

## Birling Parish Council

### Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 10 November 2015 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

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

County Cllr Mrs Sarah Hohler, County & Borough Cllr Matthew Balfour  
Mrs Grimmett (Clerk)

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

Apologies were received from Borough Councillor Mrs Kemp  
Cllr Grimmett declared an interest in **10 (b)** as a neighbour and took no part in the discussion.

#### **2      Reports**

**KCC & TMBC** A 30% decrease in local government budgets had been announced this week. KCC had already delivered savings of over £400M and the further reductions necessary will be even more challenging. Children, young people and the vulnerable remain KCC's priorities and statutory obligations have to be met. Concessionary bus passes at £6.2M are a large drain on resources and growing with an increasing aging population. The growing financial and social costs of housing, caring for and educating unaccompanied minor asylum seekers is also a major concern. With only a few minors having been taken by other counties KCC has to provide the resources and then claim money back from the Government. The allocations from Government should be available by 25 November.

In order for a reduction of the speed limit to 20mph in Ryarsh Road to be considered accidents would have to have occurred. Speed limits are not currently being enforced by Kent Police and Kent & Medway Safety Partnership. Traffic calming (paid for by village) would have to be set up and there is some evidence that reducing speed limits has an adverse effect on speeds. It was suggested that the best course of action at the moment would be to write to the local MP and Senior Police Officer asking that speed limits be enforced.

Cllr Westwood said that the Parish Councillors appreciate all the preceding but will raise the matter at the next JCPTCG meeting and establish what has been effective for other parishes.

Possible closure of Birling Road – As borough representative Cllr Balfour opposes the closure of Birling Road as do Ryarsh PC.

Cllr Hohler reported that she and Cllr Balfour had visited Ryarsh School to look at the hall which is now too small for the school. They have managed to find some money to extend the hall. The extension will have to incorporate the library until further funds can be made available in 2017/18 to create a separate library.

Cllr Hohler added that a grant may be available for speed monitoring to establish the facts.

**Action: BPC to submit an application to Mrs Hohler for consideration.**

**Crime** - PCSO did not attend nor send a report

**3** **Open Forum**

No members of the public were present.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 October 2015 be **APPROVED** and they were **SIGNED** by the Chair.

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

**(a) Transparency Code Fund for Smaller Councils Workshop**

The Clerk had attended the workshop and the claim form for reimbursement of costs incurred in the process of preparing for the new process will be completed before the December meeting.

**(b) Defibrillator Training**

A training session has been set up for 7.30pm on Thursday 12 November in the village hall. Notices had been delivered to most households and notices put up around the village.

**(c) Dog Poo Bin in Masters Lane**

The owners of the property at the bottom of Masters Lane had asked to be consulted on the siting of the bin. The TMBC Environmental Enforcement Officer met with Cllr Grimmett to consider where best to place the bin and it was decided to use the existing footpath sign post reducing the cost to £179.85. TMBC had been asked to proceed on this basis but when the Clerk checked it had actually been put on a new post but at the reduced cost. It had been noticed that the post for the bin in Ryarsh Road opposite The Close was bent.

**Action: Bins to be added to asset register and insurance cover and Clerk to contact TMBC to get the one in Ryarsh Road assessed.**

**(d) Voluntary Litter Code**

Cllr Westwood had attended the presentation of a certificate to the owner of Susie's Snack Bar together with a representative from TMBC, the local PCSO and Stuart Olssen the Area Co-ordinator for Larkfield Neighbourhood Watch who has been instrumental in setting up the Voluntary Litter Code scheme in the area. Susie has done an excellent job of keeping the area around the snack bar litter free despite lorry drivers constantly making a mess.

**(e) Street Lights**

The Clerk had completed the online survey. A meeting has been arranged with PSR Lighting to obtain a quote for replacing all 8 street lights. Mrs Hohler advised that there is a scheme for parishes to upgrade to LED lights and she will forward details to the Clerk.

**(f) Local Plan**

The Clerk had had copies of the plan made and these were distributed to Councillors. The paperwork is in the bag for circulation. The clerk advised that the map is too large to go on the noticeboard but that the link to the Local Plan on the TMBC website was included in September's minutes. A discussion followed regarding the area covered by the Kent Downs AONB.

**Action: Clerk to ascertain boundary of AONB in Birling.**

**(g) Secure Trust**

Addition of signatory forms have been completed and returned to Secure Trust.

**(h) Development of Donald Marchant's Property in Masters Lane**

An extract of the minutes had been sent to Jonathon Marchant.

**(i) Highways & Transportation Consultation**

This had been completed by the Clerk.

**(j) Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth**

This will be raised at the next meeting of All Saints' Church PCC.

**(k) Speeding Vehicles Through the Village**

See Reports

**ACTION: Cllrs to raise issue at January JPCTCG meeting to obtain support and advice and letter to be sent to MP.**

**(l) Footpath to Ryarsh**

The Clerk had already asked Ryarsh's Clerk to communicate with the owner but so far no action had been taken nor reply received.

**Action: Clerk to write to Mr Amlani**

**(m) Any other matters arising**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

**6 Parish Business for Decision**

**(a) Dates of Meetings for 2016**

It was agreed that all meetings, unless decided otherwise necessary, will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month (no meeting in August)

12 January	12 July
9 February	13 September
8 March	11 October
12 April	8 November
10 May	13 December
14 June	

**Action: Clerk to arrange with Village Hall**

**(b) Any other matters to be Decided**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

**7 Correspondence (all had been circulated)**

Kent Association of Local Councils AGM 21 November 2015

Thank you from Royal British Legion

Local Government Boundary Commission – Electoral review of Kent: Further limited consultation for Sevenoaks

[www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/kent/kent-county-council](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/kent/kent-county-council)

Invitation to attend Leybourne Grange Riding for the Disabled Christmas Nativity

**Action: Clerk to accept**

**8 Financial Matters**

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

The bank statement, monthly reconciliation sheet and PAYE forms were signed.

NatWest balances as at 31 October 2015: Current £15211.89 Reserve £100.39

Secure Trust Bank: £16899.46.

**(b) Cheques**

The following cheques were signed:

			<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>
1404	Mrs Grimmett	October salary & reimbursements	£453.79	£2.39	£456.18
			(this includes £11.94+VAT local plan copies)		
1405	All Saints' PCC	S137 payment			£1720.00
1406	Age Concern Malling	S136 donation			£50.00
1407	Heart of Kent Hospice	S136 donation			£50.00

1408	Kent Air Ambulance	S136 donation			£50.00
1409	Malling Community Service	S136 donation			£50.00
1410	T & M CAB	S136 donation			£50.00
1411	Beat Project	S136 donation			£50.00
1412	Victim Support	S136 donation			£50.00
1413	KALC	Transparency Workshop	£30.00	£6.00	£36.00

**(c) T&MBC – Scheme of Financial Arrangements with Parish Councils (FAPC)**

The 2016/17 allocation to Birling PC will be £4232 (an increase of 0.4% from £4215) made up by:

Basic allocation	£2365
Cemetries & churchyards	£1727
Footway lighting	£140

As discussed at the Parish Partnership Panel on 10 September the methodology for the FAPC will be reviewed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee before the TMBC 2017/18 budget is prepared. It should not be presumed that the Scheme will continue in its current form beyond 2016/17.

**(d) Any other financial business**

Nothing further was raised under this heading.

**9 Roads**

**(a) Next JPCTCG Meeting**

18 January 2016 – Attendee(s) to raise matter of speeding

**(b) Any other roads business**

Nothing was raised under this heading

**10 Planning**

**New Applications:**

**(a) TM/15/03190/FL**

Applicant: South East Coast Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust  
 Proposal: Use of site as an Ambulance Community Response Post  
 Location: Roundabout junction on A228 Leybourne bypass at Park Road  
 BPC: No objections

**(b) TM/15/03327/FL**

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Gentry  
 Proposal: Demolition of side extension and garage & erection of 2 storey side and rear extension with carport  
 Location: 90 Ryarsh Road, Birling  
 BPC: site visit to be carried out

**11 Any Other Business**

**(a) Ham Hill Liaison Committee**

The meeting scheduled for November has been deferred until March 2016. Cll Westwood has asked for updates on:

- 1 issues or complaints received following the commencement of the recycling operation
- 2 update on the external lighting application and installation
- 3 whether the restoration works to one of the quarry sides has been completed
- 4 when the vegetation and tree planting will commence

**(b) War Memorial Remembrance Day Service**

Cllr Westwood had attended the service and advised that her husband had cut the hedge and grass and generally tidied up the area around the memorial before the service. Councillors asked that their thanks for this be passed on to Mr Westwood.

**(c) Nothing further was raised under this heading.**

**12 Date of next meeting**

As previously agreed **Tuesday 8 December 2015 at 8.00pm**  
There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm.