

## Birling Parish Council

### Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 4 November 2014 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

**Present:** Councillors      Mrs Jacquie Westwood (Chair)      Mr Ron Nudd (Vice Chair)  
                                         Mr Colin Grimmatt                              Mr David Hopper  
                                         Mrs Sylvia Spooner                              Mrs Walker

County Cllr Sarah Hohler, Mrs Grimmatt (Clerk) and 2 members of the public

#### 1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

County & Borough Cllr Matthew Balfour, Borough Cllr Ann Kemp, Cllr Nevill and PCSO Laura Bullen.

#### 2 Reports

**County**            Mrs Hohler urged the Council and individuals to respond to KCC's budget consultation to indicate which services they consider most important. KCC has saved £350M in recent years but is faced with the challenge of saving a further £206M over the next 3 years. Kent schools are performing well. Permission has been granted for Leybourne Chase school to go ahead (with Birling PC to be consulted at every stage) and is on target to be opened in 2015. Mrs Hohler had attended the Paramount London presentation where road, rail and river links and marshland conservation were discussed. She had suggested they use Kent food suppliers and Kent schools and colleges to provide staff and training facilities. The project is due to open in April 2020 and they already have funding for the first phases. Mrs Hohler announced that she has recently been appointed a trustee of the Turner Contemporary Gallery in Margate.

**Crime**            PCSO Bullen had circulated details of a special 2 week operation covering the half term, Halloween and Bonfire Night period to tackle anti-social behaviour/criminal damage.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 October 2014 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by the Chair.

#### 4 Matters arising and last month's circulation

##### (a) **Ham Hill Quarry Liaison Committee**

Cllr Westwood had joined the Liaison Committee and had asked Mr Chittenden, as a resident directly affected by the recycling plant, to join her. The Clerk had been advised that this type of Committee was usually for elected members of the community but that Mr Chittenden's involvement would be considered at the first meeting.

##### (b) **Any other matters arising**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

#### 5 Parish Business for Decisions

##### (a) **Charitable Donations**

It was **AGREED** that, as in previous years, the following donations be made:

Age Concern Malling	£50.00
All Saints' PCC re Flower Festival	£250.00
Kent Air Ambulance	£50.00
Malling Area Community Service	£50.00
T & M CAB	£50.00

The Beat Project	£50.00
Victim Support	£50.00
Try Angle Awards	£50.00

In addition a “one-off” donation to the Heart of Kent Hospice Community Transport fund of £50.00 was **AGREED**.

**(b) War Memorial**

Cllr Hopper had spoken with Burslem who had advised that they would not recommend cladding the plinth for cost, practicality and aesthetic reasons. The memorial will continue to be affected by weather and their recommendation is that money is saved for future cleaning and maintenance. It was **AGREED** to monitor the memorial and review the matter next year.

**(c) Any other matters for decision**

Nothing further was raised under this heading.

**7 Correspondence**

Kent Police had launched a new public safety / anti burglary campaign and sent leaflets and suggested copy for articles to be included in parish magazines. Cllr Hopper to put on website, Cllr Walker in magazine and clerk to post on noticeboard.

Cllr Westwood had received an email from a resident regarding slow broadband speed asking if someone from BPC could contact Vfast to see if Birling was suitable for a receiver and what they would need to guarantee top speeds. The Clerk had contacted them and they cannot guarantee speeds but were hopeful that if proprietors of The Nevill Bull were happy to go ahead they could do a survey to put a receiver there with small repeaters on individual roofs. The Make Kent Quicker Campaign Phase 9, covering this area, is scheduled to commence in July 2015.

An email had been received about supply of defibrillators. Cllr Grimmatt explained how the defibrillator process works from his experience with one installed in West Malling by Malling Lions. The necessity for one in the village was discussed and **Cllr Grimmatt** offered to speak to the proprietors of The Nevill Bull to discuss the possibility of one being installed there. It was agreed that more information was needed and the **Clerk** would do some research.

**8 Financial Matters**

**(a) Monthly accounts, statements & PAYE forms**

Bank statements had not been received so reconciliation sheet not submitted. PAYE forms were signed.

**(b) Cheques**

The following cheques were signed:

1359	Mrs Grimmatt	November salary & expenses	£287.49
1360	All Saints' PCC	S136	£1608.00
1361	Age Concern Malling	S137	£50.00
1362	All Saints' PCC	Flower Festival S137	£250.00
1363	Kent Air Ambulance	S137	£50.00
1364	Malling Area Community Service	S137	£50.00
1365	T & M CAB	S137	£50.00
1366	The Beat Project	S137	£50.00
1367	Victim Support	S137	£50.00
1368	Heart of Kent Hospice	S137	£50.00

**(c) Notification of Precept 2015-16**

TMBC have notified that the Precept will increase by 1.3% from £4171 to £4215

**(d) Any other financial business**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

**9 Roads**

Cllr Westwood commented that the roads from Ryarsh to Trosley and from Addington to Trosley had been flooded on Monday and Cllr Spooner said that there had been increased flow of water in the stream in Bull Road.

**10 Planning**

**New Applications:**

TM/14/03557/FL TQ 566312 162095

Applicant: Birling Farms

Location: White Horse Wood, Meopham

Proposal: Extension of period of occupancy of static caravans by 2 weeks at start and end of season (retrospective application) for setting up and closing the site.

BPC: No objections

TM/14/03542/FL TQ 567998 160414

Applicant: Mrs Clare Innes

Location: 3 The Close, Birling, ME19 5WJ

Proposal: Demolition of conservatory at rear of house, two storey extension to rear and side; addition of 2 dormer windows in roof, construction of detached double garage

BPC: Mr Gilchrist, an immediate neighbour of the property, explained his concerns about the proposal including the size of the proposed extension, close proximity of the new double garage to mature trees on his property and their narrow shared drive. All members of the Council expressed concerns over the size of the development and AGREED that a site visit needed to be carried out before any decision could be reached. **Cllr Walker** to arrange.

**Decisions:**

TM/14/03196/TNCA TQ 568018 160606

Applicant: All Saints' PCC

Proposal: Removal of 3 trees and lowering of crown of yew tree in churchyard

Location: All Saints' Church Birling

Decision: BPC – no objections but would prefer Ash to be reduced rather than removed.

TMBC – No objections 28/10/2014

KCC/TM/0322/2014

Proposal: Extension to the height of the existing asphalt plant emissions stack

Location: Ham Hill Quarry Snodland ME6 5LA

Decision: BPC – unable to make a considered decision due to lack of independent report.

TM/14/02989

TQ 567533 159754

Applicant: Mr P Almani

Proposal: Demolition of the Stables in Birling Road, Ryarsh, and construction of a frozen food distribution centre

Decision: BPC – Objections raised – circulated and will be attached to Minutes

TM14/03461/TNCA

TQ 567998 160414

Applicant: Dr D Gilbert

Location: 3 The Close, Birling, Kent

Proposal: Fell horse chestnut tree suffering from bleeding canker

Decision: Application not proceeded with 17/10/2014

**11 Any Other Business**

Nothing was raised under this heading.

**12 Date of next meeting**

As previously agreed **9 December 2014 at 8pm**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.