

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 11 February 2014 in Birling Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

County Cllrs Sarah Hohler and Matthew Balfour and members of the public

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Mrs Grimmatt (clerk)

2 Reports

Cllr Balfour - nothing to report

Sarah Hohler – KCC are to vote on the Council Tax budget 13 February. The recommendation is a 1.9% increase subject to the vote. KCC plan to be more efficient and sought views from the public about the priority services. Elderly services were the top priority for the public. It is planned that the KCC will reduce staff numbers to meet efficiency targets. Sarah confirmed that she has approved £1000 for Birling from the KCC members grant to be used towards the cost of refurbishing the War Memorial. Apologies were given for the next meeting.

PCSO Bullen – no other reported crimes. PCSOs only work until 11pm so were not available to patrol the area. However, she will pass on to the late shift concerns re car park. (Mrs Ivell informed council gate to car park will be closed at night (not locked).

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2014 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by the Chair.

4 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Restoration of War Memorial & Funding - this cannot be completed in time for the flower festival as originally planned. A pre grant application has been requested by the War Memorial Trust and a response is expected in March. The memorial is made of a type of granite and water jet cleaning is best according to the War Memorial Trust.

(b) Footpath Opposite Church – Cllr Hopper still to chase quote and it is expected that the work will be done in April.

(c) E-mail address

The new address for BPC has been set up but Clerk not yet had time to transfer information.

(d) Litter in village hall car park

PCSP Bullen and the Landscape PCSO were doing spot checks on the car park but nothing had been reported to the council. Email received from resident re litter and sexual objects found this week + small packets of foil etc.

(e) Street Light at Parsons Corner

The £250 excess and subsequent loss of “no claims” discount means that it would not be cost effective to make an insurance claim. The Clerk had, therefore, asked TMBC to arrange for the work to be carried out.

(f) Any other matters arising

Nothing else was raised under this heading

5 Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Presentation – Local Plan Review by TMBC Planning Officers

Ian Bailey stated in his opening address that 21 parishes had been seen out of 27 with 5 other meetings still to take place and a date for another to be arranged. The Government is insisting on new planning reforms which is what this meeting was about. At this time TMBC is at the evidence gathering stage. 2016 is when they plan to adopt the plan. A 5 year plan for housing is required by local authorities. TMBC is happy with plans as they stand at the moment, but have to look to the future. The plan is looking towards 2031 (15 years).

Today's target is 450 new houses per year. The next plan is to get landowners/parish councils etc input to make a local plan. TMBC have to do lots of reviews concerning green belt land etc. Infrastructure is an important consideration – Birling population is getting older and plan needs to consider age structure for the future. 2nd stage consultation is late 2014 with a final draft sometime in 2015.

Questions from floor include –

Green belt issues – (a) Area of outstanding beauty more important. English Nature decide on AONB.

What are your expectations of PC – (a) Smaller units for the elderly and young families

How many houses will you need in each village - (a) too early to say

How will the houses from Leybourne, Grange/Holborough and Ryarsh affect us – (a) don't know – waiting on SHMA report

How will flooding be minimised with more concreting of land for housing – (a) it is in the plan to consider flood risks but also look at water supplies as well.

How will the demographics in the existing plan be shown in future – (a) more detail in future plans.

If new houses are to be built how will roads be affected – (a) Kent highways are part of plan and will be brought in to plan infrastructure.

What is the Government's opinion about small villages losing their heritage and individuality by being joined to others – (a) We need to hear from you – would welcome your views

Are there any plans for more businesses which would require more housing - (a) not at moment

Traffic is a big concern in Birling with vehicles from further afield driving through village to get to motorway (a) Infrastructure Development plan would look at this problem.

Do you require all parishes to give you feedback – (a) yes

Is information about the local plan available on website (a) yes –this is just start of parish dialogue.

Can the Government overrule your decision – (a) Local planning authorities have to perform lots of tests within Government guidelines – TMBC HAVE TO DO THIS PLAN

Can you force landowners to sell for housing if you identify sites – (a) you may ask a neighbouring village to supply a site for you

(b) Any other business

Email to be submitted to KCC Highways with concerns about continual flooding at culvert by Birling Ashes and Workhouse Road in Ryarsh which has been closed since Xmas. HGVs driving through Birling as an alternative route have an adverse effect on the village.

6 Open Forum

Nothing was raised under this heading.

7 Correspondence

Environment Agency – Variation of Main River – Snodland Mill Stream – in bag
Kent Police - Update on new Inspector for Malling's sector and dates for Police Contact – in bag

8 Financial Matters

(a) Monthly reconciliation sheets, statement & PAYE forms

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

(b) Cheques to be signed – none – Mrs Grimmett to get 2 x salary next month

(c) Internal audit

This will be carried out 23 April.

(d) Any other financial business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

9 Roads

(a) JPCTCG

Cllr Nudd was unable to attend January's meeting, minutes in bag. Interim meeting will be held on 27 February - Cllr Nudd will try to attend. . The next one will be Thursday 1 May.

(b) Any other business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

10 Planning

New Applications:

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

BPC: no objections to proposal from planning committee

Decisions: None

11 Any Other Business

(a) Cllr Nudd to locate the design statement he made some time ago about Birling village and bring to next meeting. BPC will discuss views that Birling should suggest in respect of the Local Plan at the next meeting.

An email to be sent to TMBC asking for more copies of the presentation review brochures from tonight's meeting along with a copy of their minutes

- 12 **Date of next meeting:**
As previously agreed **4 March 2014 at 8.00pm.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 10.10pm and Cllr Hopper gave apologies for March meeting.