

**Minutes of the MEETING of BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL held on  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 8pm at All Saints Church, Birling**

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

Also in attendance: J Miller, Clerk; Cllr Banks (TMBC)

*The meeting started at 8:09pm*

**97. Apologies for absence**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence from Cllr Walker  
Cllr Hohler sent apologies.

**98. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests**

There were none.

**99. Approval and signing of minutes of meeting 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> September  
2024.

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

**(a) County Councillor Sarah Hohler**

Mrs Hohler reported that Snodland Town Council is including  
improvements to white lining and more visible speed limit signage in their  
Highways Improvement Plan.

**(b) Borough Councillors Paul Boxall and Bill Banks**

Cllr Banks reported updates on the lighting in Birling Park and the petition  
against the parking charges in West Malling that are affecting the farmers  
market. The Planning Appeal in Ryarsh was discussed and the primary  
care funding at West Malling Group Practice as the patient numbers are  
high per GP. The new regulation for developers offsetting Biodiversity net  
gain for was discussed and Cllr Banks will contact Cllr Nevill directly.

**(c) Kent Police – the police did not supply a report.**

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

There were none.

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

**i. Ryarsh School –** It was noted that the firework display was very  
successful.

**ii. Village Hall –** there was no updates.

**iii. Communal Lighting in Birling Park**

There were no updates. The possibility of the parish council taking  
ownership of the lighting to resolve the situation was discussed.

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

17/10	Public Consultation Kent Minerals and Waste Plan
17/10	Parish Seminar 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
17/10	KALC T&M Minutes 26/09/2024
17/10	Health and Wellbeing conference postponed
17/10	KALC Weekly training bulletin
17/10	KALC Weekly bulletin
17/10	Parish Partnership Panel
17/10	The Rural Bulletin
17/10	E Watch 2226
17/10	KALC Climate Change Conference
17/10	E Watch 2225
17/10	TPO Links
17/10	E Watch 2224
17/10	KALC News October 2024
17/10	E Watch 2223
17/10	Chief Executive Bulletin
04/11	E Watch 2227
04/11	Kent Rail Summit recording
04/11	KALC AGM Notice 30/11/2024
04/11	E Watch 2228
04/11	E Watch 2229
04/11	E watch 2230
04/11	The Rural Bulletin
04/11	KALC Weekly Training Bulletin
04/11	Chief Executive Bulletin
04/11	E Watch 2231
04/11	Eligibility for Pension Credit
04/11	KALC News November 2024
04/11	KCHFT public governor vacancies

**103. Meetings**

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

- i. Snodland Asphalt Liaison Meeting 23/10/24  
Cllr Hewett reported that the tour didn't take place, there is no plan for out of hours activity or overnight works. The height of the chimney was discussed.

**(b) Future meetings**

- i. KALC Annual General Meeting 30/11/2024
- ii. Parish Partnership Panel 21/11/2024
- iii. KALC T&M Area Committee 12/12/2024 (Teams)
- iv. Parish Partnership Panel 06/02/2025

**104. Parish Business for Decisions**

**(a) Oast Park Golf Course Development**

- i. To receive any updates.  
There were no further updates. The trees that require TPOs will be pinpointed by Cllr Hirst, Cllr Nevill and Cllr Hewett, and applications made to the Borough Council.

**(b) Highways Improvement Plan**

- i. To receive update on Highways Improvement Plan.  
Petition has been accepted by KCC, and is with the Petitions Department for consideration. The proposal on Snodland Road of a

buffer zone of 40mph has been rejected as the 40mph would be too short. Cllr Hirst will reply to dispute KCC's statement that vehicles enter the village at 30mph and that the whole of Standgate Rd should be 40mph.

The lines will be repainted in the spring, the build out in Birling Road cobbles are loose and will be noted for maintenance for next year. On Ryarsh Road regarding the informal crossing KCC have reported that they can't see how they can improve it. The end of the footpath will be highlighted again, as KCC have asked for evidence that children cross the road.

- ii. To receive update on Sandy Lane from Cllr Hohler.  
It was noted that Snodland are seeking relining and more visible signage in their Highways Improvement Plan.

**(c) Local Plan**

- i. To receive any updates – there were none.

**(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 and Westwood reported that they had viewed appropriate stones and a simple plaque “in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth II” with dates added.

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

- i. To receive any updates - there were none.

**(g) Community Resilience Plan**

- i. To receive an update – The clerk will update with the final points ready for the next meeting.

**(j) Remembrance Sunday 2024**

- i. To receive report on Remembrance event.  
Thanks were noted to Cllr Hewett and Forster for closing the road and for arrangements made by the Clerk, the event was well attended.

**105. Parish Business for Noting**

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

- i. To note the following added to the website:-
  - Road Closures
  - Eligibility for Pension Credits

**(b) Parochial Church Council**

- i. To receive regular update – there were none.

**(c) Resident Matters**

- i. To note any recent local issues raised – it was noted that Halloween was a positive community event.

**106. Correspondence**

It was **RESOLVED** to make a donation to Victim Support of £50.

## 107. Finance & Accounts

### (a) To approve Bank Reconciliation October 2024

#### i. Net Bank Balances as at 31/10/2024 £21,272.70.

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

### (b) To note budget position year to date October.

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

### (c) To approve PAYE record Nov 2024.

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

### (d) BACS to be approved and signed

Supplier	Budget	Amount	Net	VAT	Description
Various	Staff Costs	£691.52			Staff costs various
LASER	Streetlighting	£28.02	£26.62	£1.40	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
Streetlights	Streetlighting	£187.74			Maintenance contract
Lionel Robbins	Internal Audit	£105.00			Annual Internal Audit

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

The revised budget was reviewed and will be added to the website for consultation with residents.

### (f) To consider donations for 2024/25 including Victim Support

It was **RESOLVED** to make the donation of £50.

## 108. Roads

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

### (b) Road Closures

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

## 109. Planning

### (a) Applications to be considered - There were none.

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

### (d) Planning Appeal Notifications

- i. Proposal: Outline Application: all matters reserved except for access, layout and scale for the demolition of an existing range of modern agricultural buildings and the redevelopment of site with six dwellings with garaging together with associated creation of car parking and turning areas, conversion of existing stable building into an ancillary domestic outbuilding and landscaping works.

Location: FORMER RYARSH PLACE FARM, Birling Road, Ryarsh, West Malling

It was **RESOLVED** to submit an updated view for the Inspector to review.

## 110. Matters for future meetings.

The usual substantive matters will be discussed.

## 111. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024

*Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press were asked to leave the meeting during consideration of item 112:*

**112. To discuss Clerks Annual Review 23.10. 24**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Chair's recommendations.

*Meeting closed at 21:45pm*

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....

DRAFT