

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 5 April 2016 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Jacquie Westwood (Chair) Mr Colin Grimmett
 Ms Deborah Harrington Mr Guy Nevill
 Mrs Sylvia Spooner Mrs Helen Walker

Mrs Grimmett (Clerk) and County Cllr Mrs Hohler

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from County Cllr Matthew Balfour

2 Reports

Borough Report (attached) had been received and circulated

County see 5 (a) HGV Parking in Bull Road

Crime Report not received

3 Open Forum

Nothing was raised under this heading.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the APA and meeting held on Tuesday 8 March 2016 be **APPROVED** and they were **SIGNED** by the Chair.

5 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Actions from January's Meeting

Clean for the Queen Campaign

Insurance constraints limit litter picking to roads with 30mph speed limits and Cllr Walker suggested that 2 hours on 14, 15 or 21 May would be sufficient to clear Snodland Road, Bull Road, Ryarsh Road within the village gateways and the village hall car park and possibly some footpaths. Most Councillors advised they could provide high viz jackets.

Action: Cllr Walker to organise risk assessment, litter picking equipment, access to village hall and decide whether to enlist the help of residents. **All Councillors** to let Cllr Walker know on which dates they would be available.

Emergency Plan

Cllr Grimmett suggested that the exact location of the salt bins be added to the plan.

Funding for Landscape PCSO

In January 2014 BPC had donated £250 and Cllr Nevill had established that funding was still necessary and it was **AGREED** to make a contribution of £250.

Action: Cllr Nevill to arrange for **KCC** to raise an invoice.

HGV Parking in Birling Road

Cllr Hohler advised that Kent Highways had looked at the site and she would be prepared to fund bollards and added that she had seen a lorry parked in Birling Road on her way to the meeting.

Action: Clerk to liaise **Kent Highways**

Queen's 90 Birthday Celebrations/Beacon

Cllr Nevill advised that, although Birling owns the beacon, it is sited on Snodland land and cannot be seen from the village. Alternative options of different types of beacons and a bonfire were discussed and it was decided it was impractical and not financially viable to have either. All Saints' Church's heritage weekend would be the village celebration to which BPC had contributed.

Secure Trust

Cllr Walker is awaiting paperwork from Secure Trust.

Response to Thames Crossing

Cllrs Grimmatt & Nudd had considered the options and completed the consultation to the effect that they considered Option C to be the best overall.

CPRE Meeting

The meeting attended by Cllrs Westwood and Neville was to discuss Tonbridge and Malling's New Local Plan. Parish Councils are being encouraged by the government to produce neighbourhood plans that are a protracted and costly process that could influence the TMBC local plan. Alternatively a parish plan can be developed that reflected local residents views about village design and amenities. It was suggested that Ron Nudd be asked if he still had the design statement he produced some years ago.

A number of concerns had been raised about the lack of transparency in the sustainability appraisal being undertaken by TMBC in reviewing potential housing developments that could be included in the local plan.

Documents regarding these proposals can be accessed on the TMBC website. This includes the Local Plan Position Statement dated February 2016 that had not been widely distributed or discussed with PCs. This report clarifies that 673 new homes are required per annum, equating to 13460 over the period 2011-2031. Also an additional 410 bed spaces for residential institutions are required over the same time period equating to 20 bed spaces pa.

TMBC have undertaken a 'call for sites', for future land supply and is currently assessing the submissions and the report will be published later this year, followed by consultations. Proposals have been put forward for developments in Birling. Planning is a complex process and Cllrs were impressed by the depth of knowledge and skills available to PCs through the CPRE. Cllrs will consider at a later meeting whether BPC should join this organisation to have access to their professional advice.

Action: Cllr Grimmatt to ask Cllr Nudd if he still had the Design Statement.

Action: Subscription to CPRE to be discussed at May's meeting.

(b) Any other matters arising

Nothing was raised under this heading.

6 Parish Business and Decisions

(a) Year-End Financial Position

The Clerk reported that payments for the year 2015-16 had been £13055 against a budget of £14522. This saving was mainly due to reduced election costs and the receipt of £1005 from the Transparency Fund which had covered the cost of a laptop, training and the extra hours spent by the Clerk updating the website.

	NatWest Current	NatWest Reserve			
Balances B/F 1 April 2015					
	£11663.61	£100.36			
Receipts	£14941.64	£0.06			
Payments	£13055.02				
Balances at 31 March 2016	£13022.23	£100.42			
Secure Trust Bank: £17068.50					
			Net	VAT	Gross

(b) Resignation of Cllr Nudd

Councillors were upset to learn that Cllr Nudd had resigned for health reasons and a vote of thanks to Cllr Nudd for his contribution over the past 9 years since being co-opted to BPC in November 2006 was expressed by all. A Vacancy Notice had been sent to TMBC and posted on the noticeboard and website.

Action: Cllr Grimmatt to organise a small gift and card for Cllr Nudd.

(d) KALC Subscription

It was **AGREED** to continue to subscribe at a cost of £165.64, an increase of 5%.

(e) Any other matters to be decided.

Nothing was raised under this heading.

7 Correspondence

KCC Bus Review www.kent.gov.uk/busreview

Action: Cllr Westwood will complete

Borough Green Parish Council Letter to TMBC re Call for Sites

Action: To be discussed at May's meeting

8 Financial Matters

(a) Year-end accounts, statements & PAYE records to be signed

Copies of bank statements and PAYE forms were signed. The final papers are to be presented at May's meeting.

(b) Cheques

The following cheques were signed:

			Net	VAT	Gross
1427	Mrs Grimmatt	April salary & reimbursements	£318.81	£1.83	£320.64
1428	KALC	Subscription	£165.64	£33.13	£198.77
		Good Gouncillors' Guides	£9.75	£0.35	£10.10

(c) Any other financial business

The FAPC Outturn Statement was signed by the Chair.

9 Roads

(a) JPCTCG

Cllr Grimmatt will attend the meeting on 7 April.

(b) Any other roads business

Cllr Grimmatt had contacted Kent Highways regarding access to Birling Road from the A228 roundabout. This junction is already often blocked at peak times by vehicles coming from the direction of Kingshill and the diversion due to the J4 roadworks will make things worse. Kent Highways had advised that a traffic engineer will be monitoring traffic flow. Cllr Walker reported that the road surface around the traffic calming in Bull Road is crumbling.

Action: Clerk to report to Kent Highways

10 Planning

New:

TM/16/00580/FL

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Mullane 3 Bull Road, Birling ME19 5JE

Proposal: Two storey rear extension

BPC: Objections as consider proposed extension too large for the site

Decisions:

TM/15/02445/FL TQ567539 159747

Applicant: Mr P Amlani Ryarsh Livery Stables, Birling Road, Ryarsh

Proposal: Demolition & removal of existing commercial livery barns and replace with Class B8 storage unit with ancillary B1 office

Appeal: Granted

Councillors expressed their concerns that this appeal having been granted may lead to

further development at the site. They were also concerned about a possible increase in the frequency of vehicle movements over what has been agreed.

Action: Cllr Walker to draft letter of protest to Tom Tugendhat MP and Clerk to ask if Ryarsh PC are taking any action.

11 Any Other Business

(a) Cllr Nevill reported that Birling Village Hall Committee were having plans drawn up and are seeking quotes for the refurbishment of the village hall including roof insulation and a new kitchen with costs likely to be in the region of £12-14K. They are hoping that the work will be carried out between July and September 2016.

(b) The Clerk reported that the overgrown edges of The Stables, Birling Road, had been cut back although the brambles and shrub still remain.

(c) Cllr Grimmett reported that Malling Lions had donated £200 to Aylesford cubs for archery equipment.

(d) Cllr Grimmett had spoken to Ms Voller (the applicant for using field in Snodland Road for dog walking) who advised that all the dog waste was removed from the site daily.

(e) Cllr Westwood reported that one of the steps on the footpath to Church Field was damaged.

Action: Clerk to contact Public Rights of Way Officer re repair.

12 Date of next meeting

As previously agreed the AGM will be held at **8pm on Tuesday 10 May 2016** followed by the monthly meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05pm.