

Birling Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 10 September 2013 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Jacque Westwood (Chair) Mr Ron Nudd
Mrs Sylvia Spooner Mrs Helen Walker

Cllr Matthew Balfour and Mrs Grimmett (Clerk)

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Sarah Hohler, Ann Kemp, Colin Grimmett and David Hopper and PCSO Laura Bullen. Cllr Nevill was absent.

2 Reports

PCSO Bullen had emailed her report that there had been no reported crimes in Birling in July and August but there had been 3 incidents in Ryarsh. Cllr Westwood said that a metal gate had been reported stolen from the entrance to The Kennels below Church Field.

Cllr Balfour reported that TMBC had decided that some of the new home money paid to them by government would be passed on to the parishes to help offset reductions in the allocation for next year.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 July 2013 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by the Chair.

4 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Traffic calming repairs

Still no update from Kent Highways.

(b) Unsuitable for HGVs Sign

Highways had advised that, as no injuries/fatalities had occurred, a larger sign would not be installed.

(c) Church Wall

Repairs to the wall had been completed. The clerk had written to the PCC asking if vegetation on the wall by the road could be cutback.

(d) Steps to Church Field

The Footpath team at TMBC had advised the Clerk that to extend the handrail and add steps to the footpath reducing the width of the path would be detrimental and, therefore, no further work would be undertaken. Cost had not been a factor in this decision.

(e) Vegetation clearance on public rights of way

Cllr Westwood had provided details of the 2 overgrown paths but it was too late for them to be included in the contractors 2nd cutting. Clerk waiting to hear whether the Footpath team would be able to clear them.

(f) Electricity Supply

A new quote had been received from EDF at a slightly reduced annual cost of £487 for the next 12 months, wef 1/10/2013, and it was **AGREED** that the quote be accepted.

(g) Any other matters arising

JPCTCG

The Clout Memorial Hall in West Malling would be the venue for future meetings. Cllr Westwood noted that in the minutes of June's meeting the possibility of JPCTCG amalgamating with KALC to bring their views to a wider audience had been discussed. The councillors thought that this would be beneficial and **AGREED** that if a vote was called for at the JPCTCG 19 September meeting our representatives (Cllrs Nudd and Grimmett) should vote in favour.

No other matters were raised under this heading.

5 Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Review of Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

Cllr Westwood and the Clerk had reviewed both documents and were of the opinion that no amendments to the Financial Regulations were necessary but that the Standing Orders 1(q) should be amended to show that the TMBC Code of Conduct under section 27(2) of the Localism Act 2011 had been adopted. It was **AGREED** that this be done and the Chair and Clerk signed the amended document.

(b) Donations

Letters had been received from CAB and Victim Support. All donations were discussed and it was **AGREED** to make the same donations as in 2012-2013 ie

Flower festival	£250	RBL Wreath	£67
Try Angle Awards	£50	Air Ambulance	£50
CAB	£50	Victim Support	£50
Age Concern	£50	Volunteer Centre Malling	£50

but that they could be made earlier than December to allow more time for recipients to cash them before year end.

(c) War Memorial

2 quotes had been received to clean the memorial, repair the base and redo the lettering, one at £3000 and the other at £1040. A 3rd verbal quote in the region of £3000+ had also been received but a written quotation had not been forthcoming. Because of the large difference in the 2 quotes a further quote had been requested from a local business and a site meeting arranged for 16 September to be attended by Cllrs Nevill and Nudd. The Clerk advised that all stone masons were very busy ahead of the 2014 centenary celebrations.

(d) Any other business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

6 Open Forum

Nothing was raised under this heading.

7 Correspondence

TMBC - Changes to Housing Allocation scheme – to be circulated

TMBC - Invitation to Local Plan Event 26 September – Cllr Westwood to attend

Mayor's charity karting evening 30 September – No one to attend
Requests for donations – CAB and Victim Support – already discussed under 5(b)
KCC – Safe & Sensible Street Lighting campaign – to be circulated

In the Bag

Kings Hill PC Response to proposed Kings Hill Phase 3 expansion
Tonbridge Conservative Ass – Becoming a Borough Councillor
KCC – Safe & Sensible Street Lighting
Clerks & Councils Direct September 2013
Here & Now Autumn 2013
Kent Police – News in Kent Summer 2013
Kent Downs Orchid Issue 23 Summer 2013

8 Financial Matters

(a) Monthly reconciliation sheets, statement & PAYE forms

Monthly reconciliation sheet, bank statement and PAYE forms were signed and monthly record handed out.

(b) Cheques to be signed

The following cheque was signed:

1311	Birling Village Hall CT	Hire of Hall	£28.00
1312	Mrs Grimmett	Aug & Sept salary & expenses	£555.63
1313	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Annual Audit Fee	£120.00
1314	HMRC	PAYE	£195.00

(c) Annual Audit Year ending 31/3/2013

Confirmation of a satisfactory audit had been received and the Notice of Conclusion posted on the noticeboard.

(d) Any other financial business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

9 Roads

(a) Signs at Traffic Calming

Highways had not cut back the vegetation around the priority and speed signs so it had been done by Cllr Grimmett who was thanked by the councillors.

(b) Any other business

The Clerk was asked to report to Kent Highways that a large section of tarmac at the edge of Snodland Road just before the track to Birling Place had subsided and that the 30mph sign on The Bank had been damaged and needed replacing. Comments had been received from parents walking children to school in Ryarsh that the pavement was impassable in several places due to parked vehicles and overgrown hedges. The Clerk was asked to contact the householders concerned. It was noted that overgrown vegetation along one half of the land in front of The Stables had been cut back but that the other side had not and the Clerk was asked to contact Ryarsh PC again.

10 Planning

New Applications:

None

Decisions:

TM/13/02047/TNCA

Applicant: Mr Michael West

Location: 13 Bull Road, Birling, Kent ME19 5JE
Proposal: Remove magnolia (in decline and roots damaging property)
BPC: No objections
TMBC: No objections 20/8/2013

TM/13/00547/FL TQ 566312 162095
Applicant: Birling Farms
Location: Whitehorse Wood, White Horse Road, Meopham
Proposal: Temporary planning permission for 50 tent pitch camp-site with ancillary facilities
BPC: No objections
TMBC: Still being considered

11 Any Other Business

(a) It was agreed that the meeting in March 2014 be held on the 1st Tuesday (4 March).

12 Date of next meeting:

As previously agreed **8 October 2013 at 8.00pm**
There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.