

Birling Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 15 May 2013 in Birling Village Hall at 8.15pm

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

Mrs Grimmatt (Clerk) and PCSO Laura Bullen

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs Walker and Borough Cllr Mrs Ann Kemp

2 Reports

PCSO Laura Bullen apologised for not having attended the flower festival. On the day she intended to come she had to deal with a burglary. Unfortunately there had been 3 incidents in the village during April. Late at night on 12 April the driver of a car spotted in the car park at the rear of the village hall was found to be smoking cannabis and a warning was issued. On 20 April damage had been caused to a property in Birling Park during a domestic incident. On 26 April a Mini Cooper, with personal items inside, had been stolen from a property in Snodland Road. The vehicle had been recovered but not the personal items. 3 arrests had been made and a fourth man is being sought.

Cllr Nevill said that at a meeting of BVHCT residents living close to the village hall had reported that they were aware that a vehicle was often parked there late at night.

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

Kent Highways had issued a defect notice to the contractor who they thought were at fault and were currently having discussions regarding the work to be done.

(b) Fire Hydrants

Further details had been received. Inspections can be carried out at any time suitable to the PC and reports made by phone, email or letter with some councils only reporting defects. Cllr Westwood, Cllr Grimmatt and the clerk would each locate the hydrants and arrange between them how and when inspections would be carried out.

(e) Any other matters arising

Nothing was raised under this heading.

5 Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Requests for Donations

It was **AGREED** that only Try Angle Awards would receive a donation of £50.

(b) Electricity Supply

It was **AGREED** that the Price Negotiation: Laser option would be most suitable.

(c) Street Light maintenance

It was **AGREED** to continue with TMBC's maintenance contract at £10+VAT pm. The provider had commented that, due to the age of the lighting units, costs may increase in the future.

(d) Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

The annual review will be carried out by the Chair and the Clerk with a view to adding a clause re dispensations.

(e) Any other business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

6 Open Forum

Denise Lingham spoke about the village Jubilee community art project picture of the Queen which had been hanging in the Church during the flower festival but which had to be taken down on 15 May. As there is nowhere in the village where it can be hung permanently a new, safe storage place needs to be located. Cllr Westwood offered her barn, Cllr Nevill his oast and Cllr Hopper his stables. It was decided that as Cllr Hopper's stable is clean and dry and closest to the Church, providing the picture will go up the stairs, that would be the best place. The possibility of making a simple box to store the picture in would be discussed with Jan Westwood. It was decided that a letter would be sent to the PCC asking whether the picture could be hung in the Church during future Flower Festivals. As a faculty to display the picture in the Church was not being offered, Denise requested that a permanent home for it be considered by all concerned. It was recognised that Birling Village Hall did not have space of sufficient size to display the work.

7 Correspondence

Emails re advertising posters on the PC noticeboard.

After much discussion it was **DECIDED** that no posters for profit making organisations would be displayed with the exception of the one for The Children's House currently on the board. Cllr Grimmett asked if a poster for a charity walk organised by Malling Lions would be acceptable. (Cllr Westwood declared an interest as a charity she is connected with receives donations from The Lions and took no part in the discussion). It was **DECIDED** that, providing there is room, posters for charitable events can be displayed.

Email re Parish Website and High Speed Broadband

The Clerk had received an email re the message centre on the website. Cllr Hopper had looked into it and found that any messages posted need authorising by the webmaster before going live. This would now be done on a regular basis. It was suggested that another notice be put in Pilgrims to make residents aware of the site and for the address to be added to the contacts page. (Clerk to ask Cllr Walker to arrange this). The message the sender had posted raised the issue of why Birling would not be receiving High Speed Broadband and Cllr Hopper will look at KCC's Make Kent Quicker report and discuss with the sender. Cllr Hopper will also deal with another posting on the site regarding the date the Nevill vault in the church was constructed.

In the Bag

JPCTCG Minutes 21/3/2013 meeting

Notification by South East Water of publication of Draft Water Resources Management Plan which can be viewed online

Internal Audit Report

KALC Parish News Issue 369

8 Financial Matters

(a) Audit/Year-end figures

The audit had been completed by Kevin Funnell and his Report, which raised no issues, was read out by the Chair. The Annual Return was **AGREED** and completed by the Chair and Clerk.

(b) Monthly reconciliation sheets, statement & PAYE forms

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

(b) NatWest Bank

No news.

(c) Cheques to be signed

The following cheques were signed:

1299	KALC	Subs	£190.68
1300	Broker Network Ltd	Insurance renewal	£823.63
1301	Kevin Funnell	Internal Audit	£60.00
1302	Public Clocks Ltd	Church clock maintenance	£132.00
1303	Mrs Grimmett	May salary + expenses	£279.56

(d) Any other financial business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

9 Roads

The Clerk had reported to Kent Highways (KH) that:

- 1 The lid of the salt bin in Stangate Road no longer closed. KH had decided that it was more economical to replace it than make repairs.
- 2 The bank of the ditch in Birling Road, just before the traffic calming, had eroded badly. A site visit had been made and KH were getting quotes for the construction of a sandbag wall to prevent further erosion and damage to the road.

10 Planning

New Applications:

Applicant: Birling Village Hall
Location: Snodland Road, Birling ME19 5JG
Proposal: T1 Larch tree fell to ground

Applicant: Marchant Garden Services on behalf of:
Location: 21 Bull Road, Birling ME19 5JE
Proposal: Work to various trees

Decisions:

None

11 Any Other Business

Cllr Westwood reported that a notice was displayed in the church stating that a faculty has been agreed for repairs to the churchyard wall to commence. Cllr Westwood proposed that that thanks be passed on to Mr Westwood for the work he did clearing the area around the war memorial for the Flower Festival. Cllr Westwood also proposed that the minutes record that the Parish Council congratulates Sarah Hohler and Matthew Balfour on their success in the recent elections which was agreed by all present.

12 Date of next meeting:

As previously agreed **10 June 2013 at 8.00pm**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.