

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 14th December 2021 Birling Church at 8pm

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

Also in attendance: Clerk Ms J Miller, one member of the public.

121. Apologies for absence

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Nevill and Cllr Yates with reasons given. Cllr Kemp and Cllr Hohler also gave apologies.

122. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

123. Reports

A police report was circulated prior to the meeting. A Castle Way business property break in on 23/11/21 was noted.

124. Approval and signing of minutes of meeting of 9th November 2021.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the signing of the minutes of 9th November 2021

125. Open Forum – Public Participation Session

A representative from the church spoke about the financial challenges that the church is currently facing. It was noted that there is a £300-£500 per month deficit in running costs. The lack of fundraising due to COVID had been a contributing factor but whilst 70% of expenditure is paid to diocese these ministry costs can be saved next year due to there not being a resident vicar. Ideas to raise funds from local residents were suggested by councillors.

126. Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Matters arising and last month's circulation

i. Ryarsh School

It was noted that in early January Ryarsh School is holding a COP26 style summit and is asking the parish council to create a pledge to make a difference in the community.

It was suggested that the parish council could present to the children about the council's strategic plan. Cllr Hirst and Westwood will liaise with the school.

ii. Culverts

To receive update on section 19 report.

Cllr Hirst will chase up KCC for a response to the points previously discussed.

iii. Benches

Works to be planned for spring – noted.

iv. Village Hall access

To receive an update on availability of hall - there was no further update.

127. Matters for Information circulated to councillors

02/11/2021 Agenda Planning and Transportation Board

02/11/2021 October Parish Newsletter

02/11/2021 KALC newsletter

02/11/2021 Rural Bulletin

02/11/2021 E watch 1918

02/11/2021 Agenda for communities and Housing Advisory Board

02/11/2021 Contain outbreak fund
02/11/2021 Local government bulletin
08/11/2021 E watch 1919
08/11/2021 Weekly waste update
08/11/2021 KALC CEO Bulletin
08/11/2021 Prevent venue hire guidance
08/11/2021 KFRS/KALC Fire hydrant initiative
08/11/2021 KCC Community Warden Service review
08/11/2021 COP26: join us for a day of global action
08/11/2021 Health and wellbeing conference
09/11/2021 Parish Partnership Panel raising matters for the agenda
09/11/2021 E watch 1920
10/11/2021 Minutes for economic regeneration board
10/11/2021 Local government bulletin
10/11/2021 Latest Kent Police Rural Task Force report and summer rural matters
15/11/2021 Agenda for street scene and environment services advisory board
15/11/2021 Local government bulletin
16/11/2021 National CSSC Green Message – threat level change
16/11/2021 E Watch 1921
16/11/2021 Decision sheet Communities and Housing advisory board
16/11/2021 Weekly Waste Update
18/11/2021 Agenda for Area 1 Planning Committee
18/11/2021 KALC Community Awards
18/11/2021 NALC policy consultation briefing
18/11/2021 Library service engagement
18/11/2021 Agenda for Snodland Asphalt Plant liaison
18/11/2021 Local government bulletin
18/11/2021 E Watch 1923
23/11/2021 NALC Code of Conduct update
23/11/2021 Civility and Respect Newsletter
23/11/2021 Weekly waste update
23/11/2021 General events flyer KALC
23/11/2021 Local Government Bulletin
23/11/2021 National CSSC Message CoLP NFib Bulletin
23/11/2021 KALC CEO Bulletin November 2021
23/11/2021 Local Government Bulletin
23/11/2021 Adult carers strategy – pre-consultation engagement workshops
23/11/2021 Minutes for licensing and appeals committee
23/11/2021 E Watch 1924
23/11/2021 The Rural Bulletin
23/11/2021 NALC Chief Executive’s Bulletin
26/11/2021 T&M Neighbourhood Engagement Meeting 8 December
26/11/2021 Stakeholder update bus strategy
26/11/2021 Civility and Respect working group update
26/11/2021 Gambling 2005 Statement of Licensing policy consultation
26/11/2021 E Watch 1925
26/11/2021 Local government bulletin
26/11/2021 Decision sheet for Street Scene and Environment Services Advisory Board
26/11/2021 T&M Ramblers programme
29/11/2021 Agenda Finance and General Purpose Committee
29/11/2021 Weekly Waste update
30/11/2021 E Watch 1926
02/12/2021 KALC T&M Thursday 9th December
03/12/2021 Weekly Waste Update
03/12/2021 E Watch 1927

128. Meetings

(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council

04/11/2021 Parish Partnership Panel – Cllr Westwood

It was noted that it was reported at the meeting that a landowner on Seven Mile Lane had offered a refuge area for police vehicles to use as to enforce speed limits but the police were not aware of this. It is being followed up. Other matters covered were that the new Parish Charter, which is under review and the KALC PPP vice chair appointment which is to be confirmed. Ideas for the 2022/23 PPP work programme are being sought from parishes. KALC are co-ordinating proposals for their members for the next PPP meeting. Speed limits, CSU contacts, the boundary review, and concerns with TMBC's planning transparency were also discussed.

09/12/2021 KALC area committee – the minutes had been circulated.

13/11/2021 KALC AGM – councillors were referred to the presentation on climate change.

19/11/2021 Tarmac Liaison Meeting – Cllr Hewett

It was noted that the use of LPG has reduced carbon emissions at the site and the odours are improving, although this is still being working on. The planning application had been withdrawn and will be re-submitted with more information.

(b) Future meetings

A KALC area meeting will be arranged before the Parish Partnership Panel meets, date to be confirmed.

27/01/22 Parish Partnership Panel

129. Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Highways Improvement Plan

- i. To receive update on meeting with KCC

Cllr Hirst reported that the meeting went well. The 40mph limit on Birling Road had been agreed by the officers and KCC offered to fund the notices to consult on the design.

The results from the speed checks had indicated an average speed between 24-29mph which is too high to allow a 20mph scheme in the parish. It was agreed to go ahead with the 40mph limit on Birling Road as this is expected to slow the traffic further which could contribute to a reduction in the average speeds which could then permit the 20mph scheme.

It was noted that the line of sight on Snodland Road is not suitable for a speed indicator device to be used.

Cllr Hirst will follow up the 40mph notices with KCC.

- ii. To note response sent to TRO consultation in November for extension to 7.5t and width restrictions Snodland Road.

(b) Bank Infringement

- i. To note update on legal advice

It was reported that the archive documents had been sent to the solicitor. There is a delay due to the retirement of the existing solicitor and the council is awaiting a hand over.

(c) Local Plan

- i. To note Local Plan update

It was noted that a Call for Sites has been launched. The Regulation 18 consultation will begin in April 2022.

(d) Rural Broadband

- i. To note clerk working with Openreach to progress project.

It was noted that this is in progress.

(e) Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022

- i. To discuss plans and confirm Village Hall hire

It was agreed to book the village hall from 10am until 5pm. The event will take place on Sunday 5th June 2022 and run from 12pm until 4.30pm. Cllr Nevill will be consulted on the marquee requirements. Cllr Walker, Nevill and the clerk are arranging a site visit to review the risk assessment.

(f) TMBC proposed Boundary Changes

- i. To note the final consultation response sent (13/12/21 deadline) – noted.
ii. To note draft TMBC response – noted.
iii. Ryarsh Parish Council are supporting the Birling response.

(g) Budget 2022-23

To consider final budget and precept for 2022-23

It was discussed that a 3.34% increase would be considered acceptable. This equates to a £1.79 per year increase on Band D properties compared to last year. The final budget and precept figures will be agreed at the January meeting.

(h) Strategic Plan review on progress

It was noted that there had been much progress such as the bulbs have been planted by the war memorial and the salt bin; the council had registered with Openreach for the community broadband project; the jubilee event is progressing; speed limits are being consulted on; HGV restrictions are in process of being implemented.

The clerk will update the plan on the website and the next review will take place in March 2022.

(i) Health and Safety - Defibrillator update

It was noted that a new defibrillator had been supplied and is now up and running with the ambulance service.

130. Parish Business for Noting

(a) Website update

- i. To note the following added to the website:-
Police engagement meeting
Waste collection updates
Library services engagement
Bulb planting

(b) Parochial Church Council

- i. To receive regular update – this had been covered earlier in the meeting.

(c) Whatsapp Group Matters

- i. To note any issues raised on the Birling Whatsapp Group
There had been issues reported with the brown bin collections. Success included the coat collection and the craft fair in aid of the church.

(d) TMBC Waste Collections

- i. To note weekly reports – noted.
ii. To note two issues with dog bin emptying reported – noted.

131. Correspondence

- (a)** Email from Ryarsh PC Clerk sharing crime information and crime prevention workshop at Ryarsh Village Hall

The posters given to Cllr Westwood at the workshop will be displayed on the website and the council will promote HollieGuard.

- (b) Gambling Statement – it was agreed to add this to the website
- (c) Civility and Respect Statement – it was agreed to add this to the website

132. Finance & Accounts

(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation November 2021.

Net Bank Balances as at 31/10/2021 £24,122.73

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation for November 2021.

(b) To note budget position year to date November 2021.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the budget position for November 2021.

(c) To approve PAYE record December 2021.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record for December 2021.

(a) BACS to be approved and signed

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

Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Amount Net	VAT	Description
J Miller	Staff Costs	£371.49	N/A	N/A	Dec Salary
HMRC	Staff Costs	£87.80	N/A	N/A	Dec PAYE
J Miller	Contingency	£234.00	£195.00	£39.00	Reimbursement for defib battery
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£45.60	£38.00	£7.00	Dec monthly mailbox cost
J Westwood	Contingency	£66.00	N/A	N/A	Reimbursement bulbs
Public Clocks Ltd	Church Clock	£167.45	£139.54	£27.91	Clock service
Poppy Appeal	Grants and Donations	£50.00	N/A	N/A	Poppy Wreath

133. Roads

(a) To report any road issues.

It was noted that the HGV sign light is not working and the verge has not been cleared.

(b) To receive update on M20 motorway noise problem.

It was **RESOLVED** to write to the MP for a further update as the noise appears to be increasing.

(c) Road Closures – there were none.

The signage supply issues for the Remembrance Day road closure were discussed and thanks were noted to Cllr Hewett for doing what he could in a difficult situation.

134. Planning

(a) Applications to be considered

There are none.

(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

There were none.

(c) Matters concerning Well Cottage

It was noted that the use of lighting on a property is not a matter for planning permission. In future applications the parish council may consider addressing potential light pollution. It was noted that issues with lighting can be reported to the environmental health department at Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. The first step is for the neighbour affected to approach the individuals informally to resolve the issue.

135. Matters for future meetings
The usual substantive items shall remain.

136. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 11th January 2022 8pm

Meeting closed at 21:50pm

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