

(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

Cllr 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 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) Cheques to be signed

The following cheques were signed:

1326	Mrs Grimmett	December salary & expenses	£279.64
1327	Malling Action Prtnshp	JPCTCG subscription	£50.00
1328	HMRC	PAYE	£195.00
1329	Birling village Hall CT	Hire 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.