

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 14 June 2016 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Westwood (Chair) Mr Grimmett (Vice Chair)
 Ms Harrington Mr Nevill
 Mrs Spooner Mrs Walker

Mrs Grimmett (Clerk) and County Cllrs Matthew Balfour and Sarah Hohler and 5 members of the public

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from PCSO McMillan

2 Reports

Borough Cllr Balfour reported that the results of the land allocations had been published with none from Birling being put into the green bracket. It was important to have a mixture of large and small sites with the necessary infrastructure to be sustainable. Cllr Balfour also said that he hadn't any information on the Birling village plan previously compiled in draft by Ron Nudd.

County There is now free wi-fi in all Kent libraries and books can be ordered for collection free. Cllr Hohler still has some of her Members' funds available and asked if BPC would like their road signs cleaned. She was advised that, although the signs did need cleaning, some of them are now completely covered by vegetation which needs to be cleared. Cllr Walker asked if there would be enough money to fund a traffic survey. Neither County Councillors thought this would be a good time to do a survey with the current M20 roadworks taking place. They thought that the results would show that volumes of traffic and speeds have increased but no more than other villages and because of cuts KCC have no money to do anything. Cllr Hohler's Members fund would not cover the costs of the engineering work needed to provide more traffic calming. As we have no record of deaths or injuries action will not be taken. Cllr Walker suggested that the pavers of the traffic calming in Bull Road be raised to make it impossible for cars to drive over it. Cllr Balfour said there would be cost implications as special lighting would be necessary. Cllr Hohler said she would be prepared to look at funds available and if possible have a survey undertaken at a later date, possibly March 2017. BPC would be prepared to contribute to the cost.

To celebrate the Queens 90th birthday KCC had held a competition for school children to design a decorated cake. The finalists were judged by Rosemary Shrager and Lady d'Isle (wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Kent) with every participant receiving a commemorative £5 coin.

Cllr Hohler reminded Council that the Community Resilience / Emergency Planning Questionnaire needed to be completed by 7 July. Both she and Cllr Balfour stressed the importance of communities having Emergency Plans in place. Recently during the flooding in Carlisle two elderly ladies weren't evacuated and died as one wouldn't open her door to a stranger and the other took too long to answer her door. This highlights the need for local knowledge to identify the most vulnerable members of the community.

Crime PCSO MacMillan was off duty but had advised that there have been a number of burglaries from sheds and outbuildings in Fairseat and Stansted and police were

advising homeowners to be vigilant. On 13 June a break in had taken place when burglars obtained access to a house in Ryarsh Road through the front door. Cllr Harrington said there had been a large police presence who had advised that burglars appear to be targeting homes without alarms or cars on the drives.

3 Open Forum

Residents raised concerns about increased volumes of traffic and the speed at which they are travelling and their worries that, with the new houses being built in Ryarsh and the cold store development at Ryarsh Stables, matters would only get worse. Further housing development in the area would only exacerbate the situation. Cllr Walker explained that BPC had written to Tom Hugendhat MP about the matter. BPC understood that the decision could not be overturned but had asked if the process under which the Planning Inspectorate operated could be looked at. Various actions including the possibility of getting a police presence in the village, a traffic survey and further traffic calming measures were discussed. In view of Cllr Hohler's earlier comments it was decided to wait and see if she had any funds available for a traffic survey and to ask if a traffic engineer could look at the village to give suggestions as to what could practically be done with a view to consider if BPC could fund the work.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 May 2016 be **APPROVED** and they were **SIGNED** by the Chair.

5 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Actions from May's meeting:

Clean for the Queen Campaign Cllr Westwood with Cllr Walker, her husband and 2 children had litter picked round the church, Bull Road and Ryarsh Road for 2 hours and collected a considerable amount of rubbish. Cllr Walker was asked to especially thank Megan and Alice for their help.

Funds for Traffic Survey

See Cllr Hohler's report

Secure Trust

All 3 signatories now in place

Design Statement

Ron Nudd had given Cllr Grimmett a disc with photos but Cllr Balfour had no other documents.

Action:

Councillors to discuss over the summer

Letter to MP re Ryarsh Stables

Letter had been sent

Steps opposite church

Footpaths team will repair but might take 2-3 months

Repair of traffic calming

Highways steward had advised that no action will be taken until the situation worsens ie the pavers move

HGV sign missing and SID not working

Reported. SID now working.

Transparency Code Fund

Funding for 2016/17 applied for and £276.96 received.

(b) Any other matters arising

Nothing was raised under this heading.

6 Parish Business and Decisions

(a) Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) – subscription **AGREED** at £36

(b) Borough Green PC letter to TMBC re call for sites = ask Jacquie

Following the response received from Steve Humphries the transparency issues were satisfactorily resolved. The publication of the TMBC site assessment was now available prior to the planned TMBC consultation.

(c) JPCTCG Subscription of £50 **AGREED**

(d) Internal Audit fee £75 **AGREED**

(e) Vacancy for Parish Councillor

Neil Hewett attended the meeting and advised that he was considering becoming a Councillor but would like to attend the July meeting before making a final decision.

(f) Street Light Maintenance £120 + VAT pa **AGREED**

(g) Fairer Charging (Consultation to be returned by 20/6)

Details of the changes had been circulated and Cllr Westwood explained the basic premise of the changes. A few parishes would be badly affected by the removal of the Financial Allocation to Parish Councils (FAPC) including Birling, Leybourne and Snodland. It was noted that the illustration provided by TMBC showed a net increase to band D households in Birling of £10.07 based on the assumption by TMBC that Parish Councils will need to increase the precept to cover the withdrawal of the existing FAPC.

Action: Cllr Harrington to speak to the Chair of Leybourne PC and Cllr Westwood to draft response to consultation

(h) Local Plan – Parish Council’s Briefing

Action: Cllrs Westwood & Nevill to attend

(i) Church Clock maintenance had been carried out

(j) EiS Website Service

Details of the format of the new website to be established by the end of July had been circulated. Free migration training will be available and it was **AGREED** to continue with EiS providing the service at an annual cost of £240 to include the email forwarding service.

(k) National Joint Council for Local Government Services 2016-2018 salary awards
It was agreed that the Clerk’s salary be raised in line with the new salary scales to be back dated to 1 April 2016.

(l) **Any other business to be decided**

Nothing further was raised under this heading.

7 **Correspondence**

Nothing had been received

8 **Financial Matters**

(a) The Annual Audit form, monthly reconciliation sheet, bank statements & PAYE records were signed.

NatWest balances as at 31 May 2016: Current £18544.58 Reserve £100.43

Secure Trust Bank: £17068.50

(b) **Cheques to be signed**

The following cheques were signed:

			Net	VAT	Gross
1431	Mrs Grimmett	June salary & reimbursements	£327.75		£327.75
1432	Public Clocks Ltd	Church clock maintenance	£122.05	£24.41	£146.46
1433	HMRC	PAYE			£187.00
1434	Birling Village Hall CT	Hire of Hall			£42.00
1435	Kevin Funnell	Internal Audit fee			£75.00
1436	CPRE	Subscription	£36.00		£36.00
1439	Malling Action Partshp	JPCTCG subs	£50.00		£50.00
1440	TMBC	Lighting maintenance	£120.00	£24.00	£144.00

(c) **Internal Audit report**

The Audit Report had been circulated and no adverse comments had been made.

Mr Funnell had advised that it is now a legal requirement to back-up all invoices and remittances received. The Clerk has scanned all received in this current financial year and will continue to do so.

(d) **Any other financial business**

There was no other financial business.

9 **Roads**

(a) JPCTCG

Minutes of last meeting and agenda for 27 June had been circulated. Cllr Grimmett will attend next meeting and see if anyone can recommend an engineer to give advice on what traffic calming measures could be taken in Birling.

(b) Any other roads business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

10 **Planning**

New:

TM/16/01278/FL Applicant: S Cowell 159 Castle Way, ME19 5HW

Proposal: Hip to gable & dormer extension to rear. Raise gable and dormer to rear, partial two storey and single storey rear, single storey side and front porch.

BPC: No objections

(Cllr Westwood declared an interest in the following application and took no part in the discussion)

TM/16/01213/PDVOR Applicant: BJB Connections Snodland Road Jackie declared an interest

Proposal: Changing an existing office building into a 5 bedroom house by means of stud walls and redecoration.

BPC: No objections

Decisions:

TM16/00003/FL Application: Land East of Legge Lane Snodland Rd

Proposal: Change of use of land from agricultural to use of land for dog walking

BPC: Comments made TMBC: Approved

TM/16/01224/TNCA Applicant: L King, 4 Bull Road, Birling ME19 5JE

Proposal: Top 4 conifer trees and reduce in size by one third

BPC: No objections TMBC: No objections

TM/16/01111/FL Applicant: C Brand, Beaconswood, Bull Road ME19 5JE

Proposal: Block side door with brickwork. Render brick and stone cladding to front & side elevation and replace UPVC cladding with western red TGV boarding.

BPC: No objections TMBC: Approved

TM/16/01263/TNCA Applicant: V Colley, 19 Ryarsh Road, Birling ME19 5JW

Proposal: Thin Holm oak tree and fell pine tree

BPC: No objections TMBC: No objections

TM/16/01278/FL Applicant: S Cowell 159 Castle Way, ME19 5HW

Proposal: Hip to gable & dormer extension to rear. Raise gable and dormer to rear, partial two storey and single storey rear, single storey side and front porch.

BPC: No objections TMBC: Approved

11 **Any Other Business**

(a) Try Angle Awards 2016

Cllr Westwood had received details of this award scheme for young people between the ages of 11-18. Councillors were not aware of anyone to nominate.

Action: Clerk to find out if a poster was available for the noticeboard

(b) Cllr Harrington reported that the hedge of a property In Birling Road is encroaching on the footpath.

Action: Cllr Westwood to speak to owners

12 **Date of next meeting**

As previously agreed the next meeting will be held at **8pm on Tuesday 12 July 2016** There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05pm.