

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 14 October 2014 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Jacquie Westwood (Chair) Mr Colin Grimmatt
 Mr David Hopper Mr Guy Nevill
 Mrs Sylvia Spooner Mrs Walker

Cllr Matthew Balfour, Mrs Grimmatt (Clerk) and 3 members of the public

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

County Cllr Sarah Hohler, Cllr Ann Kemp and Cllr Nudd. Cllr Grimmatt arrived later.

2 Reports

TMBC Cllr Balfour reported that KCC had launched an online consultation on its draft budget plans and that parishes and individuals were urged to respond. He went on to say that outline planning consent had been given for around 600 more houses at Kings Hill.

County Mrs Hohler's late Summer Report (copy attached) had been circulated.

Crime PCSO Laura Bullen reported that approx 75 live partridges had recently been stolen from Birling Farms and handed out leaflets with contact details for the rural team. Game keepers usually let Kent Police know if they're going to be working at night so if residents report seeing lights/activity in rural areas they can be advised that there's nothing to worry about. PCSO Bullen also asked residents to be on the lookout for anyone abandoning dogs as a large, emaciated dog had been found in Snodland Road the previous evening.

3 Open Forum

The planning application to demolish the livery stables and associated portacabins at Ryarsh Livery Stables and replace them with a Class B8 storage unit and office for the distribution of frozen food was discussed. BPC had not been notified by TMBC of the application and neither had local residents. After being made aware of the application the Clerk had contacted TMBC and subsequently received full details with an extended date for BPC's response. Cllr Walker, Cllr Grimmatt and the Clerk had attended Ryarsh PC's meeting the previous evening where Ryarsh residents were unanimously against the application. Ryarsh PC's response to TMBC was that they objected to the application on many grounds including increased traffic through narrow country roads, the proximity of the proposed development to the local primary school and existing parking problems in both villages. It was unanimously agreed by BPC and members of the public that they objected to this development on the same grounds, noting that the application did not include details of traffic flow for incoming and outgoing deliveries. BPC planning committee will put together a response.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 September 2014 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by the Chair.

4 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Footpath Opposite Church

The handrail and steps had been completed and invoice received.

(b) Amendment to Standing Orders

The Addendum agreed at September's meeting was signed by the Chair.

(c) Condition of Tables in Village Hall

The Clerk had advised Candy Balfour that several of the tables used for the September PC meeting had been unacceptably dirty and she had been assured that this would not happen again.

(d) Inconsiderate Parking/Parking in Village Hall car park

Cars continue to obstruct the pavement. PCSO Bullen had emailed the Clerk the template for the note she had distributed and the Clerk had placed this on 4 vehicles rather than report them but would do so if the same cars parked there in the future. The Village Hall committee were doubtful that visitors would want to park at the Village Hall as it was some distance from where the inconsiderate parking takes place.

(e) Light in Birling Park

The clerk is continuing to liaise with the resident and Russet Homes to get the problem fixed.

(f) Any other matters arising

Nothing was raised under this heading.

5 Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Royal British Legion Wreath

It was **AGREED** that a £17 wreath be purchased and a donation of £50 made and Cllr Walker volunteered to represent BPC at the ceremony.

(b) Charitable Donations

It was **AGREED** that donations be made to the same charities as in 2013/14 plus a one off payment to The Heart of Kent Hospice's latest community project to provide a minibus service for patients. The amounts would be agreed at November's meeting.

(c) Ham Hill Quarry Liaison Group

Cllr Westwood has joined the Liaison Group and suggested that as each parish can have 2 representatives she approach residents affected by the project to see if they wished to be involved.

(d) Elections 2015

Information is starting to be received re the 2015 elections and the Clerk advised that possible election costs will need to be taken into account when preparing the budget for 2015/16.

(e) Any other matters for decision

Nothing was raised under this heading.

7 Correspondence

The Clerk had been contacted by the area Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator who is running a scheme whereby local business sign up to keep the area around their premises litter free and receive an annual certificate if they achieve an ongoing acceptable standard. Suzie's food outlet on the A228E has recently joined the scheme and the co-ordinator asked the Clerk's permission for the Parish emblem to be printed on the certificate.

Heart of Kent Hospice

KCC Community Warden Consultation – in the bag

8 Financial Matters

(a) Quarterly accounts, statements & PAYE forms

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

(b) Cheques

The following cheques were signed:

1355	Mrs Grimmatt	October salary & reimbursements	£287.49
1356	Birling Village Hall CT	Hire of Hall	£28.00
1357	Royal British Legion	Wreath	£67.00
1358	Wrights Fencing Ltd	Handrail & steps	£660.00

(c) Quarterly Review

The cost of work to the war memorial was £2300 under budget and work to the footpath £365 over budget as it was decided to have more steps put in. The only unexpected cost has been the new printer but this is within the contingency amount. Cllr Walker has some granite kerbing that could possibly be used to clad the war memorial and Cllr Hopper will contact Burselms for advice. Cllr Walker will get quotes for new posts and rails around the war memorial although it was thought likely that it was too late to apply for a grant from Cllr Hohler in this current financial year.

(d) Laptop Service Contract

As the laptop is only being used to take minutes at meetings and the Windows package is out of date the service contract has been cancelled.

(e) Any other financial business

The Clerk advised that at Ryarsh PC's meeting the cost of replacing/repairing streetlights had been discussed and that this is a cost that BPC is likely to face in the future. Modern lights are more energy efficient and can also be programmed to be off during night hours.

9 Roads

Neither Cllr Nudd nor Cllr Grimmatt had been available to attend the JPCTCG meeting.

10 Planning

New Applications:

TM/14/03196/TNCA

TQ 568018 160606

Applicant: All Saints' PCC

Proposal: Removal of 3 trees and lowering of crown of yew tree in churchyard

Location: All Saints' Church Birling

Decisions: BPC no objections apart from would rather reduce the Ash than remove it.

KCC/TM/0322/2014

Proposal: Extension to the height of the existing asphalt plant emissions stack

Location: Ham Hill Quarry Snodland ME6 5LA

Decision: Given that BPC does not have the technical expertise to appraise the evidence we think that an independent report would have given us a basis on which to make a decision.

TM/14/02989

Applicant: Mr P Almani

Proposal: Demolition of the Stables in Birling Road, Ryarsh, and construction of a frozen food distribution centre

Location: Ryarsh Farm Livery Stables, Birling Road

Decision: Planning committee putting response together

TM14/03461/TNCA

TQ 567998 160414

Applicant: Dr D Gilbert

Proposal: Fell horse chestnut tree suffering from bleeding canker

Location: 3 The Close, Birling ME19 5WJ

Decision: This application was discussed at the meeting and no objections were raised.

Decisions

None

11 Any Other Business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

12 Date of next meeting

As previously agreed **4 November 2014 at 8pm**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm.