

## **Birling Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023** **Birling Church at 8pm**

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

Also in attendance: Clerk Ms J Miller; County Cllr Sarah Hohler (Kent County Council)

**56. Apologies for absence**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive an approve apologies for absence from Cllr Wright and Cllr Yates with reasons.

**57. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest**

There were none.

**58. Approval and signing of minutes of meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the minutes of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

**59. Reports**

(a) County Council – Sarah Hohler

It was noted that Mrs Hohler had followed up the damaged sign at Parsons Corner and it will be straightened.

The issues at Birling Road were discussed and it was recommended that Andy Watson is emailed about the issues.

It was noted that Kent has highest rate of drowning in the UK, there are 93 miles of coastline in the county which may explain this.

Speeding tickets are up significantly in Kent, due to the improved cameras being used.

Kent received two out of the six national library awards for its prison library and toddler reading groups.

Schools were discussed and it was noted that special needs schools are at capacity. The KCC Travel Saver school bus pass has a new, improved application system. It is assumed that there will be no changes to bus services in September.

Family Hub consultation – families of children with special needs have more attention on education.

(b) Borough Councillors – Paul Boxall and Bill Banks

A report was provided prior to the meeting.

(c) Kent Police a report for June was received.

**60. Open Forum – Public Participation Session**

There were none.

**61. Matters arising and last month's circulation**

i. **Ryarsh School**

To receive any updates.

The school thanked the parish council for the fete donation.

ii. **Village Hall access**

To receive any updates on availability of hall

There were no further updates.

iii. **Parish Infrastructure Statement**

To note statement submitted to TMBC.

It was **AGREED** to write a news update on the website with details of what was submitted.

**62. Matters for Information circulated to councillors.**

04/06 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin  
04/06 A20 London Road Bus Lane Closure  
04/06 E Watch 2083  
04/06 KALC Summer conferences  
04/06 NALC newsletter  
04/06 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin  
12/06 E Watch 2085  
13/06 Update on Rural Policing  
30/06 Call in protocol  
30/06 KALC training for councillors  
03/07 TMBC Community Safety newsletter  
03/07 D Day celebrations  
03/07 Kent Minerals and Waste Regulation 18  
03/07 Kent Police update  
03/07 NALC newsletter  
03/07 E Watch 2088  
03/07 E Watch 2089  
03/07 E Watch 2090

**63. Meetings**

**(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council**

i. Parish Partnership Panel 15/06/2023 – Cllr Hewett

It was noted that the waste contract details of road cleansing and litter picking was discussed. Cllr Hewett will circulate the reports. Fly-tipping reports had increased in TMBC. Birling flytipping incidents had gone down from 13 to 5 which may reflect incidents not being reported.

Local Plan updates were given, the aim is to publish in April 2024.

The protocol for call-ins had changed and members now have the final say.

**(b) Future Meetings**

- i. Parish Partnership Panel 31/08/2023
- ii. Parish Partnership Panel 02/11/2023
- iii. Parish Partnership Panel 08/02/2024
- iv. Parish Partnership Panel 30/05/2024
- v. KALC T&M Area Committee 13/07/2023
- vi. KALC T&M Area Committee 28/09/2023
- vii. KALC T&M Area Committee 14/12/2023

**64. Parish Business for Decisions**

**(a) OEP Protected Sites Call for Evidence**

i. To consider sending a response (responses still being accepted)

[Call for Evidence - Protected sites for nature in England and Northern Ireland | Office for Environmental Protection \(theoep.org.uk\)](#)

This was deferred for Cllr Nevill to investigate.

**(b) Highways**

i. To receive update from Cllr Hirst on Highways Improvement Plan.

It was noted that the speed checks did not provide the evidence required for a 20mph zone.

It was **AGREED** to continue to pursue a 20mph zone and investigate virtual speed restriction options. The options to slow traffic at the entrance to the village will be explored.

It was **AGREED** to share results with Ryarsh Parish Council if a corresponding agreement is established.

- ii. To receive update on bank infringement.
- iii. To note near misses at Leybourne Chase junction reported to Cllr Hohler and to receive update.  
Cllr Hirst will write to Andy Watson with details about the safety issues at the junction.

**(c) Local Plan**

- i. To note update  
A call for sites for Gypsies and Travelling persons is underway.

**(d) Community Transport Grant / Bus Services**

- i. To receive update on KALC T&M parish council initiatives  
There may be a shortfall on revenue which will be recovered from the parishes. Birling Parish Council has a contingency for this.

**(e) Jubilee and Coronation**

- i. To receive update on visit to Gallaghers to choose stone.  
It was **RESOLVED** to send Cllr Nevill's sketch to Gallaghers.
- ii. To receive planning update on stone from Cllr Hewett.  
It was noted that this would be permitted development.
- iii. To receive update from Cllr Nevill on tree planting.  
This item was deferred.

**(f) Local Charities**

- i. To receive update from Cllr Yates on hardship fund proposal  
This item was deferred.

**(g) Village Maintenance, Waste and Litter**

- i. To note contractor being sought to cut grass shrubs and hedges around war memorial.  
It was noted that there was no take up from the tender request. A local resident will be approached (Tipler).
- ii. To receive update on Box Tree works.  
It was noted that quotes are being obtained.
- iii. To consider date for October litter pick.  
It was **AGREED** to carry out the litter pick on 7<sup>th</sup> October 9.30am.

**(h) Climate Action**

- i. To review and update the Climate Action Plan.  
It was **RESOLVED to adopt the revised Climate Change Plan, take forward the actions and include on the web site.** Cllr Westwood agreed to lead on the Climate engagement, and will liaise with the Clerk to advertise for community input. A stall at the fete may be an option.

**(i) Strategic Plan Update**

- i. To review strategic plan headings.  
The following headings were **AGREED** and the Clerk will prepare a plan document:

Community Engagement: donations; annual meetings; school

Safety: Highways improvement plan; climate change; policing; emergency plan  
Physical Spaces/environment: maintenance; waste: church; village hall

**65. Parish Business for Noting**

**(a) Website/Social Media platforms updates**

To note the following added to online platforms:

- KCC Free bus weekend.

**(b) Parochial Church Council**

- i. To receive regular update.

The investiture ceremony for the new vicar held at West Malling church, was attended by Birling councillors and residents. It is pleasing to note she is settling in well with parishioners.. The church wall along Snodland Road needs maintenance and the church asked if the parish council would submit a road closure to enable the works to take place. This will be added to the next agenda.

**(c) Resident Matters**

- i. To note any recent local issues raised.

It was noted that reports of motorcycles and electric scooters in the village were a problem. The community safety unit will be contacted for advice.

**66. Correspondence – all noted.**

There is none.

**67. Finance & Accounts**

**(a) To receive internal audit report 2022-23**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the internal audit report.

**(b) To approve Bank Reconciliation June 2023**

**Net Bank Balances as at 30/06/2023 £17,934.53**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliation of June 2023.

**(c) To note budget position year to date June 2023.**

It was **RESOLVED** to note the budget position.

**(d) To approve PAYE record July 2023.**

**BACS to be approved and signed.**

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the following:

Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Description
Various	Staff Costs	£497.36	Staff costs July
LASER	Streetlighting	£24.12	Streetlight energy costs
G Gold	Reserves	£180.00	Coronation Band payment
L Robbins	Reserves	£90.00	Annual internal audit
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£62.73	Monthly mailbox costs

**68. Road**

**(a) To report any road issues.**

This was covered earlier in the meeting.

**(b) Road Closures – see website for details.**

- i. To note temporary road closures affecting Birling – there were none.

**69. Planning**

**(a) Applications to be considered**

There were none.

**(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council**

There were none.

**70. Matters for future meetings.**

The usual substantive items will be on the agenda.

**71. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Meeting closed at 21:53pm**

**Signed..... Date.....**

DRAFT