

## **Birling Parish Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 via Video Conference Call at 8pm**

**Present:** Councillors Mrs J Westwood (Chair)  
Mr N Hewett  
Mr S Hirst  
Mr G Nevill  
Mrs S Spooner  
Mr D Yates

Clerk Ms J Miller

Also in attendance: County Councillor Hohler; Borough Councillor Montague

#### **339. Apologies for absence**

There were none.

#### **340. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest**

There were none.

#### **341. Reports - County, Borough and Police**

Cllr Hohler reported that the Stangate Road improvements have been completed.

Asymptomatic testing was noted as going well and a mass vaccination site at the Angel Centre will open next week.

Cllr Hohler warned residents about vaccination and COVID scams, which have already been placed on the parish website.

The KCC Vision Zero consultation is underway, it was explained that KCC is trying to reduce fatalities to 0 by 2050. All were encouraged to respond.

Cllr Hohler spoke about the forthcoming budget setting and reminded councillors that the tax base had gone down due to the increase in families on council tax discounts due to hardship. It was noted that care for the elderly was the main request in the public consultation.

Despite COVID restrictions Cllr Hohler confirmed that the KCC elections are going ahead in May and Cllr Hohler had been selected for the Downs area again.

Cllr Montague reported an update on the TMBC response to the Local Plan inspector's report and confirmed that the borough council is confident in its stance.

Cllr Montague advised that he and other councillors were pressuring the leader of the council to address the problem of flytipping and litter. Cllr Yates asked if the borough figures could be published, as they were not on the borough website.

Cllr Nevill suggested that Facebook Marketplace could be interrogated as this is where many waste contractors advertise services, their documents could be checked by borough officers to ensure they are operating legally. Cllr Montague agreed to find out if this was possible.

#### **342. Open Forum – Public Participation Session**

There were none.

#### **343. Approval and signing of minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meetings on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

#### **344. Matters arising and last month's circulation**

##### **i. Parking issues**

Cllr Hirst will take photographs when possible.

**ii Meeting with Ryarsh School**

To receive update from Cllr Walker by head teacher.  
There was no further update.

**iii. Culverts**

Deferred due to Corona Virus.

**iv. The bank verge infringement**

To note Surrey Hills solicitors investigating costs options for advice.

**v. Box Tree**

To note formal notification required for works if tree is trunk over 75mm measured 1.5m above ground level.

It was **RESOLVED** to request that the parish council can reduce the Box Tree by one third  
Cllr Hirst shall follow up with Liz Guthrie and clerk to contact the Leybourne tree contractor.

**345. Matters for Information circulated to councillors**

09/01/2021 Ewatch 1832  
09/01/2021 The rural bulletin  
09/01/2021 RSN Rural funding digest  
09/01/2021 Star count the stay at home edition  
09/01/2021 NALC chief executives bulletin  
09/01/2021 Help us turn the tide on plastic  
09/01/2021 KALC training events  
09/01/2021 Action Fraud scams  
09/01/2021 Local Government Bulletin  
09/01/2021 M20 works bulletin  
09/01/2021 E watch 1833  
09/01/2021 Kent and Medway Vaccination programme update  
09/01/2021 Local Government Bulletin  
12/01/2021 Local Government Bulletin  
12/01/2021 The rural bulletin  
12/01/2021 E watch 1834  
12/01/2021 Neighbourhood Engagement meeting TMBC  
17/01/2021 NALC Chairman – open letter to councillors  
17/01/2021 Business Alert HMRC phishing scam  
17/01/2021 Ewatch 1835  
17/01/2021 NALC Coronavirus update  
17/01/2021 M20 updates  
17/01/2021 Local Government Bulletin  
17/01/2021 Joint Standards Committee code of conduct training  
18/01/2021 Gatwick In Touch newsletter  
18/01/2021 The Rural Bulletin  
19/01/2021 Local Government Bulletin  
19/01/2021 KALC Bitesize learning  
19/01/2021 KCC Member briefing environment update  
25/01/2021 E watch 1837  
25/01/2021 KALC CEO Bulletin  
25/01/2021 COVID 19 vaccine update  
25/01/2021 M20 works bulletin  
25/01/2021 KALC event GDPR and Website accessibility  
25/01/2021 Keep Kent Safe – doorstep criminals  
25/01/2021 Local Government Bulletin  
26/01/2021 COVID 19 supporting your community  
26/01/2021 KCC Trading standards alert  
26/01/2021 NALC Consultation Briefing EPC1-21  
26/01/2021 Agenda Parish Partnership Panel

01/02/2021 Local Government Bulletin  
 01/02/2021 COVID Report + NHS report  
 01/02/2021 Call for capital project ideas  
 01/02/2021 Local Government Bulletin  
 01/02/2021 KALC event an introduction to chairmanship  
 01/02/2021 Local Government Bulletin  
 01/02/2021 Kent and Medway Covid 19 vaccine 28 January  
 01/02/2021 s137 limit for 2021/22  
 01/02/2021 M20 Works Bulletin  
 01/02/2021 Timetable changes from February  
 01/02/2021 KALC Community Awards  
 01/02/2021 NALC Chief Executive bulletin

It was noted in the KALC circulars that KALC are seeking support to lobby the government to extend the statutory instrument for remote meetings and the clerk to draft a letter from Birling Parish Council to the MP to support this.

### 346. Meetings

#### (a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council

04/02/2021 – Parish Partnership Panel – Cllr Westwood reported that the Local Plan was discussed and TMBC feel that the judgement from the examiner is affected by Sevenoaks Councils approach in complying with the duty to cooperate. There is also a letter to the minister calling him to intervene.

The KCC Vision Zero workshops were noted and it was agreed for a place to be booked for Birling Councillors on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

It was noted that the Kent Police update was mainly about theft, burglaries and dogs being stolen. Domestic and child abuse had doubled in numbers during lockdown and ASB was primarily in Snodland. Youth engagement officers are putting dispersal orders in place to address this. Off road biking was noted as being on the increase.

Waste and road side litter was discussed and it was noted that borough council staffing had been difficult in COVID19 for litter clearance as they are focusing on domestic waste as a priority.

#### (b) Future meetings

25/02/2021 – Tarmac Liaison Meeting

03/03/2021 – Vision Zero Workshop

### 347. Parish Business for Decisions

#### 1. Highways Improvement Plan

i. To note plan sent to Ian Grigor, KCC.

It was noted that there had been no response and this is being chased for the third time.

#### (b) Local Plan

i. To note update

This item had been covered earlier in the meeting.

#### (c) Coronavirus updates

i. To note continued national lockdown restrictions - noted.

ii. To note community support efforts update from BART – no further update. ~~noted.~~

iii. To note Village Hall update – there was no further update.

#### (d) Fly Tipping / Litter

i. To note response from borough councillors regarding litter issues – noted.

ii. To note further fly tipping in neighbouring Parish – noted.

**(e) No Parking Sign**

i. To consider resident parking issues.

It was noted that Cllr Nevill is providing no parking bollards to the residents to use to alleviate the issues of parking outside the village hall.

**(h) Streetlighting**

i. To consider contractors advice

The contractor has confirmed that the lights go off at the correct times but are doing random checks to ensure that this is the case. The clerk will ask for a full explanation of how the timers work for the council to consider the facts.

**(i) Strategic Plan**

i. To consider the updates to the 3 year plan document

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Yates to finalise the letter, the clerk to print and to arrange distribution in late February. Responses from residents shall be requested to be returned by 26<sup>th</sup> March. The council aims to consider the responses at the April meeting and share the results in May.

**348. Parish Business for Noting**

**(a) Website update**

i. To note the following added to the website:-

- Road Closures and M20 Updates
- Corona Updates
- Covid scams

**349. Correspondence**

(a) Email from Ryarsh resident warning of possible intruders – noted.

(b) Email from resident thanking PC for Stangate Road improvements – noted.

(c) To confirm response to Freedom of Information Request – noted.

**350. Finance & Accounts**

**(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation January 2021.**

Net Bank Balances as at 31/01/2021 £23,197.10

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation for December 2020.

**(b) To note budget position year to date January 2021**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget position to date December 2021.

**(c) To approve PAYE record January 2021.**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record for January 2021.

**(d) BACS to be approved and signed (in person at next face to face meeting):**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the BACS payments for January.

		Gross	Net	VAT	
J Miller	Staff Costs	£283.69	N/A	N/A	Salary February
HMRC Cumbernaud	Staff Costs	£175.60	N/A	N/A	PAYE February
Spectrum Signs	Expenses	£116.40	£97.00	£19.40	No Parking Sign
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£459.60	£383.00	76.60	Transfer of council email
Kent County Council	Street Lighting Supply	£587.77	558.39	£29.38	Street lighting supply Feb 2020 – Jan 2021
123 Connect	IT Costs	£42.00	£35.00	£7.00	DNS domain transfer to new provider.

It was **RESOLVED** to request an update to the streetlighting energy account now that the lamps are LED.

**351. Roads**

**(a) To report any road issues**

There were none.

**(b) To report any updates on M20 Smart Motorway Works**

It was noted that there will be no more updates. The clerk is chasing a start date for the tree planting.

**(c) Road Closures**

There were none.

**352. Planning**

**(a) Applications to be considered**

There were none. There will be no meeting called for the tree application that had been received today. The Chair was given delegated authority.

**(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council**

There were none.

**353. Matters for future meetings**

The standing items shall be added to the agenda.

**354. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

**Meeting closed at 21:29pm**

**Signed..... Date.....**