Police Rural Task Force Report
03/03/2021 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin
15/03/2021 Member newsletter update waste
15/03/2021 Member Environment Briefing
15/03/2021 E Watch 1851
15/03/2021 The Rural Bulletin
15/03/2021 NALC breaking news
15/03/2021 KRF Press release Manston
15/03/2021 KALC new events
15/03/2021 Local Government Bulletin
15/03/2021 Parish/Town Representative T&M Climate Change
15/03/2021 Local Government Bulletin
15/03/2021 NALC Chief Executives Bulletin
22/03/2021 E Watch 1853
22/03/2021 Highways forward works projects
22/03/2021 Local Government Bulletin
22/03/2021 KALC events
22/03/2021 NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin
22/03/2021 Will you join #millionmilemission
22/03/2021 Update from .gov.uk
22/03/2021 FCC Communities Foundation funding opportunities
22/03/2021 Gatwick In Touch newsletter
22/03/2021 KALC T&M area committee papers
22/03/2021 Webinar – reopen your business safely
22/03/2021 Kent Prepared Newsletter
22/03/2021 KALC learning and development opportunities
22/03/2021 E Watch 1852
25/03/2021 E Watch 1854
25/03/2021 The Rural Bulletin
25/03/2021 National free webinar – crisis communications
25/03/2021 Local Government Bulletin
25/03/2021 T&M Climate Forum candidates KALC
25/03/2021 KALC CEO Bulletin
25/03/2021 KALC new learning opportunity
25/03/2021 Parish Council update
25/03/2021 Local Government Bulletin
26/03/2021 Update from MCHLG
26/03/2021 Remote meetings update
27/03/2021 E Watch 1855
27/03/2021 Welcome Back Fund
27/03/2021 Help improve services for people with long COVID
27/03/2021 Local Government Bulletin
27/03/2021 Great British Spring Clean
29/03/2021 NALC Chief Executives Bulletin
29/03/2021 Local Government Bulletin
29/03/2021 Meeting cancelled – Area 2 Planning
31/03/2021 e Watch 1856
31/03/2021 The Rural Bulletin
31/03/2021 Local Government Bulletin
31/03/2021 Local Government Bulletin

378. Meetings

(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council

25/03/2021 KALC T&M Area Committee – Cllr Westwood

Cllr Westwood reported that the Police Inspector gave updates at the meeting on the increased dog thefts. It was also noted that catalytic converter thefts and burglaries from outbuildings had increased. Some members had complained that the monthly police reports hadn't been provided and the Inspector confirmed that these have now recommenced. Members had raised issues with speeding on Seven Mile Lane and general anti-social behaviour during lockdown. Unlicensed E-scooters on pavements and roads were also noted as a problem.

Cllr Westwood reported that there had been interesting presentations on Climate Change and members were reminded that the TMBC Climate Change Forum will take place on 7th May. Dr Shelley was nominated by the committee to represent the parishes at the forum.

The installation of electric vehicle charging points were discussed as a possibility in the village. It was **RESOLVED** to investigate EV charging points with KCC.

(b) Future meetings

15/04/2021 JPCTCG – Cllr Hirst

27/04/2021 Neighbourhood Engagement Meeting

379. Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Highways Improvement Plan

i. To note update from KCC and formulate response

The plan was updated with further comments for KCC and shall be submitted to the engineer for further costings.

(b) Bank Infringement

To consider quotes received for legal advice

It was noted that the second quote for legal advice is awaited.

It was also noted that the annual digging back by KCC is due in April/May, the clerk shall follow up what is planned and when.

(c) Local Plan

i. To note update

It was reported that the borough council is challenging the decision with the secretary of state and possibly enter into judicial review.

(d) Coronavirus updates

i. To note easing of national lockdown restrictions – noted.

ii. To consider the reintroduction of face to face meetings with the option to bring forward the AGM to 4th May to permit remote attendance.

It was **RESOLVED** to bring move the Annual General Meeting (including parish council meeting for May) to the 4th May 2021 subject to the remote meeting restrictions not being extended and to defer the annual parish assembly meeting until 27th May 2021 and to hold in the church.

It was **RESOLVED** to respond to the consultation on remote meetings that closes on 17 June as they would be welcomed as a flexible option in circumstances such as bad weather or short planning meetings but face to face is the preferred method.

iii. To note BART communication re community assistance

it was noted that the services have now been stood down due to the ease of the lockdown restrictions.

(e) Fly Tipping / Litter

i. To note poster for Spring Clean litter pick being published in May ahead of litter pick on 12th June and risk assessment underway – noted.

(h) Strategic Plan

i. To note update on survey responses and collation. Thanks were noted to Cllr Yates and the Clerk for consolidating the responses.

It was **RESOLVED** to categorise the responses and prepare in a pie chart.

- Community Engagement
- Physical Spaces
- Quality of Environment
- Safety
- Health and Wellbeing

(i) Cyber Security

i. To consider adopting NALC policy ‘Councillors Guide to Cyber Security.’

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the NALC cyber security guide. This shall be added to the parish website.

(j) Rural Broadband

i. To note response from KCC regarding fibre to premise.

It was noted that KCC is investigating the provision of high speed broadband in the parish.

380. 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

381. Correspondence

(a) Email from resident concerning yellow litter sign – noted.

(b) Contact from resident from Ryarsh & Birling Garden club proposal to refurbish benches around the Village Hall.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the parish council bench being refurbished. The method statement, risk assessment and public liability insurance shall be requested. The Village Hall Committee can consider its bench.

382. Finance & Accounts

(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation March 2021.

Net Bank Balances as at 31/03/2021 £19,565.09.

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

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

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

(c) To approve PAYE record April 2021.

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

Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Amount Net	VAT	Description
J Miller	Staff Costs	£283.69	N/A	N/A	April Salary
KALC	Subscriptions	£246.70	205.58	41.12	Annual subscription
HMRC	Staff Costs	£175.60	N/A	N/A	HMRC PAYE April
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£45.60	£38.00	£7.60	Monthly mailbox charge
Air Ambulance	Donations	£125.00	N/A	N/A	Donations budget 2020-21
Heart of Kent Hospice	Donations	£125.00	N/A	N/A	Donations budget 2020-21
Citizens Advice Bureau	Donations	£125.00	N/A	N/A	Donations budget 2020-21
Kenward Trust	Donations	£125.00	N/A	N/A	Donations budget 2020-21

383. Roads

(a) To report any road issues

It was noted that the signs are damaged and that this and the overgrown vegetation adjacent to the roundabout has been reported to KCC. Pot holes on Bull road to be reported.

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

The size of the trees planted to provide noise abatement remains an issue.

(c) Road Closures

- i. To note temporary road closures affecting Birling:
A228 Holborough Road

384. Planning

(a) Applications to be considered

TM/21/00701/FL House 356 Stangate Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JL Detached double garage and detached home office

It was **RESOLVED** that the parish council has no objections to the garage so long as there is appropriate planting to the boundary due to this being an area of outstanding natural beauty.

(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

The Retreat 8 Ryarsh Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JW T1 Hawthorn - fell to near ground level No Objection on 8 March 2021

385. 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. Year end audit results will be discussed at the June meeting.

386. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 4th May 2021

Cllr Hewett gave apologies for this meeting.

Meeting closed at 22:35pm

Signed.....

Date.....