

BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Held on Tuesday 2 April 2013 at 7.30pm in Birling Village Hall

AGENDA

Present: Councillors Mrs Westwood (Chair) Mr Nudd (Vice Chair)
Mr Grimmett Mr Hopper
Mrs Walker

County Cllr Mrs Hohler, Mrs Grimmett (clerk) and 3 members of the public

1 Apologies for absence

Borough Cllrs Ann Kemp and Matthew Balfour & Clls Nevill and Spooner

2 Chairman's report

Attached

3 Borough Councillors' report (attached and in the circulation bag)

Cllr Westwood read out the report.

4 County Councillor's Report (attached and in the circulation bag)

Mrs Hohler's report had been forwarded to councillors in March. Mrs Hohler advised that a lot of pot holes are too wet to be repaired at the moment and that the Ashton junction will be repaired at the end of the summer. When asked by Cllr Westwood if she thought that the new schools at Leybourne Chase, Holborough and Kings Hill would be commenced on schedule, Mrs Hohler said that she was believed that they would. She added that she had attended an event at the new library in Maidstone and that it is quite impressive. Cllr Hopper mentioned the delay in installing the new, larger, "Unsuitable for HGVs" sign and Mrs Hohler asked to be copied in on future correspondence. Cllr Westwood thanked Mrs Hohler for her contribution towards the cost of cleaning and restoring the War Memorial.

5 War Memorial – Cleaning & Restoration

Cllr Hopper explained that the granite War Memorial needed cleaning, the inscriptions relettering and the top concrete plinth needed restoration work. The Parish Council had decided that it would be appropriate for this work to be carried out in time for the approaching centenary celebrations and 3 quotes had been received from Viners, Burslem and A K Lander for the cleaning, relettering and repair of the plinth.

Mrs Hohler had very kindly agreed a grant of £1,000 from her Members Fund. Cllr Hopper had taken over responsibility for the project after finding out that a further grant might be available from The War Memorials Trust (WMT) but, after initial discussions with them, it was apparent that the project was more involved than BPC had thought. Cleaning methods vary widely and WMT recommend that no chemicals or abrasive tools be used for the cleaning and that work should be carried out in the summer months to avoid the danger of water freezing and damaging the granite. Grants are only available for like-for-like restoration meaning that the additional costs we had received for completely recladding the plinths could not be considered. The information required to complete the grant application form is very involved and would take a considerable amount of time, with no guarantee that funding would be received. With the centenary celebrations this year many applications are being made. After lengthy discussions with the 3 companies who had provided quotes, to clarify their cleaning methods, it was Cllr Hopper's recommendation that Burslem be offered the contract for cleaning and lettering and repointing and repair of the damaged render to the concrete plinths which they would be able to carry out in 2/3 months time at a cost of £1,180. Recladding the plinths with either granite or yorkstone would require more thought and investigation as this work would not qualify for WMT grant funding.

6 Financial Statement 2013/14 (attached)

Receipts had exceeded payments by £3562.91 but this figure includes payments for the replacement street light, War Memorial cleaning and hand rail on footpath.

7 Precept 2014/15

£7200 as previously agreed under item 5(a) at the meeting on 10 December 2013

8 Any Other Business

Nothing raised

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.13pm

Clerk: **Jenny Grimmett**
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