

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 13th February 2024

Present: Councillors Mrs J Westwood (Chair)
Mr S Hewett
Mr D Yates
Mrs H Walker
Ms H Wright

Also in attendance: Clerk Ms J Miller; Cllr Paul Boxall

153. Apologies for absence

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Nevill and Cllr Hirst. Apologies were received from Mrs Hohler.

154. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

155. Approval and signing of minutes of meeting of 9th January 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the minutes of the meeting of 9th January 2024.

156. Reports

(a) County Council – Sarah Hohler

Mrs Hohler had sent apologies, and a report was received.

Concerns about the risk to the school bus service were discussed, and the danger that operators will be able to withdraw services if they are no longer commercially viable is a worry to the parish council.

(b) Borough Councillors – Paul Boxall and Bill Banks

The new Planning Department “Agile” software was discussed and Cllr Boxall reported that there is an inquiry at the Borough Council into why there are so many issues with social housing lists not being actioned. There was no further update on the Local Plan. Holly Hill woods will be coppiced in the near future.

(c) Kent Police – there had been one incident of an abandoned vehicle, that was subsequently moved.

157. Open Forum – Public Participation Session

There were none.

158. Matters arising and last month’s circulation.

i. **Ryarsh School**

To receive any updates.

There were no further updates.

ii. **Village Hall access**

To receive any updates on availability of hall – there were none.

iii. **Post Office/Royal Mail**

To note response from Royal Mail to MP that advised that there are recruitment issues which have caused delays to deliveries.

159. Matters for Information circulated to councillors.

12/01 Open spaces for TMBC Open Space Study

12/01 Chief Executive Bulletin

12/01 KCC Parish Council Winter Support Scheme

23/01 E Watch 2150
 23/01 Parish Councillors and vacancies update TMBC
 23/01 E Watch 2149
 23/01 Chief Executive Bulletin
23/01 Pre-submission Draft of Kent Minerals and Waste Plan
 23/01 NALC Newsletter
 23/01 E Watch 2148
 23/01 KALC T&M Minutes 14th December 2023
 28/01 Chief Executive Bulletin
 28/01 T&MBC Graffiti Consultation
 28/01 Chief Executive Bulletin
 28/01 E Watch 2151
 28/01 RMBC Digital Inclusion Services
 28/01 Green Business Grant Scheme
 28/01 KALC Training Bulletin
 28/01 Youth Program information for councils
 28/01 Kent Rural Policing Matters
 01/02 E Watch 2152
 01/02 NALC Newsletter
 01/02 Gallagher Insurance advice – risk management
 05/02 Chief Executive Bulletin
 05/02 NALC Events
 05/02 Street Vote Development Orders
 05/02 The Rural Bulletin
 05/02 M20 moveable barrier
 05/02 Survey for parish councils about activities with children, young people and communities
 05/02 February KALC News
 05/02 E Watch 2153
 05/02 Trading Standards latest alerts
 05/02 Get Tonbridge and Malling project
 05/02 KALC News – it was noted that the parish council could be involved in the public rights of way ramblers projects.
 05/02 Town, Parish and Community Councils D Day 80 06/06/2024

160. Meetings

(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council

- i. Parish Partnership Panel 08/02/2024 (Cancelled)
 It was noted that the borough council is five weeks behind registering planning applications. Cllr Hewett will investigate the discrepancies with the weekly list and notices to the parish and find out how to identify the planning officer as this is not detailed on the planning notices.

(a) Future meetings

- i. Snodland Asphalt Meeting 18/04/2024
- ii. KALC T&M Area Committee 18/04/2023 (in person)
- iii. KALC T&M Area Committee 11/07/2024 (Teams)
- iv. Parish Partnership Panel 30/05/2024
- v. Parish Partnership Panel 29/08/2024
- vi. KALC T&M Area Committee 03/10/2024 – AGM in person
- vii. KALC T&M Area Committee 12/12/2024 (Teams)

161. Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Highways

- i. To receive update from Cllr Hirst on Highways Improvement Plan.

- ii. There was no further update.
To receive update on bank infringement.
It was noted that the bank had been cleared back today and will be inspected.

(b) Local Plan

- i. To note update – there was no further update.

(c) Community Transport Grant / Bus Services

- i. To receive update on KALC T&M parish council initiatives
It was noted that the grant funding is being sought from the National Lottery to maintain the Friday “58” bus service.

(d) Jubilee and Coronation

- 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 – this will take place next year.

(e) Village Maintenance, Waste and Litter

- i. To note litter pick taking place 24th March 10am – noted.

(f) Climate Action

- i. To review and update the Climate Action Plan.
It was **AGREED** to append the Climate Action Plan to the Strategic Plan.

(g) Strategic Plan Update

- i. To review updated strategic plan.
Comments will be circulated and the plan updated for consideration at the next meeting.

(h) Annual Parish Meeting

- i. To consider format for meeting 14/05/2024 – ideas will be considered at the next meeting.

(i) Community Resilience Plan

- The Kent Fire and Rescue advice on Community Resilience plans was circulated.
It was noted that a map of the parish with emergency assistance tools could be produced for Birling. Cllr Westwood will make a start on a draft plan.

162. Parish Business for Noting

(a) Website/Social Media platforms updates

- To note the following added to online platforms:
Road Closures.

(b) Parochial Church Council

- i. To receive regular update.
There was no further update.

(c) Resident Matters

- i. To note any recent local issues raised.
There was a burglary reported.

163. Correspondence

There were none.

164. Finance & Accounts

(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation January 2024

Net Bank Balances as at 31/1/2024 £17,720.26

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliation for January 2024.

(b) To note budget position year to date January 2024

The budget position as at January 2024 was noted. Reserves will be discussed at a future meeting. The reserves list will be moved from the separate worksheet to the budget worksheet for ease of review.

(c) To approve PAYE record February 2024.

The PAYE record was approved.

(d) BACS and DD to be approved and signed for February 2024

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

Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Amount Net	VAT	Description
Various	Staff Costs	£527.84			January staff costs
LASER	Streetlighting	£29.55	£28.07	£1.48	Streetlight energy costs
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£62.73	£52.27	£10.46	Monthly Mailbox Costs
HugoFox	IT Costs	£11.99	£9.99	£2.00	Monthly website costs
Beams	Donations	£50.00			Donation

165. Road

(a) To report any road issues

- i. To feedback any issues with parking on Ryarsh Road on boundary with Ryarsh and consider encouraging safer parking – request from Ryarsh Parish Council.
The building work issue is a temporary situation and should shortly be resolved. The parish council suggested contacting the school to advise drivers to proceed with caution.

Cllr Yates left the meeting at 21:04pm

- ii. To note update on salt bag from KCC.
It was noted that this had not been delivered.
- iii. TMBC Graffiti Consultation – noted.

(b) To note update on Stangate Road pothole

The area will be inspected to check for repairs.

(c) Road Closures – see website for details.

- ii. To note temporary road closures affecting Birling Stangate Road; Castle Way (Leybourne); White Horse Road

166. Planning

(a) Applications to be considered – there were none.

It was noted that an application had been received for development at 20 Legge Lane since the agenda had been issued. An extension to the deadline will be requested, as it had been suggested at the recent TMBC training that this is now possible. Cllr Hewett will supply the planning officer details as they are not on the notice.

(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council - there were none.

(c) Street Vote Development Orders.

The NALC advice was noted.

167. Matters for future meetings.

The usual substantive items will be on the agenda. Future meeting dates will be reviewed at the next meeting.

168. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 12th March 2024

Future Dates – 11th June meeting will be changed to 18th June.

Meeting closed at 21:18pm

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