

Birling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 4 March 2014 in Birling Village Hall at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Jacquie Westwood (Chair) Mr Ron Nudd (Vice Chair)
 Mr Colin Grimmett Mr Guy Nevill
 Mrs Sylvia Spooner

Mrs Grimmett (Clerk) and 3 members of the public

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

County Cllrs Sarah Hohler and Matthew Balfour, Cllrs Hopper & Walker and PCSO Laura Bullen. Cllr Nevill declared an interest in **5(b)** and **10 (Birling Farms)**, Cllr Walker and Cllr Grimmett in **10 (Frindale Cottage)** and none took part in the discussions.

2 Reports

Cllr Sarah Hohler's Annual report has been circulated by email and is in the bag.

PCSO Bullen's emailed report showed no new crimes. PCSO Bullen had advised the clerk that the gate to the village hall car park had been open when she had checked it although she had been told at February's meeting it would be closed. The clerk had contacted members of the Village Hall committee and been assured that it would now be closed at night to try and deter unwanted usage. A resident had reported to Cllr Westwood that a brief case had been found in the field behind the village hall. The police had been called and removed the case and contents which had been stolen from a car at Leybourne lakes in 2010. Clerk to pass on details to PCSO Bullen for her records.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 February 2013 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by the Chair. Cllr Grimmett was thanked for acting as Clerk while she was unwell.

4 Matters arising and last month's circulation

(a) Footpath opposite Church

Quote still awaited.

(b) Village Hall Car Park

See Reports

(c) Restoration of War Memorial

Outcome of application to the War Memorial Trust still awaited

(d) Unsuitable for HGVs Sign

Date of sign installation still awaited. A resident had reported that in the past week 2 Vehicles, driven by Eastern Europeans, had got stuck at the T junction at night. The drivers had been helped, yet again, by residents. Names of 2 transport companies Croome and Fowler Welch had been noted and the Clerk was asked to contact them. The same resident also reported that several times over the past week Kelly International Transport vehicles had been driven through the village towards Snodland with trailers and returning without them. Councillors thought that there had been an agreement that Kellys

would use Roughetts Lane and the A20 rather than drive through Birling and Ryarsh but were not sure if this was fact or hearsay. The Clerk was asked to contact Kellys.

(e) Reply to KALC re Storm and Flood Damage

The Clerk had emailed KALC re flooding in Snodland Road, Birling Road and Workhouse Road.

(g) Any other matters arising

Nothing else was raised under this heading

5 Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Annual Parish Assembly

It was **AGREED** that the Local Plan should be the subject of the APA but that, as all the data had not yet been received from TMBC, there was insufficient time to put a presentation together for April. The Clerk was asked to find out if an APA had to be held, if it had to be in April or if it could be deferred.

(b) Local Plan Review

See 5(a)

Ideas on “what makes Birling different” were discussed. The village’s relationship with the Nevill family and the flower festival were mentioned. TMBC are again participating in Heritage Open Days and the Clerk was asked to contact the PCC to see if they would like All Saints’ Church to be included.

(c) Any other business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

6 Open Forum

Nothing was raised under this heading.

7 Correspondence

Nothing received

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

The following cheques were signed:

1334	Mrs Grimmett	March salary & expenses	£287.37
1335	HMRC	PAYE	£195.00
1336	Birling Village Hall CT	Hire of hall	£42.00

(c) Month 11 and Year – End Forecast

Provisional year-end income and expenditure figures indicate a balance of approx £3500 to be added to the balance brought forward from 2013-14. The budget for 2014-15 had been adjusted to include the costs of restoring the war memorial and repairing the light at Parsons Corner. Depending on whether a grant is awarded by The War Memorial Trust, and the amount of that grant, any shortfall would have to be met from reserves.

Cllr Westwood pointed out that, as yet, no increase in the Clerk’s salary nor S137 donations other than the RBL wreath and Flower Festival had been included.

(d) Any other financial business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

9 Roads

(a) JPCTCG

Following a concern received from a resident in Sandy Lane Cllr Nudd was asked to raise the subject of lowering speed limits on narrow country roads at the next meeting.

(b) Any other roads business

The stream alongside Birling Road had flooded in recent weeks. The Clerk reported that it was blocked in several places with debris from recent storms and hedge cutting. Clerk to contact Mr Burke and ask if stream could be cleared.

10 Planning

Barry Hitchcock and Richard Wills raised concerns about a property development at Holly Hill that they considered was not in keeping with the local environment that had previously been approved by TMBC. BPC advised that some objection about the potential development had been made to TMBC at the time.

New Applications:

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

TM/14/00479/RD TQ566312 162095

Applicant: Birling Farms

Location: Whitehorse Wood, White Horse Road, Meopham

Proposal: Details submitted pursuant to conditions 5, 6 and 7 of planning permission TM/13/00547/FL

BPC: No objections and local residents' concerns to be noted

Barry Hitchcock & Richard Wills had a number of concerns about this development that had previously been made to TMBC. They also raised an issue about possible influence by Birling Estate on the Council's decision on the original planning application. This was because minutes of the meeting where this application was discussed recorded the clarification sought by the Council from Cllr Nevill about the project. The Chair advised that no decision had been made prior to a site visit (not attended by Cllr Nevill) so that Councillors could independently decide whether to support or object to the proposal. Following the site visit no objections were raised. Mr Hitchcock and Mr Wills raised issues about the effects of the development on wildlife, noise from the site, the felling of woodland and queried out of season use and occupancy. They also expressed concern that they were not advised by TMBC of the application dealing with conditions 5, 6 & 7 of the planning permission. They were advised by the Chair that their objections should be made direct to TMBC and that BPC would make enquiries as to why they had not been approached at this time.

Cllr Nevill, who had declared an interest at the start of the meeting and who did not take part in the Council's decision about the conditions pertaining to the use of the site, spoke privately at length with the residents expressing concern.

TM/12/983/R2 & 17

Proposal: Application for approval of details of noise attenuation barrier and noise monitoring scheme pursuant to conditions (2) and (17) of planning permission TM/12/983
BPC: No comments to be made as noise levels below those permitted. It has been reported to the PC by residents in Sandy Lane that dust pollution has dramatically increased and the Clerk was asked to pass this on.

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: This is a major development and, as none of the planning committee are familiar with the site, it was decided to defer a decision until they could all visit the site. Cllr Westwood to contact applicant to arrange a convenient date.

Decisions: None

11 Any Other Business

Nothing was raised under this heading.

12 Date of next meeting:

As previously agreed the **Annual Parish Assembly will be held at 7.30pm on 8 April 2014 followed by the Parish Council Meeting**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 10.10pm.