

## Birling Parish Council

### Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 8 March 2016 in Birling Village Hall at 8.15pm

**Present:** Councillors      Mrs Jacquie Westwood (Chair)      Mr Ron Nudd (Vice Chair)  
   Mr Colin Grimmett                              Ms Deborah Harrington  
   Mrs Sylvia Spooner                              Mrs Helen Walker

County Cllrs Mrs Hohler & Mr Balfour, Mrs Grimmett (Clerk) & 3 members of the public.

#### **1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies were received from Borough Cllr Ann Kemp and PCSO McMillan  
Cllr Walker declared a pecuniary interest in item **10 TM/16/00065/OA**

#### **2 Reports**

**County** Mrs Hohler's report (attached) had been circulated

Mrs Hohler added that KCC's budget has been cut by 20% over the past 5 years and continues to come under pressure particularly due to an aging population, increasing numbers of school children (especially those with special needs) and the Government's living wage initiative. Mrs Hohler had attended the recent Old Chalk New Downs Workshop at Trosley Country Park and had been impressed by the number of Parish representatives attending. Consultation about the Lower Thames Crossing is ongoing and Mrs Hohler would encourage residents to comment on the different options. One of the reasons not to put in another tunnel at Dartford is that the existing infrastructure could not cope with the upheaval of the extremely high volumes of traffic at the same time as new construction taking place.

**Borough** Mr Balfour also commented on the Lower Thames Crossing and the adverse effect on the A228 should the Medway crossing be chosen. TMBC is also under pressure to make cuts without affecting front line services but, in reality, this may not be possible. He stressed that the Local Plan "call for sites" is not about applications for planning permission. Mr Balfour advised that Parishes will be able to take advantage of KCC's bulk purchasing for street lights but was unable to give timescales.

**Crime** No report received.

**Chairman** Mrs Westwood had attended the KALC Chairmanship Conference which covered subjects such as local planning / localisation / devolution. The keynote speech was from the RH Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, who reflected on the possible tensions between Borough and Parish Councils concerning enacting localism. Other speakers included the Kent Fire & Rescue CEO on the topic of leadership and Ian Davison, Wellers Hedley Solicitor on legal matters. Mrs Hohler left at 8.35pm & Mr Balfour left at 8.40pm

#### **3 Open Forum**

**(a)** Mr Marchant suggested that BPC look at the reasons why the stream which runs under Bull Road towards Birling Ashes floods as he thinks it might be due to drainage from the M20 and the Leybourne Grange site.

Nothing further was raised under this heading.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 February 2016 be **APPROVED** and they were **SIGNED** by the Chair.

**5 Matters arising and last month's circulation**

**(a) Actions from January's Meeting**

**All Saints' PCC Heritage Event**

This event is to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and part of it will be a display of flower arrangements in the church. It was **AGREED** to donate £200 specifically for flowers.

**Aylesford Cubs**

No-one from Birling attends but details had been forwarded to Malling Lions who may be able to help.

**Audit**

Kevin Funnell has been appointed and the audit will be carried out on 13 May.

**Emergency Plan**

A contact list had been drawn up which was handed out to Councillors. Information from UK Power Networks re vulnerable residents was also discussed.

**Action: Councillors were asked to consider whether additions to the list were necessary and the matter would be further discussed at April's meeting.**

**HGV Parking in Birling Road**

The Clerk had received responses from PCSO Boyd and the Parking Manager at TMBC. Unless Kent Police or traffic wardens found HGV drivers actually causing an obstruction to pedestrians, other traffic, affecting landscaping or dropping litter they were powerless to take any action. It was suggested that, realistically, the best solution might be for KCC to erect bollards to prevent vehicles parking as this would be self-enforcing and quick to implement.

**Action: Clerk to contact Mrs Hohler with a view to possibly obtaining a grant**

**Potholes and Gateway Posts in Bull Road**

The potholes have been filled and the posts will be cleaned not painted.

**Funding for Landscape PCSO** Cllr Nevill was not present.

**Action: Clerk to contact Cllr Nevill for an update.**

**Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations/Beacon** Cllr Nevill was not present

**Action: Clerk to contact Cllr Nevill for an update**

**Secure Trust**

**Action: Cllr Walker to contact Secure Trust**

**(b) Any other matters arising**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

**6 Parish Business for Decision**

**(a) NALC – Update to Model Financial Regulations**

A revised version had been issued which the Clerk suggested be adopted when the annual review was due in September. This was **AGREED**.

**(b) Clean for the Queen Campaign**

The Clerk had obtained information including Risk Assessment and equipment. The risks involved in litter picking along busy roads were discussed and it was **AGREED** that it would still be a worthwhile exercise if the activity was limited to footpaths. Cllr Walker agreed to co-ordinate the project.

**Action: Clerk to register for enrolment and hand over to Cllr Walker.**

**(c) External Audit for Smaller Authorities**

The Audit Commission has been replaced by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd who will automatically appoint external auditors for a 5 year period from 2017/18 unless

Councils opt out and set up an Independent Audit Panel to procure external audit. It was **AGREED** not to opt out.

**(d) Action with Communities in Rural Kent – Subscription**

Subscription has increased from £35 to £50. It was **AGREED** not to continue to subscribe.

**(e) Any other matters to be decided.**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

**7** **Correspondence**

Thames Crossing Consultation **Action: Cllrs Grimmett & Nudd to comments**

T&M CAB Request for support in 2016 **Action:** to be considered later in the year

KALC Parish & Town Council Funding Allocation Review - FAPC could be withdrawn by TMBC which would have consequences for the Parish Council and All Saints' PCC

East Malling & Larkfield PC Copy of letter to Tom Tugendhat MP re Housing & Planning Bill

**8** **Financial Matters**

**(a) Monthly accounts, statements & PAYE records to be signed**

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

NatWest balances as at February 2016: Current: £13856.92 Reserve £100.41

Secure Trust Bank: £16899.46.

**(b) Cheques**

The following cheques were signed:

			<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>
1423	Mrs Grimmet	March salary & reimbursements			£333.69
1424	Birling Village Hall CT	Hire of Hall			£42.00
1425	HMRC	PAYE			£187.00

The following cheque to be drawn up and signed to ensure clears in 2015-16

1426	All Saints' PCC	Heritage Event flowers			£200.00
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**(c) Any other financial business**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

**9** **Roads**

**(a) JPCTCG**

Cllr Grimmett to attend next meeting.

**(b) Any other roads business**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

**10** **Planning**

**New:** Cllr Walker had declared a pecuniary interest in this item and took no part in the discussion.

Mr Spall from 29 Ryarsh Road said he has major concerns about access to the proposed development with a potential increase of up to 8 extra vehicles using Masters Lane. He queried the safety of access onto Ryarsh Road with cars parking on pavements either side of Masters Lane, pedestrians using Masters Lane and pedestrians crossing along Ryarsh Road. He was also concerned that if outline planning permission was agreed a developer could apply to change the garages into terraced houses.

TM/16/00065/OA TQ 567848 160288

Applicant: Messrs T & J Marchant & Mrs J Merriman

Location: Timberley 19 Masters Lane, Birling ME19 5JP

Proposal: Outline Planning for Demolition of existing detached house and outbuilding & replacement with 3 detached dwellings & associated

garaging & parking facilities & widening & improving vehicular access

**BPC:** It was **AGREED** that access is a major concern with doubts about (1) whether the proposed passing area in Masters Lane would be sufficient to cater for the increased volume of traffic using the lane and (2) safety with the increased number of vehicles exiting onto Ryarsh Road.

No objections raised to the development **BUT** suitable access must be provided.

TM16/00003/FL

TQ 568752 161119

Applicant: Ms Charlotte Voller Kent Dog Walker

Location: Land East of Legge Lane and opposite Langold House, Snodland Road

Proposal: Change of use of land from agricultural to use of land for dog walking and erection of static caravan to provide shelter

**BPC:** No objections provided adequate measures are taken for the collection of dog waste.

**Decisions:**

TM/15/03947/FL

TQ567996 161516

Proposal: Rear ground and first floor extension with internal reconfiguration

Applicant: Dr R Beavington

Location: 4 Dykes Place, 354 Stangate Road, Birling ME19 5JJ

Decisions: TMBC Refused 10/01/2016

KCC/TM/0381/2015

Proposal: Temporary site compound to support the M20 J4 widening programme

Location: Land to the east of Castle Way, Leybourne, ME19 5HW

Decision: KCC Approved 12/2/2016

**11 Any Other Business**

**(a) Old Chalk New Downs Workshop**

Cllrs Westwood, Spooner and Grimmatt had attended and all found it very interesting. Each Parish had been asked to put forward their major ideas for what they would like to see from the project. The Chair agreed to complete the feedback form listing the top priorities that were agreed at the meeting. These were to support landowners to improve the grassland and downlands on the north Downs, support public access where possible, encourage visitors, provide educational opportunities and support rural policing.

**(b) HM Queen Elizabeth II 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Commemorative Medal**

The Chair and Clerk had each received a free sample of this medal for schools and councils from Tower Mint. Minimum order 50 @ £1.99 + P & P. No action to be taken.

**(c) Parish Partnership Panel**

Cllr Westwood had attended the last meeting and reported that there are likely to be lots of budget cuts in the pipeline from TMBC and that Parishes need to be prepared for the FAPC to be withdrawn. TMBC seem keen to devolve responsibility to local Town and Parish Councils. Minutes will be circulated once received.

**(d) Local Plan meeting**

Cllrs Westwood and Nevill will attend a meeting at Larkfield Village Hall 11 March.

**(e) Website**

EIS (funded by KCC) who provide the help desk for BPC's website have set up a new format website to replace the existing ones, hopefully by the end of June. Training courses are in the process of being set up which will cost £129 for a half day course. They

are also considering offering a management programme where material is supplied by the Clerk and posted on the website by them. One of the benefits of this would be continuity in the case of a change of personnel, illness etc. The annual charge has not yet been decided.

**Action: Clerk to report when further information received.**

**12 Date of next meeting**

As previously agreed the next meeting will be held at **8pm on Tuesday 5 April 2016**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.0pm.