

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 8 April 2014 in Birling Village Hall at 8.15pm

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

County Cllr Sarah Hohler, Mrs Grimmatt (Clerk) and 3 members of the public

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

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

2 Reports

Borough and County Reports dealt with in the APA.

PCSO Bullen was off duty but had emailed her report that a dispute at Kibblesbrook Farm, Legge Lane had been reported. There was insufficient evidence that a farmer had damaged property whilst digging out ditches to drain flood water. It was likely to be an ongoing civil issue. PCSO Bullen had distributed a crime prevention leaflet and "No Cold Callers" stickers to households throughout the village following 3 reports of elderly residents being upset by cold callers late in the evening.

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

After deleting Cllr Walker's name from those present it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2 March 2014 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by the Chair.

4 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Street Light at Parsons Corner

The damaged lamp had been replaced and the invoice received from TMBC.

(b) Restoration of War Memorial

Detailed in 5 of the APA and discussed under **Parish Business for Decisions (b)**

(c) HGV Traffic Through Village and Unsuitable for HGVs Sign

Date for installation of sign still awaited. Clerk had spoken to the Transport Manager at Croomes who advised that they had checked their records and none of their vehicles had been in the area. There had been no response to a subsequent email sent with a photo. Transport Manager at Fowler Welch had been very helpful and given his mobile and landline numbers and said he could be contacted 24/7. Kellys had vacated their premises in Ryarsh so no further problems with them were envisaged. PCSO Bullen had advised best to get reg and trailer numbers and not to assist drivers but to call police instead. There had been no reported incidents in the past month. Cllr Hopper was still awaiting a date for the sign to be installed and would contact Kent Highways again, cc Cllr Hohler.

(d) Annual Parish Assembly

The Clerk had been advised by Kevin Funnell, the auditor, that the APA had to be held between 1 March and 1 June. Cllr Westwood and the Clerk had discussed the matter and decided that the APA should be held in April as usual, with the restoration and cleaning of the War Memorial as the subject of the discussion, and that the Local Plan would be discussed when all the data had been received.

(e) TMBC's Heritage Open Days

Kathy Nevill had been advised and the matter would be discussed by the PCC.

(f) Any other Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that she had not yet had time to change the Parish email address. Unfortunately, the email provider had been sold and she had not been able to access the site for the past week. Measures were being taken to restore the site but time scales not known.

Nothing further was raised under this heading.

5 Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Review of Standing Orders and Financial Resolutions

Details of changes in legislation to allow Parish and Town councils to make electronic payments had been received but there had been insufficient time for the Clerk and Cllr Westwood to go through the considerable amount of paperwork. The Clerk recommended that the Standing Orders and Financial Resolutions remain as is until a decision had been made as to whether or not to change BPC's payment method.

This recommendation was **AGREED**.

(b) Restoration of War Memorial

Cllr Hopper's recommendation covered in 5 of the APA was **AGREED** and the Clerk was asked to contact Burslem.

(c) Subscriptions to Kent Association of Local Councils and Action with Communities in Rural Kent

It was **AGREED** to continue subscribing to both Associations.

(d) Footpath Opposite Church

Cllr Hopper had met with Mr Lawrenson and inspected the footpath. A quote had been received for £295 to supply and erect an extension to the handrail and for £588 to construct 7 new steps and supply roadstone to level out the steps where necessary. These figures were higher than BPC had expected and the Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Nevill to see if Birling Farms would be able to carry out the work and for what price.

Any other business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

6 Open Forum

Nothing was raised under this heading.

7 Correspondence

TMBC Local Plan–Assessment of Potential Sites for Housing & Other Uses Call for Sites

This was placed in the bag for circulation

Victim Support – request for donation – held on file until donations to be considered

8 Financial Matters

(a) Year-end reconciliation sheets, Statements & PAYE forms

Year-end reconciliation sheet, bank statement and PAYE forms were signed and year-end record handed out.

(b) Cheques to be signed

The following cheques were signed:

1337	Mrs Grimmett	April salary & expenses	£287.37
1338	TMBC	Replacement street lamp	£330.00

(c) Final Budget

This was **AGREED**.

(d) Any other financial business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

9 **Roads**

(a) The next meeting of the JPCTCG will be on 1 May at 7.30pm at TMBC's office. They will be discussing what traffic calming measures each village uses and their effectiveness and what other issues are currently causing concern. The outcome will be put to Andy Corcoran from Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager at July meeting. Cllr Nudd advised that he was unable to attend future meetings and Cllr Grimmett said he would, when available. He was asked to include speed limits on single track roads and the problems of narrow pavements between Ryarsh and Birling. Pupils at Ryarsh School had recently walked from the school to attend a service at All Saints Church, Birling, but would not do so again as the Head teacher considered the route too dangerous.

(b) Clerk reported that the stream in Bull/Birling Road had been cleared by the landowner.

(c) Any other roads business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

10 **Planning**

New Applications:

TM/14/00800/FL TQ568702 160012

Applicant: Dr S Kothari

Location: The Cottage, Birling Ashes, Birling Road, Birling ME19 5JB

Proposal: Single storey extension to create new kitchen, study, WC and boot room

BPC: This application was discussed by all Cllrs. Whilst there were no objections to the building itself Cllrs wished TMBC to be advised of their concerns that it might be affected by the stream flooding.

TM/14/00479/RD TQ566312 162095

Applicant: Birling Farms

Location: Whitehorse Wood, Meopham

Proposal: Details pursuant to conditions 4, 6 and 7 of planning permission
TM/13/00547/FL

Mr & Mrs Wills who live in Harvel Lodge attended the meeting and expressed their concerns about several items contained in the Management Plan. Although only "quiet" pitches were to be sited within 200 yards of their boundary and rope had been used to cordon off an area 150 metres from the boundary, pitches had been set up inside the 150mtr limit. They felt that a more permanent cordon than rope was needed and had doubts that 1 warden was sufficient to manage a site of this size. They advised that they had contacted TMBC regarding out of season occupancy and TMBC agreed that it had been breached. Approval had been given for a caravan but it is actually a mobile home. The campsite had been used for orienteering out of season and Mr & Mrs Wills queried whether this was approved use. They also repeated their concerns about noise and the effect on the flora and fauna in the area. They also raised concerns over the number of

camp fires that would be lit over the season as they considered these could pose a potential fire hazard. Mr & Mrs Wills were going to contact TMBC to ensure they could attend the planning meeting.

BPC assured Mr & Mrs Wills that they were aware of their concerns and the Clerk was asked to request an extension from TMBC to allow the Planning Committee more time to consider the application.

Decisions:

TM/14/00091/FL TQ569401 160666
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Janz
Location: Sandhole Farm, Sandhole, Snodland ME6 5LG
Proposal Conversion of former veterinary practice and extension to form single dwelling, detached garage, new drive and access to Sandhole Farmhouse
BPC: No objections

TM14/00176/FL TQ566842 162453 resubmission of
TM/13/02562/FL TQ566842 162453 declined 31/8/2013
Applicant: Mr B Hitchcock
Location: Highfield House, 62 White Horse Road, Meopham DA13 0UF
Proposal: Alterations to roof over garage to form annexe ancillary to house
TMBC: Approved

TM14/00506/FL TQ567784 160334
Applicant: Mrs Heather Thompson
Location: Frindale Cottage, 80 Ryarsh Road, Birling ME19 5JR
Proposal: Reduce crown of silver birch by approx. 20%
BPC: No objections
TMBC: No objections 25/4/2014

The Clerk advised that she had contacted TMBC and asked that Mr Hitchcock and Mr Wills be notified of any further details re Birling Farms' campsite. She had looked into the matter of the property at Holly Hill which is in the Snodland area and had passed on this information to Mr Wills and Mr Hitchcock.

11 Any Other Business

Cllr Hopper commented that there had not been an announcement in Pilgrims about the flower festival. Cllr Walker would send him the information so that he could add this to the website. Cllr Westwood thanked both for their help throughout the year with the Pilgrims magazine and the Parish website.

Cllrs were asked for suggestions as to whether there were any other projects that Cllr Hohler could support.

Nothing further was raised under this heading.

12 Date of next meeting:

As previously agreed the **Annual General Meeting will be held at 8pm on 13 May 2014 followed by the monthly meeting.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.55pm.