

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 10 June 2014 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

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

Cllr Matthew Balfour, Mrs Grimmatt (Clerk) and 2 members of the public

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

County Cllr Sarah Hohler, Borough Cllr Ann Kemp, Cllrs Nevill and Walker and PCSO Laura Bullen.

2 Reports

TMBC Cllr Balfour reported that the start of the Kent section of the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay, held in Tonbridge on 4 June, had been very well supported. Details of land offered by landowners for development under the Local Plan will be available online shortly.

Crime PCSO Bullen had advised that there had been 3 recent incidents at an address in Bull Road all relating to a couple who are separating.

A resident had reported that personal property had been stolen during a break in at a house in Holly Hill.

County

Sarah Hohler's report highlighting some of the achievements of KCC's medium term plan, Bold Steps for Kent (attached), had been well received by the councillors who all thought that it was good to be "kept in the loop".

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the AGM and the meeting held on Tuesday 13 May 2014 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by the Chair. The Clerk apologised for forgetting to bring the file so they will be signed in July together with those of the APA which had previously been approved.

4 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Restoration of War Memorial

Work to commence Thursday 13 June

(b) Churchyard & Clock

Councillors were advised by Mrs Ivell that David Snow had been asked by the PCC to cut the churchyard until October. Routine maintenance of clock should have been carried out at the end of May but had been deferred due to problems with contractor's van. Mrs Ivell advised that Public Clocks had now carried out the maintenance but that the clock had subsequently stopped working. The Clerk was asked to contact Public Clocks.

(c) AGM – Representation on Birling Charities

Cllr Balfour happy to continue to represent BPC on these committees.

(d) Any other Matters Arising

Nothing was raised under this heading.

5 Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Secure Trust / Unity Bank

The interest rate offered by Unity Bank is 0.1%. It was **AGREED** to keep reserves with Secure Trust at 1.99%.

(b) Footpath Opposite Church

Tonbridge & Malling Public Rights of Way (TMPRW) office had advised that the land is owned by Birling Estate. Cllr Grimmett had had a site visit with Wrights Fencing who had quoted £190+VAT to extend the handrail (£105 less than previous quote) and £360+VAT for steps (£228 less). It was unanimously **DECIDED** that Wrights fencing be asked to carry out the work once Birling Estate have confirmed they have no objections..

(c) Any other business for decisions

Cllr Grimmett proposed that Open Forum be brought forward on Agendas to allow members of the public to leave once they had completed their business if they wished. It was **AGREED** that this was a good idea.

No other matters were raised under this heading.

6 Open Forum

Mrs Ivell said that the first Flower Festival committee meeting had taken place and that the committee would like to know if BPC would consider taking over the running, manning and supply of plants for the plant stall. Volunteers to man the produce stall were also being sought so that the committee could focus on the flower festival itself. To be discussed at July meeting.

7 Correspondence

Letter re donations from Try Angle Awards – defer until November

8 Financial Matters

(a) Monthly accounts, statements & PAYE forms

Monthly reconciliation sheet, bank statement and PAYE forms were signed.

(b) Cheques to be signed

The following cheques were signed:

1344	Mrs Grimmett	June salary & expenses	£277.49
1345	Birling Village Hall CT	Hire of hall	£42.00
1346	TMBC	Lighting maintenance	£144.00
1347	HMRC	PAYE	£195.00

(c) Any other financial business

(Cllr & Mrs Grimmett declared an interest and took no part in the discussion)

The Clerk's printer had broken and would cost more to repair than replace. It was **DECIDED** that BPC would fund the £60 cost of a replacement.

9 Roads

(a) Overgrown Vegetation on Footpath by Stables in birling Road

The Clerk had been advised by Ryarsh Clerk that the land was in the process of being /has been sold and that the new owner to be made aware of their responsibilities for cutting back vegetation which has now been carried.

(b) Email received re Footpath between Birling and Ryarsh

The Clerk had received an email from a resident in Ryarsh regarding a survey carried out

in 2008 re the narrow footpath by the traffic calming. Councillors were aware of this but it was understood that Kent Highways were unwilling to take any further action.

(c) Any other roads business

Not suitable for HGVs sign to be erected June 13.

Nothing else was raised under this heading.

10 Planning

New Applications:

None

Decisions

TM/14/01056/FL TQ568036 160455

Applicant: Mr C Kemp

Location: 10 Bull Road Birling West Malling ME195JE

Proposal: Replacement car port, extension and replacement of white cladding to 1st floor

BPC: No objections but note that plans include extension for which approval is not sought on this application (advised by TMBC that permission not necessary for this)

TMBC: Approved

TM/14/00479/RD TQ566312 162095

Applicant: Birling Farms

Location: Whitehorse Wood, Meopham

Proposal: Details pursuant to conditions 4, 6 and 7 of planning permission TM/13/00547/FL

BPC: No objections but objections and comments of residents whose property joins the woods drawn to TMBC's attention.

TMBC: Approved

BPC were informed by Mr & Mrs Wills that they had contacted TMBC to attend in person the planning meeting that discussed this submission. Despite assurances that they would be invited to attend no contact was made prior to the decision being taken by TMBC officers.

TM/14/00800/FL TQ568702 160012

Applicant: Dr S Kothari

Location: The Cottage, Birling Ashes, Birling Road, Birling ME19 5JB

Proposal: Single storey extension to create new kitchen, study, WC

BPC: No objections to extension but TMBC's attention drawn to possibility of flooding affecting the building.

TMBC: Approved 5/6/2014

TM/14/01363/FL TQ567938 160416

Applicant: Mr R Fox

Location: 7 The Close Birling ME19 5WJ

Proposal: Widening of existing dormer window to create en-suite shower room

BPC: No objections

TMBC: Approved 9/6/2014

11 Any Other Business

Cllr Nudd advised that he is unable to attend the next JPCTCG meeting on 24 July which Birling are due to Chair. He will arrange a swap for the following quarterly meeting.

12 Date of next meeting

As previously agreed **8 July 2014 at 8pm**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.