

## **Birling Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Present:** Councillors Mrs J Westwood (Chair)  
Mr N Hewett (Vice Chair)  
Mr S Hirst  
Mrs H Wright  
Mrs H Walker  
Mr D Yates

Also in attendance: Clerk Ms J Miller

**167. Apologies for Absence**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies for absence from Cllr Nevill with reasons. County Councillor Hohler and Borough Councillor Kemp had sent apologies.

**168. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest**

There were none.

**169. Approval and signing of minutes.**

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

**170. Reports**

**(a)** County Councillor Sarah Hohler .

No report received.

**(b)** Borough Councillors Piers Montague & Ann Kemp

No report received.

**(c)** Kent Police update circulated prior to the meeting.

i. Report for February received – no crimes.

**171. Open Forum – Public Participation Session**

There were none.

**172. Matters arising and last month's circulation.**

**(a) Ryarsh School**

To receive any updates – Summer Fete will be on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

**(b) Village Hall access**

To receive any updates on availability of hall – Cllr Nevill will be asked for feedback from the AGM.

**173. Matters for Information circulated to councillors.**

14/02 Changes to NuVenture buses

15/02 Parish and Local Elections

20/02 KALC Community Awards

20/02 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin

20/02 E Watch 2053

20/02 KALC training courses

20/02 KALC Armed Forces Awareness training

20/02 NALC Newsletter

20/02 E Watch 2052

20/02 KALC becoming a councillor workshop

20/02 E Watch 2051

20/02 Kent Police Crime Commissioner Newsletter

20/02 KCC Community Services Consultation  
20/02 NALC Newsletter  
25/02 E Watch 2054  
25/02 Upcoming events for KALC  
25/02 KALC Training  
25/02 Coronation Grant information  
25/02 E Watch 2055  
25/02 KALC Community Engagement  
25/02 Buffer budget for buses  
25/02 NALC Events  
25/02 Chief Executive Bulletin  
25/02 NALC Newsletter  
02/03 Funding Digest  
02/03 NALC events  
02/03 Rural Bulletin

**02/03 Microsoft price increase – to note implications to budget – it was noted this can be covered with the underspend being carried forward to reserves.**

02/03 TMBC £500,000 business boost  
02/03 NALC Newsletter  
02/03 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin  
02/03 Revised eligibility criteria for energy voucher scheme  
02/03 M20 moveable barrier update  
02/03 E Watch 2056  
02/03 KALC Climate Change Conference  
02/03 Briefing on Coronation  
02/03 Civility and Respect Newsletter  
02/03 KALC Event equality and inclusion

#### **174. Meetings**

**(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council.**

There were none.

**(b) Future meetings**

- i. Snodland Asphalt Meeting 22/03/2023
- ii. KALC Tonbridge and Malling Committee 30/03/2023

#### **175. Parish Business for Decisions**

**(a) Annual Parish Meeting**

- i. To note meeting to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm prior to Full Council  
Kent Fire and Rescue Service confirmed.

**(b) Highways Improvement Plan**

- i. To receive any updates from Cllr Hirst.  
Cllr Hirst will meet with the KCC officer on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 to progress the plan and look at the bank infringement. The A228 congestion will also be discussed and reported to Cllr Hohler. The HGV signs at Parsons Corner have not been repaired and there have been issues with HGVs through Birling and Ryarsh. This will be reported again.

**(c) Bank Infringement**

- i. To note new director of Kent Highways invited to review the bank infringement – no response and further chase ups sent with Cllr Hohler included. This is being covered in the meeting with the new KCC officer meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

- ii. To legal guidance concerning unowned common land. The NALC guide to Common Land Ownership was noted and placed on file.

**(d) Local Plan**

- i. To note update  
A cabinet meeting is going to be held at TMBC on 21<sup>st</sup> March. It was agreed to ask the KALC T&M meeting to place the Local Plan item on the agenda for an update.

**(e) Community Transport Grant / Bus Services**

- i. To receive update on KALC T&M parish council initiatives and funding request  
It was noted that KCC had approved the grant. It was **RESOLVED** to contribute £50 towards the community bus.

**(f) Jubilee and Coronation**

- i. To receive update on visit to Gallaghers to choose stone.  
There were no further updates.
- ii. To receive update from Cllr Nevill on tree planting.  
There were no further updates.
- iii. Update on Community Coronation celebration and funding.  
As parish councils are being encouraged to contribute to community Coronation events it was **RESOLVED** to contribute £5 per household, which totals £750 towards the event. Invoices will be required.

**(g) Local Charities**

- i. To receive update from Cllr Yates on hardship fund proposal.  
This is being worked on with the school head teacher.

**(h) Waste and Litter**

- i. To note litter picking equipment being delivered on 24<sup>th</sup> March for litter pick on 25<sup>th</sup> March. Bags to be collected from tree stump on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March – noted.

**(i) Climate Action**

- i. To note poster for forum and to receive updates on membership – noted.
- ii. To consider communication methods with residents. This will be considered in future.
- iii. To consider the Draft Climate Change Action Plan. Cllr Westwood was thanked for preparing an extensive plan. This will be reviewed and updated at the next meeting.

**(j) Elections** – notices have been published.

**176. Parish Business for Noting**

**(a) Website/Social Media platforms updates**

To note the following added to online platforms:

- Road closures
- Litter Pick poster
- Green belt petition
- Bus Updates
- Climate Forum

**(b) Parochial Church Council**

- i. To receive regular update.

The new vicar will move into vicarage at Leybourne in May, Rev Canon Dr Helen Byrne was welcomed to the parish. Rev David Green and Curate Kelly Parsons form the team.

**(c) WhatsApp Group Matters**

- i. To note any issues raised on the Birling WhatsApp Group

It was noted that a car had been stolen and traffic flow issues had been reported.

**177. Correspondence – all noted.**

20/02/2023 – Email from resident asking for nearest allotment sites – noted.

**178. Finance & Accounts**

**(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation February 2023**

- i. Net Bank Balances as at 31/02/2023 £17,239.01 – noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation January 2023.

**(b) To note budget position year to date December 2022 – noted.**

**(c) To approve PAYE record February 2023.**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record for February 2023.

**(d) BACS to be approved and signed:**

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

Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Amount Net	VAT	Description
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£57.53	£47.94	£9.59	Monthly mailbox charges
Various	Staff Costs	£497.36			March salary
Laser	Streetlighting	£29.92	£28.42	£1.50	Streetlighting for February 5.06+10.88+13.98
JA Miller	Clerk expenses	£46.80			Expenses Oct - Mar 2023

It was noted that the grants and donations LGA1972 s137 amount for 2023/24 will be £9.93 per elector.

**179. Roads**

**(a) To report any road issues and footpaths**

**(b) Road Closures – see website for details.**

- i. To note temporary road closures affecting Birling: Castle Way; Ryarsh Road.

**180. Planning**

**(a) Applications to be considered**

There were none.

**(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council**

There are none.

**181. Matters for future meetings.**

The usual substantive items will be on the agenda. The Coronation will be considered at a future meeting.

**Date of Next Meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> April Annual Parish Meeting 7pm; Full Council meeting 8pm**

**Meeting closed at 21:44pm**

**Signed..... Date.....**