

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 8 December 2015 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Jacquie Westwood (Chair) Mr Colin Grimmett
 Mrs Sylvia Spooner Mrs Helen Walker
 County & Borough Cllr Matthew Balfour & Mrs Grimmett (Clerk)

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from County Cllr Sarah Hohler and Cllrs Nudd, Harrington & Nevill. Cllr Grimmett declared an interest in **10(b)** as a neighbour and took no part in the discussion.

2 Reports KCC & TMBC

Borough & County Cllr Balfour reported that KCC have the Autumn statement but figures won't be available until after Christmas. Government seem to have realised that the Care Act and the minimum wage changes are going to have an enormous effect on local government and the care industry so councils have been allowed to put up council tax by 2% but it won't be enough. Details of measures to alleviate Operation Stack, managed by Highways England, should be made within the next few days. Details of the 3rd Thames crossing results should be made early in the New Year but a decision about a new London airport may be delayed. TMBC is still looking at the sites put forward for Local Plan development. Cllr Balfour has advised Leybourne that he supports Birling and Ryarsh in their decisions that they do not want Birling Road closed. .

Cllr Westwood asked Cllr Balfour about street lighting in the village as there had been some confusion over the possible KCC replacement scheme. The Clerk and Cllr Westwood had completed the KCC Street Light consultation on the basis that it referred only to lights owned by KCC. Cllr Balfour said that once the results of the consultation are known a new consultation will ask Parishes and towns who own their street lights if they want to have lights replaced and power supplied through KCC to take advantage of bulk purchasing.

County Councillor Sarah Hohler had passed on her best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Crime - No report available but the Clerk had learnt that PCSO Callum Boyd had recently joined Kent Police so PCSO Ross McMillan may attend meetings in the future. Cllr Walker advised that there had been a house in Birling Park had been broken into by 2 men in high viz jackets who had entered through the front door and left through the back.

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 10 November 2015 be **APPROVED** and they were **SIGNED** by the Chair.

5 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Defibrillator Training

The training session had been well attended with more than 20 residents present and responsibility for the defibrillator had now been handed over to the Village Hall Committee.

(b) Street Lights

The Clerk had obtained a quote for LED lights with timers from PSR Lighting of £460 each and was meeting with Laser Energy on Wednesday 9 December to discuss the possible

savings. In view of Cllr Balfour's comments it was **AGREED** that no action would be taken until full details had been received from KCC.

(c) Secure Trust

Addition of signatory forms had been sent to Secure Trust and Cllr Harrington was in the process of obtaining a password.. It was **AGREED** that 3 signatories should obtain passwords to allow for all eventualities.

ACTION: Clerk to give Cllr Westwood Secure Trust contact details and she and Cllr Walker are to contact Secure Trust to obtain passwords

(d) Ham Hill Liaison Committee

In response to Cllr Westwood's questions the following reply had been received.

- 1 2 complaints had been received from the same person regarding the tannoy used to summon vehicles for loading. The direction of the speaker had been changed after the first complaint but after the second complaint was received the tannoy is being moved to face the opposite direction and this should be completed in December as a new trench for the power supply was needed.
- 2 No external lighting has been installed yet nor a decision made as to where it might be placed. Temporary towers lit only when needed for receiving goods at night might be used.
- 3 The restoration works are not yet complete as a slightly improved model has been agreed with KCC. An environmental walk over has been completed and works will take place spring 2016 and the planting will also take place at this time.

(e) S137 Malling Community Service

This service, providing transport to hospital appointments etc, had closed due to lack of clients and the £50 cheque had been returned.

(f) AONB

The AONB website shows that the whole of Birling is in the AONB.

(g) Any other matters arising

Nothing was raised under this heading.

6 Parish Business for Decision

(a) Transparency Code – Fund for Smaller Councils Application Form

The completed claim form for £1005 had been checked by KALC and was **APPROVED** for submission by Councillors. Total costs were £1062 but £56.92 re 1st KALC workshop not allowable as it took place in 2014-15 financial year.

ACTION: Clerk to forward form to KALC

(b) KCC Change of process for considering planning applications

KCC had advised that in future hard copies of planning applications will not be issued. Notices will be sent to Parish Councils who will have to consider the applications online. It was **DECIDED** that the Clerk would advise the planning team by email, copying in the other councillors, who should discuss it amongst themselves for ratification at the next meeting. It was further **AGREED** that if TMBC adopted this method the same process would apply.

(c) Communication between Parish Councils

Parish Councils' Chairs and Clerks had recently had email correspondence about putting in place a secure electronic forum for inter Parish communication to share issues that may be of common concern that could then be co-ordinated through KALC. This process should ensure a more proactive interface between Parishes and TMBC on mutually agreed matters.

Action: Chair and Clerk to set up Facebook

(d) Parish Partnership Panel: Emergency Plan and Kitchen Caddies

Cllr Westwood had attended the meeting and reported that many Parish Councils had already set up, or were in the process of setting up, Emergency Plans and it was **AGREED** that Andy Edwards from TMBC should be asked to speak to the Council to advise on best practice in developing an Emergency Plan. A copy of an Emergency Planning handbook and other information issued at the meeting were placed in the bag for circulation together with Cllr Westwood's notes as the minutes were not yet available.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Andy Edwards.

(e) Any other matters to be Decided

Nothing was raised under this heading.

7 Correspondence (all had been circulated)

Snodland Town Council – John May Charity - The Clerk had been advised by Karen Sowten CEO of Snodland Town Council that it had been decided at a meeting of the Charity that Trustees would be usually, but not always, a Councillor and Clerk from Birling, Halling and Snodland. Further details will be provided in the New Year.

S136 & S137 Thank you letters had been received from All Saints' PCC, North & West Kent CAB and Heart of Kent Hospice

Kent Fire & Rescue Service Consultation on Safety & Wellbeing Plan 2016-18

www.kent.fire-uk.org/about-us/plans-policies-and-performance/safety-and-wellbeing-plan-2016-18/

A resident from Snodland Road had contacted the Clerk re problems liaising with Kent Highways re hedges and road signs – Clerk to try and help

8 Financial Matters

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

The Current Account statement had not been received so only the PAYE forms were signed. NatWest balances as at 30 November 2015: Current to be confirmed January 2016. Reserve £100.40 Secure Trust Bank: £16899.46.

(b) Cheques

The following cheques were signed:

		Net	VAT	Gross
1414	Mrs Grimmet	December salary & reimbursements		£365.87
1415	Kent Ass of Youth	S137 donation		£50.00
1416	Birling Village Hall CT	Hire of hall		£42.00
1417	HMRC	PAYE		£218.40
1418	TMBC	Dog Poo Bin		£179.85

(c) Any other financial business

The draft budget to be presented at January meeting. Precept papers had been received with FAPC set at £4232 and Council Tax Support Grant at £409.

Nothing further was raised under this heading.

9 Roads

(a) Speeding Vehicles Through the Village

KCC had advised that they would not authorise a speed count if one had been carried out Recently. Cllr Hohler had asked Kent Highways to provide details of the latest information. the last survey was carried out in June 2008 and showed that half the vehicles travelling along Snodland /Ryarsh Road were exceeding the speed limit. Councillors thought that volumes of traffic had increased in the 7 years since the survey although the Kent Highways Traffic Engineer

who had supplied the information doubted that much would have changed and had reiterated Cllr Balfour's comments that, until or unless there was one or more serious

injuries or fatalities the reality was that there were no funds available for traffic calming measures. It was **DECIDED** to ask Cllr Sarah Hohler if a new survey could be carried out to establish the facts. Members considered that if KCC did not support the application BPC would consider independently funding a traffic survey given the concerns raised by local residents.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Cllr Hohler

(b) Any other roads business

Nothing was raised under this heading

10 Planning

New Applications:

TM/15/03777/TNCA

Proposal: Remove conifer causing damage to adjacent wall behind bus stop

Applicant: Mr Stephen Letchford

Location: The Retreat, 8 Ryarsh Road, Birling ME19 5JW

BPC: No objections

KCC/TM/0381/2015

Proposal: Temporary site compound to support the M20 junction 4 widening programme

Location: Land to the east of Castle Way, Leybourne, ME19 5HW

BPC: Concerns about access and setting a precedent for previous applicant to pursue his application

TM/15/03327/FL

Proposal: Demolition of side extension and garage & erection of 2 storey side and rear extension with carport

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Gentry

Location: 90 Ryarsh Road, Birling, Kent ME19 5JR

BPC: No objections

11 Any Other Business

(a) Cllr Spooner suggested the PC mark Candy Balfour's leaving the nursery.

Members agreed it was important to mark this occasion to thank Candy for her vision and contribution in establishing and managing the Montessori nursery in Birling for a significant period of time.

(b) At the defibrillator training session a resident had mentioned to Cllr Westwood and the Clerk that a mobile home had been sited in the field opposite Llangold House. The Clerk had contacted TMBC who were aware of the situation and were making enquiries and would inform her of the outcome.

(c) Nothing further was raised under this heading.

12 Date of next meeting

As previously agreed **Tuesday 12 January 2016 at 8.00pm**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm.