

Birling Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 13 March 2018 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs J Westwood (Chair)
Mr N Hewett
Mr S Hirst
Mrs S Spooner
Mrs H Walker
Clerk Ms Pilbeam

Also in attendance: TMBC Cllr Matthew Balfour, K Councillor Sarah Hohler, 12 members of the public, 2 representatives of the Ryarsh Protection Group.

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Nevill and Grimmett.

2 Declarations of Interest

3 Reports

Cllr Balfour reported that finances continue to be a challenge and the Local Plan work is well underway. Cllr Balfour warned residents of the predicted snowfall at the weekend. Cllr Walker asked if the Ryarsh school hall extension is still on track and Cllr Balfour confirmed that he hadn't heard anything to the contrary. Cllr Balfour reminded councillors that there are several consultations open at present regarding housing and environment and to participate.

Cllr Balfour left the meeting at 20:04pm

4 Open Forum

Representatives of the Ryarsh Protection Group addressed the meeting and explained they are fighting hard against the proposed sand pit in Roughetts Road and asked for Birling Parish Council to support this cause and to protect both Birling and Ryarsh against the proposed quarry. Members of the public raised the perceived effects of the sand pit.

A member of the public asked about the conflict of interests of Cllr Nevill in relation to the proposed sand pit. It was explained that Cllr Nevill has declared an interest in the item and that councillors with a pecuniary interest have no participation in the decision making process of such items.

A resident asked if Birling Parish Council could communicate the forthcoming letter writing support group meeting at the Duke of Wellington.

It was agreed to bring item 8 (d) forward for decision.

5 Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30 Consultation

Cllr Hewett was thanked on behalf of the Parish Council for the amount of preparation work that he had carried out.

Cllr Hohler entered the meeting at 20:26pm

It was **RESOLVED** that Birling Parish Council objects to the identification of the site at Ryarsh on the following points: uncertainty of need, traffic issues, dust, noise, air quality, cumulative impact on

wider area, landscape impact, impact on public footpaths, school and the way in which the overall analysis and comparison of the sites had been conducted resulting in the Ryarsh site unjustly being given a higher priority.

Cllr Hewett agreed to submit a draft response to councillors and it was **RESOLVED** that the draft is published on the website for resident comment.

The response deadline is 29th March, a draft is expected to be circulated to councillors by 19th March. Councillors were asked to respond to the draft within 2 days to confirm agreement for the document to be added to the council's website.

6 Reports

Cllr Hohler addressed the meeting and spoke about the sand pit consultation. Cllr Hohler urged residents to write individual letters rather than signing a petition, as this was more powerful. Cllr Hohler spoke about how the consultation is not a planning application but a consultation on how the community feel about such proposals.

Cllr Hohler apologised for the poor timing of the speed count and confirmed that this will be conducted again. Cllr Hohler spoke about the good feedback that KCC had received during the recent snow clearance. It was confirmed that the KCC budget was passed in February and the conversations about bus service cuts will take place at the end of March. Cllr Hohler confirmed that the KCC bus provisions only make up around 2% of Kent's bus services and other options will be investigated for under used services.

Cllr Hohler left the meeting at 20.53pm

It was agreed to bring item 8 (a) forward.

7 Friends At Birling Church

It was **RESOLVED** to contribute £125 for the project with the stipulation that the PC funding is retained as working capital to support future events.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 February 2018 be **APPROVED** and they were **SIGNED** by the Chair.

9 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Actions from February's Meeting

i. Traffic Survey

KCC Cllr Sarah Hohler had previously reported apologies and that the speed count will be performed again at a more appropriate time.

ii. LED Lighting

To report a meeting arranged with KCC to progress installation taking place on 16th March.

iii. Local Plan

Cllr Hewett reported that there is a new timetable for the Local Plan and consultation is likely in the autumn with the objective to submit to Government before the end of 2018.

(b) Matters for Information circulated to councillors – all noted.

- i. 30/01/2018 M2 Junction 5-6
- ii. 05/02/2018 January Bus Monthly Updates

- iii. 05/02/2018 KALC event Introduction to Planning
- iv. 05/02/2018 KALC events added for Spring
- v. 05/02/2018 KALC Dynamic Councillor event
- vi. 05/02/2018 Weekly news digest
- vii. 10/02/2018 Guidance on Local Government Investments
- viii. 10/02/2018 Local Government Ethical Standards Stakeholder Consultation
- ix. 10/02/2018 Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan Consultation
 - x. 10/02/2018 Issue 1528 E Watch
 - xi. 10/02/2018 Invitation to discover Gatwick
 - xii. 10/02/2018 KALC GDPR Update
 - xiii. 10/02/2018 Great British Spring Clean
 - xiv. 10/02/2018 Could you help a toad cross the road
 - xv. 10/02/2018 Issue 1527 E Watch
 - xvi. 16/02/2018 Walk the Chalk walking festival May 4-11
 - xvii. 16/02/2018 Works Information A21 scheme
 - xviii. 16/02/2018 Kent Mineral Site Options Addendum
 - xix. 16/02/2018 Issue 1529 E Watch
 - xx. 16/02/2018 TMBC Easter Holiday activities
 - xxi. 16/02/2018 Tom Tugenhadt MP objections to Ryarsh Sandpit
 - xxii. 16/02/2018 Weekly news digest
 - xxiii. 16/02/2018 KALC membership survey
 - xxiv. 20/02/2018 Request for advise on KALC T&M meetings
 - xxv. 28/02/2018 issue 1533 E Watch
 - xxvi. 28/02/2018 Neighbourhood Watch Updates
 - xxvii. 28/02/2018 NALC GDPR Took Kit
 - xxviii. 28/02/2018 Weekly News Digest
 - xxix. 28/02/2018 Flood Warden Training
 - xxx. 02/03/2018 Minutes of Parish Partnership Panel
 - xxxi. 02/03/2018 Issue 1534 E Watch
 - xxxii. 02/03/2018 Agenda for Joint Transportation Board Monday 12th March
 - xxxiii. 02/03/2018 South East Water draft water resources management plan 2019
 - xxxiv. 02/03/2018 KALC T&M October meeting date
 - xxxv. 02/03/2018 KALC Parish News February 2018
 - xxxvi. 02/03/2018 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin
 - xxxvii. 02/03/2018 Issue 1531 E Watch
 - xxxviii. 02/03/2018 Various emails concerning TMBC Waste Collections
 - xxxix. 02/03/2018 UK Power Networks information on weather
 - xl. 05/03/2018 Supplement for Joint Transportation Board papers
 - xli. 05/03/2018 February Monthly Bus Updates
 - xl. 05/03/2018 West Kent Neighbourhood Watch updates

(c) Any other matters arising from the minutes

Cllr Hewett asked about the GP surgery.

Cllr Westwood reported the informal comments made about recent drone harassment in the village.

10 Meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council

- i. Parish Partnership Panel Cllr J Westwood 15/02/2018
Cllr Westwood reported that the Kent Police Crime Commissioner gave a presentation at the meeting and the discussion focused on pavement parking, public open space protection orders (PSPOs) and offences for dog fouling.

11 Parish Business and Decisions

- i. **War Memorial Project**

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Nevill and Cllr Hirst to meet with the contractor to agree the overall plan drawings required and obtain a full quote. It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Walker to consult with the church on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to investigate waste bin options with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.
- ii. **Website**

To note 'birlingparishcouncil.gov.uk' live.

It was noted that the email address investigation is underway.
- iii. **General Data Protection Regulations**

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase the Local Government Local Advisory Service GDPR pack and it was **RESOLVED** to appoint the Data Protection Officer from the KALC training course.
- iv. **Remembrance Day 2018**

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Nevill to arrange a torch procession to the beacon lighting ceremony.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to organise the road closure between Bull Road and Standgate Road from 10.30-11.30am for the wreath laying service.
- v. **Great British Spring Clean**

It was noted that the change of date to Saturday March 17th is due to snow.
- vi. **Annual Parish Assembly**

It was **RESOLVED** that the plans for the war memorial upgrade and the Remembrance Day beacon walk are the two items to discuss with residents at the Annual Parish Meeting. It was noted that Rev Shuker be invited. It was noted that Burlsem's attendance would be useful.
- vii. **'Walk the Chalk'**

It was noted that a walk has been arranged on Saturday 5th May at 10am. It was **RESOLVED** to ask Cllr Nevill to start the walk at 9.30am to not clash with the church event. It was noted for the Clerk to liaise with Cllr Nevill to advertise the event and ensure contact with neighbouring parishes to encourage participation.

12 Correspondence

- i. Email from resident concerning Kent Minerals and Waste Plan and new website launch 03/02/2018
- ii. Membership Renewal for Rural Kent Membership 10/02/2018
- iii. TMBC on street parking fees and charges order consultation 10/02/2018
- iv. Email from resident asking for details of KCC roadworks to be added to website 16/02/2018

13 Financial Matters

- (a) To approve Bank Reconciliation February 2018
Net Bank Balances as at 31/01/2018: £38,891.29
- (b) To note budget position year to date February 2018
- (d) To approve PAYE record March 2018
- (e) To receive statement from Secure Trust Bank
- (e) To note transfer of banking arrangements to Unity Trust Bank
- (f) Cheques to be signed:

Payee	Budget	Cheque No.	Amount	Description
J Miller	Staff Costs	1566	£ 298.51	March salary
J Miller	Staff Costs	1567	£ 110.79	Clerk Expenses 2017/18
HMRC	Staff Costs	1565	£149.40	HMRC PAYE February & March 2018

14 Roads

(a) To report any road issues

It was noted that the hedges had been cut however the area around the signs had not been finished. It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to report to the KCC Highway Steward.

The motorway screening issues were discussed and further investigations will take place.

15 Planning Applications and Decisions

(a) Applications to be considered

i. TM/17/03515 - Proposed replacement asphalt plant and revised site layout to include the relocation of a concrete batching plant at Ham Hill Quarry (Tarmac)

It was **RESOLVED** to submit the response drafted by Cllr Hewett.

Cllrs Hewett and Westwood were thanked for their input.

(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

i. TM/18/00119/TNCA T4 Western Red Cedar to reduce height of hedgerow to 2m;
T6 Beech to reduce height of hedgerow to 2m and T1 & T2 Sycamores to reduce crown – NO OBJECTION

16 Matters for future meetings

It was noted that future topics include Local Plan, LED Lighting, KALC planning consultations, war memorial, posters for walk the chalk, update on Easter Egg Hunt. It was noted that the Clerk investigate paying the invoices for the Egg Hunt rather than cheques being made out to individuals.

The recent burglary was noted and it was asked that the Clerk to contact PCSO for update and ask for PCSO presence at the parish meeting.

17 Date of next meeting

As previously agreed the next meeting will be held at **8pm on Tuesday 10 April 2018.**

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960 because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press will be asked to leave the meeting during the consideration of the following items:

18 **To agree substantive appointment of Parish Clerk**

It was **RESOLVED** to agree the substantive appointment of the Parish Clerk.

19 **Pension Scheme**

It was **RESOLVED** to obtain an independent pension advice contact from KALC. It was noted that the Clerk will obtain details of the auto-enrolment deadlines.

There being no further business the meeting closed at **22.15pm.**