

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 8 October 2013 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Jacquie Westwood (Chair) Mr Ron Nudd (Vice Chair)
Mr Colin Grimmett Mr Guy Nevill
Mrs Helen Walker

Cllr Matthew Balfour and Mrs Grimmett (Clerk)

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Cllr David Hopper who would join the meeting approx 8.30pm and PCSO Laura Bullen. Cllr Spooner was absent. Cllr Nevill declared an interest in item **10** Planning Application for camp site.

2 Reports

Cllr Balfour spoke about the budget cuts that KCC and TMBC will have to make over the next 2 financial years and the need for Parish Councils to be ready for the impact. No decision had yet been made about the location of the Thames crossing and the third airport options are still under discussion.

CPCSO Bullen had emailed her report that there had been one reported crime in Birling in September when a cultivation of cannabis had been found in woodland off Bull Road which had been seized and destroyed.

Cllr Westwood reported that she had attended the Local Plan Event at TMBC and the presentation was placed in the bag. 1-2-1 meetings with parishes were planned to take place on the next few months. It was noted that planning could become more contentious under the National Planning Policy Framework. T&MC are to hold a first major public consultation in Late Spring 2014 following completion of the evidence base by early 2014.

Cllr Nevill reported that at the last Village Hall Committee meeting it had been decided to look at ways to make the hall more energy efficient including insulation, heating and lighting and possibly refitting the kitchen. Proposals would be put together over the next few months. The beech tree in the garden has some decay and may have to be felled. Landscaping to the front of the hall is being considered with the possibility of extending the paved area to accommodate 1 or 2 benches to be funded by a recent legacy. This year's summer party had been cancelled as proposed dates clashed with events in Ryarsh and it had been decided to hold next year's on 14 June 2014.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 September 2013 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by the Chair.

4 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Pavement Clearance

The Clerk had contacted the 2 householders whose hedges were blocking the paths and the hedges had been cut back. TMBC had advised that, as they had been unable to contact the owner, the elder and other vegetation growing over the pavement by The

Stables could be cut back and Cllr Grimmett had done this and was thanked by the Council. The saplings and weeds at the lower end of The Bank had also been cut back but no-one was sure who had done this. As the cuttings had been left further along The Bank it was possible that it had been carried out by a resident and not TMBC or Highways.

(b) Footpath Clearance

Both footpaths had been cleared by TMBC.

(c) Electricity Supply

Laser Energy had confirmed EDF contract now secured.

(d) Vegetation on the Churchyard Wall

The PCC have asked for tenders to remove the vegetation.

(e) Pothole in Snodland Road

Kent Highways had repaired the subsidence on the side of the road. Another pothole in Ryarsh Road outside Birling House had been reported to Kent Highways.

(f) Any other matters arising

Nothing was raised under this heading

5 Parish Business for Decisions

(a) JPCTCG

It was **AGREED** to continue membership of the group. Subscription invoices would be issued soon. See also **9(a)**.

(b) Remembrance Service 10 November

Cllr Grimmett offered to attend but needed to check his diary and Cllr Westwood would stand in if he was otherwise engaged and the Clerk would purchase the wreath.

(c) War Memorial

The third quote had been received and all 3 quotes were discussed. The quotes were for £1040, £3000 and £20950 to clean the memorial, restore the lettering and repair the concrete base but the most expensive option included total replacement of the base with the memorial being removed from site for cleaning and restoration. It was **AGREED** that the cheapest quote be disregarded and that there were insufficient funds for the most expensive but that more information was needed as to exactly what work to the base was necessary. It was **DECIDED** that another quote be sought for this part of the work and Cllr Nevill offered to deal with this. The Clerk was asked to contact both companies to establish what, if any, guarantees would be provided and if the work could be completed in time for the summer party.

(d) Any other business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

6 Open Forum

Nothing was raised under this heading.

7 Correspondence (all placed in the bag)

TMBC Planning Policy Team – 1-2-1 meetings with PCs

TMBC Local Plan Event

TMBC Joint Standards Committee + PPP - all in the bag

Kent Highways - Parish Seminar Presentation

Kent Highways - Clearing Snow and Ice Yourself Guidelines

Any other correspondence

In the Bag

Parish Partnership Panel Minutes 5 September
JPCTCG Minutes of meeting 19 September
TMBC Summary of Accounts and Review of the Year
Commonwork Autumn, Winter and Spring Workshops details
Downs Mail September 2013 Issue 185
Oast to Coast Autumn 2013

8 Financial Matters

(a) Quarterly reconciliation sheets, statement & PAYE forms

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

(b) Cheques to be signed

The following cheque was signed:

1315 Mrs Grimmett	October salary & expenses	£276.89
1316 Royal British Legion	Wreath	£67.00

(c) Budget

So far all receipts and payments have been on or under budget and no contingency payments have been made.

(d) Any other financial business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

9 Roads

(a) JPCTCG

There had been no call for a vote at the last meeting for the amalgamation of the JPCTCG with KALC at the last meeting held on 19 September. Cllr Nudd gave a brief overview of the meeting and the minutes were placed in the bag. Cllr Grimmett suggested that SIDs could be used as part of a Speedwatch programme and this would be raised at the next meeting on 16 January, at a Kings Hill venue to be announced.

(b) Salt Bag

Kent Highways have offered to deliver another salt bag but not necessary as we have sufficient.

(c) Any other business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

10 Planning

New Applications:

TM/13/02562/FL	TQ566842 162453
Applicant:	Mr B Hitchcock
Location:	Highfield House, 62 White Horse Road, Meopham DA13 0UF
Proposal:	Alterations to roof over garage to form annexe ancillary to house
BPC:	No objections

Decisions:

Cllr Nevill declared an interest in this application and advised that an ecological survey had been requested and now submitted.

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

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

12 Date of next meeting:

As previously agreed **12 November 2013 at 8.00pm**