

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 10th January 2023 **Birling Church at 8pm**

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

Also in attendance: Clerk Ms J Miller

134. Apologies for Absence

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies for absence from with reasons. County Councillor Hohler, Borough Councillors Kemp and Montague had sent apologies.

135. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

136. Approval and signing of minutes.

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the minutes of 13th and 20th December 2022.

137. Reports

(a) County Councillor Sarah Hohler

Cllr Hohler submitted a report prior to the meeting.

(b) Borough Councillors Piers Montague & Ann Kemp

No report received.

(c) Kent Police update circulated prior to the meeting.

i. Report for December received – no crimes.

ii. To note Neighbourhood Policing Review correspondence

It was agreed to respond that the parish council was concerned about the workload of PCSOs,

It was noted that a depot break-in on Castle Way had been reported in January's E-Watch report.

138. Open Forum – Public Participation Session

There were none.

139. Matters arising and last month's circulation.

i. Ryarsh School

To receive any updates

It was noted that the school ran a successful 'One Step Beyond' community event, looking at the world beyond their school and collaborating with the community.

ii. Street lighting

To note update to repairs to lamp outside The Willows and insurance claim.

It was noted that the insurance claim is pending, awaiting evidence of the damage incident.

iii. Defibrillator Training

To note costs of training for public session.

It was **AGREED** to arrange training for the Annual Meeting.

iv. **Village Hall access**

To receive any updates on availability of hall – no further updates.

v. **Strategy Update**

It was **AGREED** to present the plan in July.

vi. **Kent Fire and Rescue Service**

To note presentation being arranged for Annual Parish Meeting in June.

140. Matters for Information circulated to councillors.

- 06/12 E Watch 2032
- 06/12 KCC Public health media release
- 08/12 News from TMBC Anti-social behaviour consultation
- 08/12 NALC chief executive bulletin
- 08/12 KALC T&M agenda
- 08/12 Climate Change
- 12/12 Amended KALC T&M agenda.
- 12/12 Waste collection services
- 13/12 Parish Partnership Minutes November 22
- 13/12 Christmas message from Gallaghers
- 13/12 Gatwick Parish Council stakeholder sessions
- 13/12 E Watch 2033
- 19/12 Buses updates
- 19/12 KCC Bus Funding Maidstone parishes
- 19/12 NALC legal update
- 19/12 Community Safety Partnership newsletter
- 19/12 Energy bill relief scheme
- 19/12 E Watch 2034
- 19/12 Speak up, stay safe.
- 30/12 E Watch 2035
- 30/12 Cost of living campaign – week one assets
- 30/12 E Watch 2036
- 30/12 Neighbourhood Policing Review
- 30/12 Community Transport Grant extension deadline
- 30/12 Christmas message from T&M Mayor
- 30/12 Christmas message from Kent PCC
- 30/12 E Watch 2037
- 30/12 Christmas message from Matt Boughton
- 30/12 Christmas message from KALC
- 30/12 Gatwick parish council consultation
- 30/12 Gatwick engagement invitation
- 30/12 E Watch 2039

Following the NALC advice, it was **AGREED** that following the election on 4th May the Parish Council meeting will be held on 16th May and the Annual General Meeting on 23rd May 2023.

The NALC advice on meetings in venues with no facilities was discussed. It was noted that toilets could be made accessible during meetings at the village hall. A policy on dogs was not felt necessary.

It was agreed that the Legal Topic Note 54 will be revisited to consider next steps about the bank in connection to the advice about ownerless common land.

141. Meetings

- (a) **Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council.**
 - i. KALC T&M Committee 15/12/2022 (Zoom)
60-day consultation on reorganisation of Kent Police which is expected to have beat officers in wards, there will be a reduction in PCSOs and a CSU neighbourhood task force. A team of PCs and PCSOs will act on children's issues. Early June implementation, not sure about the future of rural policing. It was **AGREED** to write to the Police Crime Commissioner to ask to be included in the neighbourhood policing review and ask for more information on the proposals on the rural policing force as the parish council finds this service invaluable.
There were updates on Climate Change from Cllr Robin Betts. Cllr Jenny Bate presented the Shipbourne Climate Plan that will be circulated by KALC T&M
 - ii. Bus review meeting 19/12/2022 (Zoom)
It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the proposed trial of the parish subsidised weekly bus service at an estimated cost of £107.50 to Birling PC.
- (b) **Future meetings**
 - i. Parish Partnership Panel 09/02/2023

142. Parish Business for Decisions

- (a) **Highways Improvement Plan**
 - i. To receive any updates from Cllr Hirst.
There were no further updates.
- (b) **Bank Infringement**
 - i. To note new director of Kent Highways invited to review the bank infringement – no response and three more chase ups sent.
- (c) **Local Plan**
 - i. To note update – there were no further updates.
- (d) **Community Transport Grant / Bus Services**
 - i. To receive update on KALC T&M parish council initiatives
This was covered earlier in the meeting.
- (e) **Jubilee**
 - i. To receive update on visit to Gallaghers to choose stone – there was no further update.
 - ii. To receive update from Cllr Nevill on tree planting – there was no further update.
- (f) **Local Charities**
 - i. To receive update from Cllr Yates on hardship fund proposal. The clerk reported that this initiative was provisionally supported by Leybourne and Ryarsh PCs
There was no further update.
- (g) **Waste and Litter**
 - i. To note any updates.
It was noted that the litter pick date will be reviewed at the February meeting.

143. Parish Business for Noting

(a) Website update

To note the following added to online platforms:

- Road closures
- KCC cost of living initiatives.

(b) Parochial Church Council

It was noted that interviews are underway for the vicar position.

It was noted that more volunteers are needed to help with odd jobs.

(c) WhatsApp Group Matters

Condolences were noted following the passing of Andy and the parish council agreed to support the re-opening of the pub.

144. Correspondence – all noted.

There was none.

145. Finance & Accounts

(a) To consider budget and precept for 2023-24

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget of **£11,818** and to approve a precept of **£11,658**. This represents a band D equivalent of £57.85 and a rise of 4.61% on 2022/23. The reserves will be updated to include the parish subsidised bus service.

(b) To approve Bank Reconciliation December 2022

- i. Net Bank Balances as at 31/12/2022 £17,818.08 – noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation December 2022.

(c) To note budget position year to date December 2022 – noted.

(d) To approve PAYE record January 2023.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record for January 2023.

(e) BACS to be approved and signed:

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

Payee	Budget	Amount	Details
Various	Staff Costs	£ 497.36	Staff costs Jan
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£ 57.53	Monthly mailbox charges

146. Roads

(a) To report any road issues

It was noted that some of the reported potholes had been repaired.

(b) Road Closures – see website for details.

- i. To note temporary road closures affecting Birling: Birling Road, Leybourne

(c) Bus Services – to receive any updates.

This was covered earlier in the meeting.

147. Planning

(a) Applications to be considered

There were none.

(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

- i. TM/22/02098/RD The Willows 81 Ryarsh Road Birling West Malling Kent ME19 5JR Details of condition 06 (vehicle charging point) of planning consent TM/21/03361/FL (Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling) Approved on 13 December 2022

148. Matters for future meetings.

The usual substantive items will be on the agenda. The Coronation will be considered at a future meeting.

149. Date of Next Meeting: 14th February 2023

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press may be asked to leave the meeting during consideration of item 150:

150. To consider staff rewards

It was **RESOLVED** to fund a staff reward.

Meeting closed at 21:25pm

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