

Birling Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 9 July 2013 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Jacquie Westwood (Chair) Mr Colin Grimmitt
Mr David Hopper Mrs Sylvia Spooner
Mrs Helen Walker

Mrs Grimmitt (Clerk) County Cllr Sarah Hohler

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Matthew Balfour, Ann Kemp, Mr Ron Nudd and PCSO Laura Bullen

2 Reports

County Cllr Sarah Hohler There is a problem with feral cats in Sandy Lane. Other parishes had raised concerns about traffic volumes at the meeting at Kings Hill. A decision as to the siting of the Lower Thames crossing will be announced before Xmas and will impact on all areas in some way. Sarah is also on the Highways Committee who think that The Bank has been re-seeded. It hasn't so she will speak to them about it.

Cllr Jacquie Westwood had attended the Parish Partnership Panel meeting and reported that Members' Grants would be available in 2013/14. Sarah Hohler now chairs the Communities Cabinet Committee and Matthew Balfour is Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport & the Environment. Following recent initiatives around 3000 street lights will be turned off at night later this summer. The Tonbridge & Malling Cycle Strategy was introduced but the planned route in Snodland was not practicable due to the number of potholes in the area. The Chief Constable of Kent spoke about police liaison and said that "We will be there when the public need us and will act with integrity in all that we do". Some parishes are clubbing together to set up Parish Caretaker schemes – maybe something Birling could consider in the future.

Cllr Colin Grimmitt had attended the JPCTCG where air quality, concerns about the Junction 5 slip road re access to Sevenoaks and the possibility of a link up with KALC were discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for 19 September.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 June 2013 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by the Chair.

4 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Traffic calming repairs

Still no update from Kent Highways.

(b) M20 Overbridge Work

Kent Highways had written to contractors advising that concrete should be covered and verges levelled and seeded but date not yet known.

(c) Footpath by The Bank

Vegetation should have been cut back 26 June but did not happen. Clerk has written again to Kent Highways but not had confirmation of when it will be done despite it now being impossible to walk along the path.

(d) Noise around village hall

Still being monitored.

(e) Vegetation clearance on public rights of way

Cllr Westwood to provide path numbers (now received & Footpaths advised).

(f) Any other matters arising

Ryarsh PC had been trying to contact the owner of The Stables in Birling Road to clear the vegetation covering the footpath without success and would let the Clerk know what action they decided to take following their meeting 8 July.

5 Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Review of Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

Still to be done.

(b) War Memorial

Cllr Walker had circulated photos of the war memorial and the Clerk had obtained 2 quotes for cleaning and restoration work to the base of the war memorial and was waiting for 2 further quotes. As it was thought better to get the work carried out before winter it was decided that once all quotes had been received they should be circulated for councillors to make a decision before the September meeting. The Clerk was asked to email Cllr Hohler to discuss the possibility of obtaining a grant towards the cost.

(c) Any other business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

6 Open Forum

Nothing was raised under this heading.

7 Correspondence

Thank you from Try Angle Awards for donation (in the bag)

Thank you from Malling Area Community Service (in the bag)

In the Bag

Minutes of JPCTCG meeting 13/6/2013

KCC Youth Services - Thank you for Try Angle Awards donation

Thank you from Malling Area Community Service for donation

Clerks & Councils Direct July 2013 issue

Oast to Coast Summer 2013

TMBC Summer Play Scheme leaflets

TMBC Activate 2013 leaflets

KCC/TMBC Y2 Crew leaflets

Pilgrims Matters leaflets

Please take
any of these
leaflets

8 Financial Matters

(a) Monthly reconciliation sheets, statement & PAYE forms

Quarterly reconciliation sheet, bank statement and PAYE forms were signed and monthly record handed out.

(b) Cheques to be signed

The following cheque was signed:

1310 Mrs Grimmett July salary & expenses £295.43

(d) Any other financial business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

9 Roads

(a) Interactive Speed Sign

It had been noted that the sign had not been working. Kent Highways had advised that it needed sunlight to operate and would only store a minimum amount of power on cloudy days. As it was a busy road with lots of vehicles exceeding the 30mph limit the stored power would be quickly used up.

(b) Any other business

Cllr Hopper reported that at 7pm that evening and 11pm the previous evening he had assisted foreign lorries that had driven into the village by mistake to turn round. The Clerk was asked to contact Kent Highways (copy Cllr Hohler) to see if a larger "not suitable for HGVs" sign could be placed at the roundabout.

10 Planning

New Applications:

TM/13/00547/FL TQ 566312 162095
Applicant: Birling Farms
Location: Whitehorse Wood, White Horse Road, Meopham
Proposal: Temporary planning permission for 50 tent pitch camp-site with ancillary facilities
BPC: No objections

Decisions:

TM/13/01365/TNCA TQ 568040 160579
Applicant: Birling Village Hall Snodland Road Birling ME19 5JG
Proposal: T1 Larch tree fell to ground
BPC: No objections
TMBC: No objections 11/6/2013

TM/13/01364/TNCA TQ568108 160439
Applicant: Marchant Garden Services on behalf of:
Location: 21 Bull Road Birling ME19 5JE
Proposal: Work to various trees
BPC: No objections
TMBC: No objections 18/6/2013

TM/13/01148/FL TQ 567093 162469
Applicant: David Dow
Location: Holly Hill Lodge, Holly Hill, Meopham DA13 0UB
Proposal: Demolition of existing dwelling(s) and erection of single storey house
Location: as above
BPC: Objections raised re status of existing buildings / site / classification of single storey residence
TMBC: Refused 4/7/2013

Land opposite 155 and east of Castle Way – No further appeal lodged

11 Any Other Business

(a) Steps and rail to field opposite church

The steps had been boarded and wooden handrails installed. A resident had asked why the handrails did not go to the top and the Clerk had been advised that it was because the steps at the top were not so steep and it was thought that it would make the path too narrow, The Councillors inspected the work and thought that it would be beneficial, especially in wet weather, if a short third section of handrail were added. Clerk to contact Public Rights of Way Office.

(b) Wall around churchyard

Cllr Westwood had been advised that work to repair the wall would be carried out during the school summer holidays to avoid disruption to The Children's House. It was noted that the wall to the left of the lych gate running along Snodland Road was very overgrown and the Clerk was asked to write to the PCC and ask if it could be tidied up.

12 Date of next meeting:

As previously agreed **10 September 2013 at 8.00pm**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.