

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 9 September 2014 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mr Ron Nudd (Vice Chair) Mr Colin Grimmett
 Mr David Hopper Mr Guy Nevill
 Mrs Sylvia Spooner Mrs Helen Walker

Cllr Matthew Balfour, Mrs Grimmett (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Cllr Westwood, County Cllr Sarah Hohler, Borough Cllr Ann Kemp, and PCSO Laura Bullen.

2 Reports

TMBC & County Cllr Balfour advised that the next Kings Hill Planning meeting would be on 14 October (notice needs to be given if BPC wishes to speak). Properties in the Tonbridge & Malling area participating in the Heritage Open Days scheme would be open on 13/14 September.

Crime PCSO Bullen had emailed a report that a window in the church had been broken and fireworks had been set off without the landlord's knowledge at a party at The Nevill Bull, reported by a neighbour.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 July 2014 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by the Chair.

4 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Footpath Opposite Church

Work to provide the handrail extension and new steps should have been carried out week ending 28 August but the contractor had not turned up and the Clerk had been unable to contact him as his landline and mobile didn't take messages and he had not replied to her several emails. Reply received today that the loss of one of their installation teams had delayed all jobs. Mr Wright thought that all customers had been informed but BPC had slipped through the net and emails had been diverted to their junk box. Work will now start 8am Friday 19.

(b) HGV Sign

The sign has been up for some weeks and hopefully will have the desired effect although 1 vehicle had come through the village the previous week.

(c) Flower Festival – Plant Stall

Cllr Westwood had advised a member of the Flower Festival committee that BPC was not prepared to take over the running of the plant stall but that members who already helped out would continue to do so.

(d) November Meeting

During the summer recess Councillors had agreed to bring forward the November meeting one week to 4 November.

(e) Community Enhancement Fund

At the July meeting Councillors had been asked for any ideas to be discussed for submission by 2 September but nothing had been forthcoming.

(f) Local Plan (Cllr Nevill declared an interest)

The Clerk had spoken with a member of the Local Plan team at TMBC who are still assessing all the sites and no information is imminent. The next committee meeting will be on 18 November after which the website will be updated with any available information but, as the process is lengthy and resources limited, it may be that the timetable will have to be amended. All parishes will be kept fully involved. It was agreed that nothing further should be discussed until all information is available.

(g) EDF Street Lighting

TMBC's agents had agreed a cost of £510.88 for 1 year, £1.12pa more than 2013/14.

(h) Any other Matters Arising

Nothing was raised under this heading.

5 Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Amendment to Standing Orders

KALC had advised that, due to changes in legislation, from 6 August, Standing Order 31 regarding reporting of parish council meetings needs to be amended. The Clerk suggested that an addendum be added to BPC's Standing Orders which was **AGREED**.

(b) Complaint re parking on Pavements

Following a complaint by a resident the Clerk had asked PCSO Bullen's advice about what could be done about parked vehicles obstructing pavements making it necessary for pedestrians to walk round them in the road. In response to this PCSO Bullen had distributed a letter to all homes in the village advising that it was dangerous to block the pavements and that residents could call 101 to report offending vehicle reg nos. Cllr Nevill would find out if residents' visitors could use the village hall car park.

(c) East Facing Slips on M25 – Economic Benefits Study

KALC are looking for financial contributions towards an Economic Benefits Study on east facing slips in the vicinity of J5 of the M25 costing approx. £30-£50K. Borough Green have set aside £500. It was **DECIDED** that, as Birling is such a small village, not to make a contribution.

(d) Any other business for decisions.

Nothing was raised under this heading.

7 Correspondence

Email from resident re problem with light in Birling Park - the Clerk had contacted Russet Homes and it should have been dealt with last week but as yet hadn't.
No other correspondence

8 Financial Matters

(a) Monthly accounts, statements & PAYE forms

Monthly reconciliation sheet, bank statement and PAYE forms were signed.

(b) Cheques

1351 Burslems	War Memorial cleaning & restoration	£1248.00
(this cheque had been signed during the summer recess)		

The following cheques were signed:

1352 Mrs Grimmett	Aug & September salary & expenses	£560.99
1353 PKF Littlejohn	Audit fee	£120.00
1354 HMRC	PAYE	£195.00

(c) Annual Audit

There had been no comments by the Auditors and the necessary documentation had been displayed on the notice board.

Any other financial business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

9 Roads

Nothing was raised under this heading.

10 Planning

New Applications:

None

Decisions

None

11 Any Other Business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

12 Date of next meeting

As previously agreed **14 October 2014 at 8pm**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.