

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 12 January 2016 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Jacquie Westwood (Chair) Mr Colin Grimmett
 Ms Deborah Harrington Mr Guy Nevill
 Mrs Sylvia Spooner

Mrs Grimmett (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from County Cllr Sarah Hohler, Cllrs Nudd and Walker and PCSO Boyd

2 Reports

Borough & County No reports

Crime - PCSO Boyd had reported that in December a garage in The Close had been broken into and garden equipment stolen.

3 Open Forum

Nothing was raised under this heading.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 December 2015 be **APPROVED** and they were **SIGNED** by the Chair.

5 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Actions from December

The Clerk had carried out all actions apart from joining Facebook for communication between Parishes and dealing with the resident's concerns regarding work in Snodland Road.

Action: Clerk to sign up to Facebook & contact Highways Steward

(b) Transparency Fund for Smaller Councils

KALC had submitted the claim but no response yet.

(c) Street Lights

Clerk still waiting for information re possible savings.

(d) Secure Trust – Addition of Signatories

Action: Cllrs Westwood and Walker still to complete

(e) Caravan in field Opposite Langold House

TMBC awaiting planning application for dog walking/training business to be carried out on this site.

(f) Any other matters arising

Nothing was raised under this heading.

6 Parish Business for Decision

(a) Draft Budget for 2016/2017

The draft budget (attached) was **AGREED**.

(b) Precept

It was **AGREED** that the Precept for 2016/17 would be £8772, the same amount as 2015/16. TMBC has announced a review of the Scheme of Financial Arrangements with parish councils in 2016 before the 2017/18 budget is prepared. In view of the likelihood of reductions from 2017/18 BPC will review the contributions to the Precept for 2017/18 depending on the outcome of the review.

ACTION: Clerk to submit application to TMBC.

(c) Speeding Vehicles Through the Village

County Cllr Hohler had said that she would be prepared to part fund a speed check for comparison with the one previously carried out but that she was not sure what would be achieved. It was **DECIDED** that a possible grant and BPC's funds might be better spent elsewhere but that a letter would be sent to Tom Hugentoh MP asking for his support in getting Kent Police to take action against speeding motorists and to raise the matter at future JPCTCG meetings.

ACTION: Clerk to send letter.

(d) Funding for Landscape PCSO

Cllr Nevill declared an interest as the scheme benefits The Birling Estate and took no part in the discussion.

A payment of £250 had been made in January 2014 with Valley of Visions Kent Downs AONB advising that the funding period ended 3/1/2015 and that no contributions brought with them an expectation of continuing annual contributions. The role and its success would be reviewed in the final quarter of the year and they would be looking to secure a more stable form of funding for the future. The PCSO is still in place.

ACTION: Cllr Nevill to find out if secure funding had been obtained.

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

The Clerk had received 30 caddies and some samples of liners from TMBC. It was **AGREED** that it would be a good idea for an emergency plan to be drawn up with contact details and information for display on the website and noticeboard.

ACTION: Cllr Westwood and Clerk to draw up draft and present to councillors at the next meeting and Clerk to contact Andy Edwards with a view to him attending the meeting.

(e) Any other matters to be Decided

Nothing was raised under this heading.

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Correspondence

Thank you from Candy Balfour for plant

Invitation to KCC Civic Service at All Saints Maidstone 15/3/2016 No-one available to attend

Invitation to attend KCC Old Chalk New Downs Heritage Lottery funded Project Parish Consultation Workshop. The aim of the Project is to secure more funding to reinstate chalk grassland between Kemsing Down and Detling Hill.

Cllr Nevill declared an interest as Birling Estate has already reinstated some chalk grassland at Holly Hill and had recently met with representative.

Cllrs Westwood, Spooner and Grimmett will attend the workshop at Trosley Country Park.

8

Financial Matters

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

PAYE forms were signed and bank statements and quarterly reconciliation sheet to be signed before the next meeting. NatWest balances as at 31 December 2015:

Current: £13841.39 Reserve £100.40 Secure Trust Bank: £16899.46.

(b) Cheques

The following cheque was signed:

			Net	VAT	Gross
1419	Mrs Grimmet	January salary & reimbursements			325.96
	Utech Solutions	sorting email login problems	37.50	7.50	£45.00
	(this payment was included in the above cheque as paid by BACS)				

(c) Pension Scheme

Changes in legislation mean that all employers have to set up workplace pensions with certain exceptions. As the Clerk falls outside the scheme a letter to her detailing this was

signed by the Chair.

(d) Any other financial business

Nothing further was raised under this heading.

9

Roads

(a) JPCTCG

The next meeting is on Monday 18 January.

(b) Any other roads business

(1) Cllr Grimmatt reported that friends at Leybourne had been told by their Parish Council that whilst the M20 Junction 4 work is being carried out all traffic exiting Castle Way will have to turn left at the traffic lights and go round the roundabout before returning in the direction of the M20. This will add considerably to congestion for traffic heading to and from Kings Hill at peak times.

Councillor reported having seen HGV vehicles parked on the verges at the bottom of Birling Road leading to the A20 and a considerable amount of fast food packaging litter has been left. In particular a Clancy Docwra vehicle was seen with all 4 wheels on the verge and new planting at the entrance to Leybourne Chase had been damaged.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Clancy Docwra and TMBC and Councillors to take photos of vehicles seen there in future with dates/times/registration numbers etc.

(2) Details had been received of an A20 Route Study to be carried out by Amey to establish an evidence base of existing and forecast problems or issues on the A20 between the A228 at Leybourne and Coldharbour Lane in Aylesford. Councillors commented on traffic congestion and lack of synchronisation of traffic lights on the route and were hopeful that the study could lead to improvements in traffic management along the route.

Action: Clerk to pass on BPC's comments

Nothing further was raised under this heading

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Planning

New Applications:

TM/15/03947/FL

TQ567996 161516

Proposal: Rear ground and first floor extensions with internal reconfiguration

Applicant: Dr R Beavington

Location: 4 Dykes Place, 354 Stangate Road, Birling ME19 5JJ

BPC: No objections

Decisions

TM/15/03190/FL

Applicant: South East Coast Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust

Proposal: Use of site as an Ambulance Community Response Post

Location: Roundabout junction on A228 Leybourne bypass at Park Road

BPC: No objections

TMBC: Approved 27/11/2015

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

TMBC: Approved 10/12/2015

11 **Any Other Business**

(a) It was agreed to bring the April meeting forward 1 week to 5 April.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange

Nothing further was raised under this heading.

12 **Date of next meeting**

As previously agreed **Tuesday 9 February 2016 at 8.00pm**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.11pm.