# **Birling Parish Council**

### Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 10 December 2013 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

**Present:** Councillors Mrs Jacquie Westwood (Chair) Mr David Hopper

Mr Guy Nevill Mrs Sylvia Spooner

Mrs Helen Walker

County Cllr Matthew Balfour and Mrs Grimmett (Clerk)

### 1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Nudd and Grimmett & PCSO Laura Bullen

#### 2 Reports

**Clir Balfour** reported that there were to be changes to the new homes bonus payment to borough councils. The effect of this is that KCC will have to make £7M less savings. A decision on the new Thames crossing is to be made later this week and an interim report on south east airports is due next week.

**CPCSO Bullen**'s emailed report showed 1crime. CCTV equipment was stolen from the Birling Estate and found on Holborough Estate, believed to have been taken by person(s) lamping.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 November 2013 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by the Chair.

### 4 <u>Matters arising and last month's circulation</u>

### (a) Restoration of War Memorial & Funding

Cllr Nevill had had no success getting a quote for the work to the base. A K Landers required 50% deposit before a commencement date would be allocated. It was **DECIDED** that the Clerk should ask for the work to be carried out in time for the flower festival held over the May Day bank holiday weekend and to arrange for an invoice to be raised for payment in January. The Clerk had submitted the Local Member Grants application for this part of the restoration and Mrs Hohler's decision was awaited.

#### (b) Footpath Opposite Church

The Public Rights of Way & Access (PRWA) team had not received any other comments about the steps and were still not prepared to extend the handrail. Neither would they comment on any liability should BPC have the work undertaken themselves. It was **AGREED** that quotes be sought for the work.

## (c) Foreign HGVs in Village

Cllr Hooper had spoken to Tim Middleton at Lorry Watch and, although the scheme was not applicable to Birling's circumstances, funds would be available for a larger "Unsuitable for HGVs" sign, the same as, or similar to, the one at 5 Oak Green. A site visit had been carried out and an application made to KCC Highways.

#### (d) SID

The SID had now been correctly re-installed after initially having been put up with the sign on the wrong side indicating a 30mph limit on leaving the village.

### (e) Blocked footpaths

The Clerk had been asked to report 2 paths that were blocked by fallen trees and PRWA had asked if Birling Estate could be contacted as they had already cleared some paths. Cllr Nevill said that the Estate would clear these paths.

## (f) Any other matters arising

Nothing was raised under this heading

#### 5 Parish Business for Decisions

#### (a) Precept

It was **AGREED** that the 2014-2015 Precept should be raised by £350. Cllr Nevill advised any contribution BPC could make to the refurbishment projects planned for 2014 would be helpful and it was agreed that once year end accounts were finalised and confirmation of Precept and FAPC payments received a decision would be made as to whether a payment could be made.

## (b) Xmas light for tree outside village hall

Cllr Westwood asked councillors for their views as to whether new/additional lights for the chestnut tree outside the village hall should be purchased. It was decided that it was too late for this year but should be discussed Autumn 2014.

#### (c) Contribution to Landscape PCSO

Clir Nevill declared an interest as the scheme benefits The Birling Estate and took no part in the discussion other than to explain the purpose of the scheme.

Cllr Nevill advised that Valley of Visions (VoV) was set up 5 years ago, with lottery funding, to secure the Medway Gap landscape. The 2 main roles were security (stopping theft and anti-social behaviour) and chalk grassland restoration. A dedicated Landscape PCSO was appointed and has been very successful, for instance in reducing the number of illegal motor bike riders. Funding ceased 6 months ago and VoV are asking the 7 rural parish councils in the Medway Gap for contributions towards the PCSO's salary and upkeep of the vehicle necessary to carry out the duties. Local landowners (including The Birling Estate) and business have already contributed. It was **AGREED** that a one off donation of £250 be made this year but that BPC would enquire whether recurrent funding was planned but not commit at this time to making future annual payments.

## (d) Any other business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

### 6 Open Forum

Nothing was raised under this heading.

#### 7 Correspondence

Email from PCC re £1712 payment (placed in the bag)

#### In the Bag

Thank you from T & M CAB
Thank you from The Beat Project
Here & Now Winter 2013
Downsmail

### 8 <u>Financial Matters</u>

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

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

### (b) Cheques to be signed

The following cheques were signed:

1326Mrs GrimmettDecember salary & expenses£279.641327Malling Action PrtnshpJPCTCG subscription£50.001328HMRCPAYE£195.001329Birling village Hall CTHire of hall£42.00

### (c) Notification of Precept 2014-2015

Notification of the FAPC allocation (£40 less than 2013-14) and estimated Council Tax Support Grant had been received from TMBC. The Budget for 2014-15 was discussed under 5(a) above.

### (d) Any other financial business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

### 9 Roads

### (a) JPCTCG

The next meeting is to be held on 28 January 2014. Cllr Nudd will attend but Cllr Grimmett cannot.

### (b) Any other business

Several councillors commented that the recent repair to a large pothole on the A228 at the M20 junction roundabout was already breaking up and the Clerk was asked to report it. Nothing further was raised under this heading.

### 10 Planning

## **New Applications:**

TM/12/983/R2 & 17

Location: Ham Hill Quarry, Snodland Kent ME6 5LA

Proposal: Application for approval of details of noise attenuation barrier and

noise monitoring scheme pursuant to conditions (2) and (17) of

planning permission.

As all the Parish Councillors know the applicant interests were declared and the following application was considered by all Councillors present.

TM/13/02785/FL TQ567718 160311 Applicant: Mr Dave Allen

Location: Tanbryn, 92 Ryarsh Road, Birling, West Malling ME19 5JR Proposal: Front extension and convert garage to living accommodation

BPC: No objections.

Decisions:

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

BPC: No objections

TMBC: Approved 29/11/2013

TM/13/03358/TNCA TQ568073 160478

Applicant: Mr A Beadle

Location: 15 Bull Road, Birling, West Malling, ME19 5JE

Proposal: Fell Norway spruce which has outgrown it's situation and replace

BPC: No objections

TMBC: Approved 3/12/2013

TM/13/03396/FL TQ567762 160795 & TM/13/03397/FL TQ567762 160796

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Watkins

Location: Ley Farm Barn, Snodland Road Birling, West Malling, ME19 5JF
Proposal: Split of existing single dwelling house into 2 self-contained homes
BPC: No objections but queried if trees to front of property to remain

### 11 Any Other Business

Cllr Hopper had attended the presentation on the proposal to establish a new primary School at Leybourne Chase and reported that the position of the school is still under discussion. A Consultation Response form is to be circulated by email.

TMBC had asked if Parish email addresses could be generalised ie clerk@birling etc to avoid changes having to be made when new clerks were appointed. The current email address is owned by Cllr Balfour who advised that he would be agreeable to BPC paying the annual subscription. Cllr Nevill offered to look into whether any other providers were better value.

Cllr and Mrs Grimmett would be attending the Leybourne Grange Riding for the Disabled carol concert on Friday 13 December.

### 12 Date of next meeting:

As previously agreed 14 January 2014 at 8.00pm

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