

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 8th February 2022

Birling Church at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs J Westwood (Chair)
Mr S Hirst
Mr N Hewett
Mrs H Walker
Mr D Yates

Also in attendance: Clerk Ms J Miller, one member of the public

153. Apologies for absence

There were none. Borough Cllr Kemp gave apologies and County Councillor Hohler

154. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

155. Reports

Cllr Hohler sent in a report ahead of the meeting as follows:

It was reported that the KCC budget meeting is on 10th February. It is a one year budget, not the 3 year one we anticipated. The budget consultation had over 2,000 responses. 70% of respondees were not comfortable with reductions in social care for the over 65s or for children, nor for savings on highways, the environment and waste. KCC have looked for opportunities to deliver services at a lower cost to give better value for money: a challenging time to deliver a balanced budget.

The consultation on the booking system for visits to the Household Waste Recycling Centres has also been out to consultation. Residents were asked for their opinions on the booking system with 10,705 replies. About 30% of those responding said they would like to be able to book a slot on the day, as well as booking in advance, and this is now being phased in. The sites are open for 362 days a year.

There have been fewer visits to the sites but residents are bringing more waste (from an average of 60kg a visit to the 44kg before). Recycling has gone up from 63% to 69% which has led to lower costs of disposal, which is good news and has enabled a saving. The booking system has also meant that queues of traffic waiting to get in to the centres from busy roads have gone. This has made it better for everyone and has given the staff more time to help residents.

KCC has 99 libraries and is currently engaging with residents on how to make the libraries more user friendly. Logging on to KCC libraries explains the engagement process which runs until 7th March so please do send us your suggestions. We have received over 100 ideas already and 94% of current users say they will continue to use their library. Later this year there will be a full public consultation. Libraries offer so much more than book borrowing and I think they are going to become increasingly important as community centres, as well as places for children to learn to enjoy reading, with all the benefits that brings, especially at this time.

We are discussing our new strategic plan, delayed because of the pandemic. We will develop a Civil Society Strategy soon, to strengthen our relationship with the voluntary sector. Kent Together is still available to help and support more vulnerable residents.

I am chairing the cross-party member group which is developing the next five year strategy for our wonderful country parks. We are currently providing new playground equipment, or improving what we already have, and discussing all sorts of exciting new plans. Do look online to get a feel for what the parks offer and consider buying an annual parking ticket which allows you to park all day at any of the KCC country parks.

The lack of information on the police report was noted. It was **RESOLVED** to write to the PCSO to ask when it would be possible to attend a parish council meeting.

156. Approval and signing of minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the signing of the minutes of 11th January 2022 and 25th January 2022.

157. Open Forum – Public Participation Session

A member of the public asked to how to report the potholes on Birling Road and on Bull Road.

158. Matters arising and last month's circulation

i. Ryarsh School

There were no further updates.

The parking issues resulting from the village hall car park not being unlocked on one occasion.

ii. Culverts

To note email regarding s19 report

Cllr Hirst will follow up on the outstanding information.

iii. Benches

Works to be planned for spring.

A date in April shall be booked to ensure that the benches are refurbished before the jubilee.

iv. Village Hall access

To receive any updates on availability of hall - there were none.

v. Verges update

To report no further updates from KCC

It was noted that the area had been cut back.

159. Matters for Information circulated to councillors

04/01 Ewatch 1936
05/01 South eastern reduced service
07/01 Garden waste update
07/01 Local government bulletin
07/01 M20 Smart Motorway documents
07/01 RSN Rural update
10/01 Nominations for vice chairman
10/01 KALC bitesize courses
10/01 M20 Smart Motorway
11/01 TMBC questionnaire
11/01 Rural bulletin
11/01 Carbon footprint calculator
18/01 E Watch 1940
18/01 The rural bulletin
19/01 PPP Agenda
21/01 NALC open letter
21/01 KALC T&M meeting
21/01 Easter activities for children
21/01 E Watch 1941
21/01 KALC members newsletter

21/01 KALC events
25/01 Garden waste update
25/01 Rural bulletin
25/01 NALC chief exec bulletin
25/01 Adult social care consultation
25/01 KALC Community Awards
25/01 KALC event schedule
25/01 KALC Chairman networking event
25/01 Local Government Bulletin
28/01 TMBC call for sites
28/01 KALC events
28/01 E Watch 1943
28/01 NALC Ofcom postal regulations consultation

160. Meetings

(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council

27/01/2022 Parish Partnership Panel

Cllr Westwood reported the appointment of a second vice chairman. Dr Thomas Shelley. The meeting reported updates on planning law and government proposals, including calculation of housing numbers using greenbelt land and it was thought that the housing supply is not clear. A series of studies is required to provide a five-year housing strategy that will be done as part of the Local Plan.

The PPP asked for every planning application to be assessed for Climate Change, due to its relationship with building regs. TMBC couldn't provide an answer on when this will be put forward and a debate on types of insulation being used was held.

The proposed lorry park on the A20 opposite the Shell garage had been discussed and concerns raised about the emissions being generated in Tonbridge and Malling.

(b) Future meetings

24/02/2022 KALC T&M Area Committee

161. Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Highways Improvement Plan

i. To receive update on plan

It was noted that the 40mph Birling Road speed limit will be advertised for consultation. It was agreed to promote the consultation when it has been released. The clerk will draft a statement to attach. The clerk will find out when the HGV restriction will take effect and inform residents.

(b) Bank Infringement

i. To note update on legal advice

It was noted that the legal advice is being prepared for presentation.

(c) Local Plan

i. To note Local Plan update

It was noted that the Call for Sites had closed and the sustainability appraisal will follow.

(d) Rural Broadband

i. To note no further contact from Openreach, clerk chasing KCC.

(e) Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022

i. To note update on event plan and actions required.

It was agreed to investigate the Queen's Green Canopy update from Cllr Nevill and consider a plaque.

Cllr Hewett will chase up the DJ contact details and pass to the clerk. The marquee fixing will be agreed with Cllr Nevil. The Nevill Bull will be contacted to take part. The road won't be closed due to the operational requirements. Children's activities ideas will be added to the plan. It was noted that the church could organise a raffle to make donations to the church. An Act of service tree was discussed and a commemorative item will be considered.

ii. To consider advice from Burslem regarding jubilee memorial.

It was agreed for Cllr Westwood to circulate some wording and for Cllr Westwood and Cllr Hirst will attend a site visit.

(f) Carbon Footprint for Birling

i. To receive update on councillor's review of properties.

It was noted that use of gas, electricity and water will be looked at.

(g) Great British Spring Clean

i. To agree date for litter pick

It was **RESOLVED** to hold the litter pick on Saturday 26th March 9.30am.

(h) Co-option

i. To agree advertisement and co-option process

It was **RESOLVED** to advertise for candidates and interview at the March meeting.

(i) Defibrillator training

i. To consider arranging parish training session.

It was **RESOLVED** to organise a free training session.

(j) Action with Rural Communities in Kent

i. To consider membership

It was **RESOLVED** not to proceed with the membership.

(k) To consider topic for the Annual Parish Assembly

It was **RESOLVED** to present the jubilee plan at the APM and hold prior to the April meeting.

(l) To discuss dog excrement issues

It was **RESOLVED** to ask TMBC for assistance in promotion material and to ask for clarification on rules and investigate a spraying event on 26th March. The clerk shall affix posters on dog bins.

162. Parish Business for Noting

(a) Website update

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

Waste collection updates

Jubilee Picnic

(b) Parochial Church Council

i. To receive regular update

It was noted that the first stage to combine the seven churches has been approved. Two vicars will be shared amongst the seven.

(c) Whatsapp Group Matters

i. To note any issues raised on the Birling Whatsapp Group

The intruder issues and drunk driver were reported.

(d) TMBC Waste Collections

- i. To note weekly reports – noted.

163. Correspondence

- (a) Email request for draft minutes of extra-ordinary meeting
(b) Email from planning applicant advising further information to be supplied.

164. Finance & Accounts

(a) To note successful application to COVID outbreak fund to recover costs of COVID support £167.20.

To approve Bank Reconciliation January 2022.

Net Bank Balances as at 31/01/2022 £22,526.48

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation for January 2022

(b) To note budget position year to date January 2022.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the budget position for January 2022.

(c) To approve PAYE record February 2022.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record for February 2022.

(a) BACS to be approved and signed

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Amount Net	VAT	Description
J Miller	Staff Costs	£371.49	N/A	N/A	Feb Salary
HMRC	Staff Costs	£87.80	N/A	N/A	Feb PAYE
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£45.60	£38.00	£7.00	Feb monthly mailbox cost
CPRE	Subscription	£36.00	N/A	N/A	Annual Subs renewal
J Miller	Contingency	£418.00	N/A	N/A	Computer equipment

165. Roads

(a) To report any road issues.

To report complaint regarding Castle Way layby and consider actions

It was agreed to report the issue to KCC and request a visit to investigate the issues.

It was agreed to report the two pot holes on Birling Road, the pot hole on Bull Road and the litter in the verges and that the T junction at Bull Road needs relining.

It was noted that a large bus appears to have replaced the 58 hopper bus.

(b) To receive update on M20 motorway noise problem.

To note MP requesting a sound barrier from the CEO of National Highways.

It was noted that there were no further updates.

(c) Road Closures – see website for details

To note temporary road closures affecting Birling – none.

166. Planning

(a) Applications to be considered

There are none.

(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

There were none.

167. Matters for future meetings

The updated strategic plan review; co-option

168. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 8th March 2022

Meeting closed at 21:59pm

Signed..... Date.....