

**Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 18th
June 2024 at 8pm at All Saints Church, Birling**

Present: Councillors Mrs J Westwood (Chair)
Mr G Nevill
Mr N Hewett
Mr S Hirst
Mrs H Walker
Ms H Wright
Mr D Yates

Also in attendance: J Miller, Clerk; Cllr Bil Banks (TMBC Councillor); twelve members of the public

36. Apologies for absence

There were none. It was noted that County Councillor Sarah Hohler had sent apologies.

37. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

38. Approval and signing of minutes of meeting 8th May 2024

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the minutes of the meeting of 8th May 2024.

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

(a) County Councillor Sarah Hohler

Cllr Hohler had requested that any issues are sent to her via email.

(b) Borough Councillors Paul Boxall and Bill Banks

Cllr Banks updated the council on anticipated GP Surgery capacity issues when the planning applications are considered for new care homes and offered a training session for the new GP triage service to Birling residents. The increase in parking charges in Martin Square were discussed.

(c) Kent Police – no report was received.

40. Open Forum – Public Participation Session

A member of public asked about engagement that councillors have had with Obee estates.

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

i. Ryarsh School

To receive any update – Ryarsh School thanked the parish council for the financial contribution to Circusfest.

ii. Village Hall

To receive any updates on availability of hall
There were none.

(b) Matters for Information circulated to councillors

13/05 Let's get TMBC Digital

13/05 E Watch 2181

13/05 Chief Executive Bulletin

13/05 RDN Rural Funding

13/05 NALC Newsletter

13/05 The Rural Bulletin

13/05 KALC Weekly Bulletin
 13/05 NALC events
 13/05 E Watch 2180
 13/05 Chief Executive Bulletin
 14/05 E Watch 2182
 14/05 The Rura Bulletin
 20/05 KALC Bulletin
 20/05 Chief Executive Bulletin
 20/05 E Watch 2183
 20/05 NALC Newsletter
 21/05 E Watch 2184
 21/05 Parish Partnership Panel Agenda
 31/05 The Rural Bulletin
 31/05 NALC Events
 31/05 Draft Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan
 31/05 NALC Newsletter
 31/05 Southeastern Business Update
 31/05 Chief Executive Bulletin
 31/05 Weekly Bulletin
 31/05 Let's get TMBC Digital
 31/05 E Watch 2185
 31/05 E Watch 2186
 31/05 NALC Newsletter
 31/05 58 & 70 buses
 31/05 Let's Get TMBC Digital
 05/06 E Watch 2168
 05/06 The Rural Bulletin
 05/06 KALC Training Bulletin
 05/06 The Rural Bulletin
 05/06 KALC News June 2024

42. Meetings

(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council

- i. Parish Partnership Panel 30/05/2024 –
 Cllr Hewett gave an update and advised that there was some discussion about how parish council's fill vacancies and the planned climate change initiatives at TMBC. The Local Plan Regulation 18 had been delayed due to the General Election. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy was also noted. It was noted that Cllr Nevill has been to each stage of the workshop plan and would feedback relevant information.
- ii. Obee Estates/Larkfield & New Hythe FC – Cllr Hewett
 Cllr Hewett reported that there had been two meetings; one informal meeting with East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council and a briefing meeting with the developers, the Football Club and their professional advisers. The Football Club have a need to move to new premises as their current premises are not up to the standard for higher league status. There will be two planning applications; one on existing pitch in Larkfield to redevelop for housing; one for the development of the Oast Park Golf Course for 2 3G pitches and to reinstate the golf driving range, which includes up to 100 dwellings on the rear part of the site.

A public exhibition will be held at the Larkfield and New Hythe Football Club on Thursday 27th June 3pm-7pm and Saturday 29th June 10am – 1pm.

It was **RESOLVED** to invite the developers to the next parish council meeting to give a presentation.

(b) Future meetings

- i. KALC T&M Area Committee 11/07/2024 (Teams)
- ii. Parish Partnership Panel 29/08/2024
- iii. KALC T&M Area Committee 03/10/2024 – AGM in person
- iv. KALC T&M Area Committee 12/12/2024 (Teams)

43. Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Highways Improvement Plan

- i. To note petition results and consider next steps.
Thanks were noted to Debbie (Bull Road), Georgina, Margaret, and Helen (Legg Lane) for collecting signatures.
The Clerk will scan in the petition and Cllr Hirst will send to Kent County Council for action on the 20mph zone. The number of households will be calculated. The petition will be sent to Cllr Sarah Hohler for further advice.

(b) Local Plan

- i. To receive any updates – there will be no further updates until after the General Election.

(c) Community Transport Grant / Bus Services

- i. To receive update on KALC T&M parish council initiatives.
The new timetable was noted, and the bus service continues to be successful.

(d) Jubilee and Coronation

- i. To receive update on visit to Gallaghers to choose stone.
Cllr Hirst and Cllr Westwood will attend on a Friday – Clerk to arrange.

(e) Village Maintenance, Waste and Litter

- i. To receive any updates.
Thanks were noted to Craig for cutting back the war memorial. The holly hedge will be looked at alongside the removal of the Box Tree.

(f) Climate Action

- i. To review and update the Climate Action Plan.
This will be reviewed Annually.

(g) Strategic Plan Update

- i. To receive any updates.
This will be reviewed Annually.

(h) Community Resilience Plan

- i. To receive any updates.
The third parties involved in the plan will be contacted to confirm that their facilities could be used. Each Councillor responsible will report back at the next meeting.

- (i) **Transport for Southeast Survey**
 i. To consider response – it was noted that the consultation had closed on 2nd June.
- (j) **Financial Regulations**
 i. To adopt NALC revised Financial Regulations
 It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the NALC Financial Regulations with the initial values in 5.15 of £250.
- (k) **Annual Governance and Accountability Review 2023-24**
 i. To review the system of internal control
 It was **RESOLVED** to review the system of control.
 ii. To review the effectiveness of the system of internal control.
 The council considered the statement of internal control in support of the Annual Governance Statement. It was **RESOLVED** for the Chair and Clerk to sign.
 iii. To approve the internal audit report 2023-24 – to follow.
 iv. To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2023-24, Section 1 of the AGAR for the year ending 31 March 2024.
 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2023-24, Section 1 of the AGAR for the year ending 31 March 2024.
 v. To approve the Certificate of exemption, the supporting Bank Reconciliation as at 31 March 2024 and the explanation of significant variances from last year (2022-23) to this year (2023-24)
 vi. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Certificate of exemption, the supporting Bank Reconciliation as at 31 March 2024 and the explanation of significant variances from last year (2022-23) to this year (2023-24).
 vii. Risk Assessment – to review risk assessment
 It was **RESOLVED** that the risk assessment was reviewed. No further risks were identified.

44. Parish Business for Noting

(a) Website/social media update

To note the following added to the website:-

- Road Closures
- Transport for South East survey
- Let's get TMBC Digital

45. Correspondence – there were none.

46. Finance & Accounts

(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation May 2024

Net Bank Balances as at 31/05/2024 £19,238.

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

(b) To note budget position year to date May 2024 – noted.

(c) To approve PAYE record June 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record.

(d) BACS to be approved and signed

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

Supplier	Budget	Gross	Net	VAT	Reason
Ryarsh PTA	Donations	£50.00			Donation for inflatable
Various	Staff Costs	£527.44			Staff costs June
LASER	Streetlighting	£27.72	£26.33	£1.39	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

47. Roads

(a) To report any road issues

It was noted that there is a broken kerb stone on Ryarsh Lane pavement near Clackets Farm and on Stangate Road a brick had been smashed the Clerk shall report matters to Kent County Council.

(b) Road Closures

i. To note temporary road closures affecting Birling: Castle Way; A228 Malling Road

48. Planning

(a) Applications to be considered – There were none.

It was noted that the planning application for Ryarsh Place Farm had been refused as overlooking and overbearing, overly cramped development and unsympathetic to area.

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

49. Matters for future meetings

The reviews of plans will be staggered throughout the year. The WhatsApp group and church matters will be added back to the agenda.

50. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 9th July 2024

Meeting closed at 9.24pm

Signed.....

Date.....