

Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 10th December 2024 at 8pm at All Saints Church, Birling

Present: Councillors Mr N Hewett
Mr S Hirst
Mrs H Wright
Mrs H Walker

Also in attendance: J Miller, Clerk.

113. Apologies for absence

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence from Cllr Westwood, Cllr Nevill and Cllr Hirst noted lateness. Cllr Hohler, Cllr Boxall and Cllr Banks also sent apologies. Cllr Yates was absent.

114. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

115. Approval and signing of minutes of meeting 12th November 2024

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the minutes of the meeting of 12th November 2024.

116. Monthly Reports - County, Borough, and Police Reports

- (a) County Councillor Sarah Hohler – a festive message was received.
- (b) Borough Councillors Paul Boxall and Bill Banks – a report was circulated.
- (c) Kent Police – the police did not supply a report.

117. Open Forum – Public Participation Session

There were none.

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

i. Ryarsh School

To receive any update. The success of the fireworks and raffle was noted.

ii. Village Hall

To receive any updates on availability of hall – it was noted that the annual deep clean had been completed.

iii. Communal Lighting in Birling Park

To receive any update – there were none.

(d) Matters for Information circulated to councillors

- 13/11 Parish Partnership Panel meeting
- 20/11 Employers NI Update
- 20/11 KALC Weekly Bulletin
- 20/11 KALC Weekly Training Bulletin
- 20/11 Hospice Update for parish councils
- 20/11 E Watch 2233
- 20/11 All age Kent and Medway Learning Disability and Autism Strategy.
- 20/11 E Watch 2234
- 20/11 Parish Partnership Panel
- 20/11 KALC Community Awards
- 20/11 KALC Weekly Bulletin

20/11 Active Kent and Medway small grant and workforce development fund
 20/11 LTA Padel Tennis
 20/11 Agenda for Parish Partnership Panel
 20/11 E Watch 2236
 04/12 Chief Executives Bulletin
 04/12 E Watch 2237
 04/12 KALC AGM
 04/12 E Watch 2238
 04/12 Free carbon literacy training for councils
 04/12 E Watch 2239
 04/12 Support Our Campaign: Help Kent Libraries recruit home service volunteers
 04/12 Community transport grant scheme
 04/12 E Watch 2240

119. Meetings

(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council

- i. KALC Annual General Meeting 30/11/2024 – apologies were sent.
- ii. Parish Partnership Panel 20/11/2024 – Councillor Hewett provided an update on several key matters of local and regional significance. It was announced that the timeline for the Lower Thames Crossing has been extended, with the decision now anticipated in 2025. Additionally, there has been a notable increase in funding for bus subsidies, while the situation regarding asylum-seeking children has shown slight improvement. However, concerns were raised about the potential impact of recent changes to National Insurance on the care sector, alongside discussions about the implications for parish councils.

The newly appointed Chief Executive of TMBC addressed the council, offering insights into the Government's White Paper on devolution. This included an exploration of potential structural changes, such as the introduction of mayoralties and the formation of unitary authorities. The Chief Executive also underscored the risks associated with misinformation and emphasized the importance of careful messaging to the public. A significant issue highlighted during the meeting was the first reported decline in life expectancy in Kent, a matter of considerable concern. The Shipbourne Climate Change Plan was also discussed, with a focus on reducing reliance on domestic fuels and prioritizing insulation improvements to enhance energy efficiency.

Further updates were provided regarding planning policy. The National Planning Policy Framework is expected to be published before the Christmas break. The forthcoming Regulation 18 will be reviewed by the Parish Partnership Panel, presenting an opportunity for Parish Councils to collaborate and engage actively with TMBC on planning matters.

Cllr Hirst entered the meeting at 20:22pm

(b) Future meetings

- i. KALC T&M Area Committee 12/12/2024 (Teams)

120.

Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Oast Park Golf Course Development

- i. To receive any updates.

It was noted that the application has not yet been registered. The Tree Protection Order protocols were discussed. A survey will be carried out by Councillors over the Christmas break.

(b) Highways Improvement Plan

- i. To receive update on Highways Improvement Plan.

The continued increase in traffic due to M20 works was noted, Cllr Hirst will continue to press for action.

(c) Local Plan

- i. To receive any updates – this was covered earlier in the meeting.

(d) Community Transport Grant / Bus Services

- i. To receive update on KALC T&M parish council initiatives – there were none.

(e) Jubilee and Coronation

- i. To receive update on stone – Cllr Hirst is following this up.

(f) Village Maintenance, Waste and Litter

- i. To receive any updates – it was noted that there is an increase in litter, a date will be confirmed once the Spring Clean campaign has been released.

(g) Community Resilience Plan

- i. To receive an update.

The updates were reviewed, and the Public House section will be updated as confirmed.

The plan will be published and shared with KALC for good practice.

121.

Parish Business for Noting

(a) Website/social media update

- i. To note the following added to the website:-
- Road Closures
 - Library volunteers

(b) Parochial Church Council

- i. To receive regular update.

It was noted with some regret that the Church will not be open on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day this year due to historically low attendance. To ensure the community still has an opportunity to celebrate the festive season together, a special weekend of activities has been organized for the 14th and 15th of December. The program will include a vibrant light festival, a Christmas decorating competition, and a family-friendly service, alongside a variety of engaging events and activities taking place within the church. This festive weekend promises to capture the spirit of Christmas and bring the community together in joyful celebration.

(c) Resident Matters

i. To note any recent local issues raised – there were no current issues raised.

122. Correspondence – there is none.

123. Finance & Accounts

(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation November 2024

Net Bank Balances as at 30/11/2024 £19,928.78

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation for November 2024

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

It was **RESOLVED** to note the budget position.

The defibrillator was discussed, and a post will be placed on social media and website to remind residents of its location.

(c) To approve PAYE record Dec 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record for December 2024.

(d) BACS to be approved and signed

Supplier	Budget	Amount	Net	VAT	Description
Various	Staff Costs	£1354.23			Staff costs/backdated rise
LASER	Streetlighting	£14.96	£14.21	£0.75	Streetlight energy costs
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£63.65	£ 53.04	£ 10.61	Monthly Mailbox Costs
HugoFox	IT Costs	£11.99	£9.99	£2.00	Monthly website costs
Public Clocks	Church Clock Maintenance	£253.00	£210.83	£42.17	Church Clock service

(e) To consider Budget and Precept projection for 2025-26.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a budget of £13,580 with a precept of £13,270.

This equates to an equivalent Band D value of £65.77 an increase of 13.2% (£7.67 per annum).

124. Roads

(a) To report any road issues – there were none.

(b) Road Closures

i. To note temporary road closures affecting Birling:
Snodland Road, Birling Road

125. Planning

(a) Applications to be considered

PROPOSAL: Listed Building Application: Re roof existing North West single storey side extension, using Kent peg tiles to match existing. To include 3 x roof lights LOCATION: BANK COTTAGE, 84, RYARSH ROAD, BIRLING, WEST MALLING, ME19 5JR

It was **RESOLVED** no objections.

(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council - There were none.

(c) Planning Appeal Notifications

i. To note response sent to appeal for FORMER RYARSH PLACE FARM, Birling Road, Ryarsh, West Malling.

126. Matters for future meetings.
The usual substantive matters will be discussed.

127. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14th January 2025

Meeting closed at 21:11pm

Signed.....

Date.....

DRAFT