

**Birling Parish Council**  
**MINUTES of the MEETING held on**  
**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 8pm All Saints Church, Birling.**

**Present:** Cllr Westwood (chair); Cllr Hewett; Cllr Hirst; Cllr Nevill; Cllr Wright; Cllr Walker

**Also Present:** J Miller Clerk; Dylan McElligott (PCSO).

**67. Apologies for absence**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr Yates. Apologies were also received from Cllr Dodger Sian (Kent County Council), Cllr Paul Boxall and Cllr Bill Banks (Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council)

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

Cllr Westwood declared an interest in the planning item for Weirside Cottage.

**69. Approval and signing of minutes of meeting of September 2nd, 2025.**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025.

**70. Monthly Reports - County, Borough and Police Reports**

(a) County Councillor Dodger Sian

(b) Borough Councillors Paul Boxall and Bill Banks

A report was circulated prior to the meeting.

(c) Kent Police

The PCSO reported that there had been **eight calls** to Kent Police from **Birling:**

- **18 July** - Theft of a motorbike on **Ryarsh Road**.
  - **August** - No calls received.
  - **September** - Reports of two vehicles driving dangerously on **Stangate Road**; both occupants were seen inhaling balloons (suspected nitrous oxide use).
  - Also in **September** - A call was made regarding an unexploded bomb (an old mortar found in a field), which was safely detonated.  
In **November**, a new **beat officer** will be covering **Ryarsh, Birling, Leybourne, and Snodland**.
- Other issues discussed included:
- **Fly-tipping** - identified as an ongoing problem.
  - **Catapults** - concerns raised and noted.
  - **TMBC PSPO consultation** - currently taking place.
  - **Speeding vehicles** - noted as a recurring issue; the PCSO agreed to monitor the situation over the weekend.

**71. Open Forum – Public Participation Session** - There were none.

**72. (a) Matters arising and last month's circulation**

**i. Ryarsh School**

An update was provided regarding the annual fireworks display, scheduled for 8th November. It was noted that this year's event is expected to be the best yet, with food provided by The Swan and the band from the village fete performing.

It was **RESOLVED** to make a £250 donation towards a specific element of the event

**ii. Village Hall**

To receive any updates on availability of hall – there were none.

**iii. Horse Rider Safety**

To note update from Cllr Sian – awaiting engineer update.

**(b) Matters for Information circulated to councillors**

05/09 TMBC peer challenge  
05/09 Presentation from KALC AGM on Local Government Reorganisation  
05/09 21 day consultation TMBC planning  
05/09 News highlights TMBC  
05/09 Chief executive bulletin  
05/09 E Watch 2318  
05/09 Tonbridge Counselling Service  
05/09 Fault reporting tool – potholes  
05/09 E Watch 2320  
26/09 Highways and transport seminar  
26/09 KCC budget consultation  
26/09 Chief executive bulletin  
26/09 KALC fortnightly bulletin  
26/09 E Watch 2322  
26/09 TMBC public space protection order  
26/09 Events newsletter  
26/09 KALC community awards  
26/09 Notice of KALC AGM 9/10  
26/09 E watch 2323  
26/09 Stakeholder update  
26/09 E watch 2324  
26/09 Events newsletter  
26/09 KALC T&M minutes 17/07  
26/09 Promotion of webinar  
26/09 Chief executive bulletin  
26/09 E watch 2325  
26/09 Annual canvass  
26/09 Protecting commons, greens and open spaces  
30/09 E watch 2326  
30/09 Gatwick in touch  
30/09 T&M KALC AGM agenda  
06/10 In person parish seminar  
06/10 KALC T&M AGM

**73. Meetings**

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

**i. KALC T&M AGM 09/10/2025**

A discussion took place regarding the upcoming Local Government Reorganisation, with the submission due by 28th November. It was noted that KCC is currently £32 million in debt on social services for the first quarter. A presentation from the police highlighted the loss of beat officers and the recruitment of new ones. Cole Brown will replace our current PCSO. It was agreed to follow up on the absence of rural reports. The police also discussed issues relating to catapult use, successful drug management, Public Space Protection Orders, and penalty notices, noting that enforcement around catapults is difficult as intent must be proven. The Kent Plan Bee meeting will take place on Thursday, 23rd October at 7:00 pm in West Malling as part of the West Malling Parish Council environmental initiative, and a new Climate

Change Officer has been appointed at TMBC. It was also noted that some parishes have contributed ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) funds, and further contributions have been requested. Finally, the Local Plan will be discussed at the next meeting.

**(b) Future meetings**

- i. Kent County Council in person parish seminar 22/10/2025
- ii. KALC AGM 22/11/2025 – Cllr Hewett to attend.
- iii. Parish Partnership Panel – 20/11/2025 – Cllr Westwood to attend.
- iv. Snodland Asphalt Meeting – 26/11/2025 – Cllr Hewett to attend.
- v. KALC T&M Committee - 15/01/2026

**74. Parish Business for Decisions**

**(a) Oast Park Golf Course**

- i. To receive any updates.  
It was noted that the current planning application has been withdrawn.
- ii. To note no response from TMBC regarding TPO application  
Chase up emails have been sent.

**(b) Highways Improvement Plan**

- i. To receive update from Cllr Hirst on request for annual review.  
There was nothing to report.
- ii. To note lining of Bull Road referred to Cllr Sian.  
There was nothing to report.

**(c) Local Plan**

- i. To receive any updates.  
It was reported that the Draft Regulation 18 document has now been published. The consultation period will run from 10 November to 22 December. Neither Oast Park nor Paddlesworth are proposed locations. The boundary around Birling remains unchanged. A small housing allocation is proposed in Ryarsh, and Spiders Hall has been identified as an employment allocation. A decision on the response will be made at the meeting on 2 December.
- ii. To note meeting being organised with Snodland Town Council to discuss development at Paddlesworth – noted.

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

- i. To receive update on KALC T&M parish council initiatives.  
There was no further update.

**(e) Jubilee and Coronation**

- i. To receive update.  
It was noted that the stone has been cut, now the council is waiting for base to be laid and stone transported into place.

**(f) Remembrance 2025**

- i. To note road closure organised and volunteer marshals being sought.  
Cllr Hewett agreed to marshal part of the road closure, a second marshal will be sought. Cllr Wright will lay the wreath on behalf of the parish council.

**(g) Village Maintenance, Waste and Litter**

- i. To receive any updates.  
The noticeboard for the parish will be applied for from Dodger's member fund.
- ii. To note further quotes being obtained for noticeboard.
- iii. To note bank works job raised on KCC portal.

**(h) Focus Session on Long Term Vision**

- i. To review session on future Long-Term Vision.  
It was discussed that the importance of maintaining the Birling parish boundary in the future. The November meeting will be used to discuss the vision – the clerk will circulate the document ahead of the meeting.

**75. Parish Business for Noting**

**(a) Website/social media update**

- i. To note the following added to the website:-
  - Road Closures
  - KCC budget consultation

**(b) Parochial Church Council**

- i. To receive regular update.  
It was noted that a new trainee vicar is now in post. A replacement for David Green has not yet been appointed.  
The Big Christmas Weekend will take place on 13 and 14 December, with the carol service on the 14th. A wedding is scheduled for 6 December.

**(c) Resident Matters**

- i. To note any recent local issues raised.  
Increased traffic and young people on e-bikes causing a disturbance were noted as current issues raised.

**76. Correspondence**

- (a) Emails from anonymous resident group from Leybourne/West Malling about Gypsy Traveller application on Birling Road – noted.

**77. Finance & Accounts**

**(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation September 2025  
Net Bank Balances as at 01/10/2025 £19,195.85**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation for September 2025.  
**To note budget position year to date September 2025 – noted.**

**(b) To approve PAYE record Oct 2025**

**(c) BACS to be approved and signed.**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the BACS payments as follows:

Supplier	Budget	Gross	Detail
Various	Staff Costs	£ 817.62	Oct staff costs
Hugo Fox	IT Costs	£ 11.99	Monthly website costs
Laser	Streetlighting	£ 37.56	Streetlight energy
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£ 63.65	Monthly mailbox costs
JA Miller	Poppy Wreath	£ 22.24	RBL reimbursement

**(a) To approve donation to Air Ambulance charity**

It was **RESOLVED** to donate £75 to the Air Ambulance.

**(b) To consider requesting KCC member grant fund support for noticeboard replacement – this was agreed.**

**78. Roads**

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

The issues of people misusing the chicane were discussed.

**(b) Road Closures**

- i. To note temporary road closures affecting Birling.  
There were none.

**79. Planning**

**(a) Applications to be considered**

- i. **25/01297/PA 6 Clacketts Farm**, Ryarsh Road, Birling. Trim beech hedge on front boundary. Trees situated on land adjacent to parking area consist of 1 x conifer reduce height by 25%(1-1.25m) 1 x cherry and 1 x malus and 1 x silver birch reduce height by 25% (1-1.25m)

The application had been approved by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.

- ii. **25/01586/PA Land east of Legge Lane and opposite Langold House**, Snodland Road, Birling. Details of planning condition 7 (timber cladding to caravan) and 8 (disposal of dog waste) pursuant to TN/25/01042 Section 73 application to vary condition 5 (number of dogs) of planning permission TM/16/00003/FL from 5 including owners dogs to 10 including owners dogs. It was **RESOLVED** no comment.

*Cllr Westwood withdrew from the meeting, Cllr Hewett chaired the meeting during the following item*

- iii. **25/01608/PA Weirside Cottage Snodland Road** Birling ME19 5JF First floor front and rear extensions

It was **RESOLVED** to comment that the intention to use sympathetic materials is welcomed.

*Cllr Westwood resumed the position of chair.*

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

There are none.

**80. Matters for future meetings –** The Community Awards Scheme 2026 nominations; budget and precept; long-term vision planning.

**81. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 followed by Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025; Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026; Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026; Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026.**

*Meeting closed at 21:pm*

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