

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

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

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

### 82. Apologies for absence

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence from Cllrs Nevill and Yates with reasons. Cllr Walker sent apologies for lateness.

### 83. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Hirst declared an interest in the planning item.

### 84. 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.

### 85. Monthly Reports - County, Borough, and Police Reports

#### (a) County Councillor Sarah Hohler

Mrs Hohler reported that KCC is concerned about the possible closure of the private schools and the impact on school places, along with the lack of infrastructure to support the number of new homes being proposed. The leader of the Council has 18,000 eligible Kent households still not claiming pension credit. Residents are urged to sign up as soon as possible. Libraries have been doing well. The policy has changed for the late return of children's books to make things easier. In August 2024, 826,000 appointments offered by GPs to the public across Kent and Medway, 34,000 didn't attend and this needs to be addressed.

The budget for Community Wardens has been changed to move wardens to cover more deprived areas and if a parish requires one it can fund through the parish council.

*Cllr Walker entered the meeting at 8:10pm.*

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

Cllr Banks reported that he had circulated a link to software that can be used to identify Tree Preservation Orders. Trees can be identified by the Parish Council and sent to TMBC for consideration. Cllr Banks will be in touch with Cllr Nevill regarding the avenue of walnut trees that are proposed along Birling Road.

GP surgery infrastructure issues continue to be investigated at the Overview and Scrutiny committee.

Regulation 18b of the Local Plan collapsed due to the Central Government plan changes.

Cllr Boxall reported that the development on Wateringbury Road was deferred to investigate the traffic concerns.

A petition concerning the effect of car parking charges on the Farmers Market is progressing and this will be circulated.

Birling Road unauthorised traveller encampment is being monitored closely.

Cllr Wright will circulate the email regarding the request from Clarion Housing for residents to fund the lighting in Birling Close.

- (c) Kent Police – the new Police Constable for Birling was noted and will be invited to the next meeting.

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

There were none.

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

- i. **Ryarsh School** – It was noted that a firework display is planned for November.
- ii. **Village Hall** – there was no updates.

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

04/09 Our Burning Issue Workshop Presentation  
04/09 KALC News September  
04/09 New KALC website  
18/09 KAC T&M AGM 26/09/2024  
18/09 KALC Weekly Bulletin  
18/09 KALC Weekly Bulletin  
18/09 E Watch 2217  
18/09 KALC Motions deadline  
18/09 Snodland Asphalt Meeting  
**19/09 Cllr Banks re TPOs**  
24/09 NALC Newsletter  
24/09 KALC Weekly training bulletin  
24/09 E Watch 2215  
24/09 Kent Rail Summit  
24/09 Women and Girls Safety Workshop  
24/09 Chief Executive Bulletins  
30/09 NALC Newsletter  
30/09 KALC Weekly Training Bulletin  
30/09 Standards Conference 10/10/2024  
30/09 Chief Executives Bulletin  
30/09 E Watch 2219  
30/09 Health and Wellbeing conference  
30/09 Rail Industry Association  
30/09 KCC highways Autumn Parish Seminars  
30/09 KALC T&M 26/06/2024  
30/09 Weekly Training bulletin  
30/09 E Watch 2220  
30/09 NALC events  
30/09 The Rural Bulletin  
30/09 Parish Partnership Panel 06/02/2025  
30/09 Standards Conference  
30/09 Chief Executive Bulletin  
30/09 Community Wardens  
30/09 KALC Weekly Bulletin  
30/09 Southeastern Business update  
**30/09 KCC Local Transportation Consultation – the**  
**30/09 LTP 5 and J5 slips**  
30/09 TMBC Thermal imaging camera

30/09 Community Matters  
30/09 Road safety and active travel group

## 88. Meetings

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

- i. KALC T&M and AGM 26/09/2024 – it was noted that the chair and positions remained the same. The Climate Action plan was discussed and it was noted that Birling was the only parish that had approached local farmers for biodiversity plans. Thermal imaging camera is available and this will be added to the website.  
It was noted that Larkfield Leisure Centre is planning to remove all gas burners and install solar panels, air and heat pumps etc.  
Highways Improvement Plan difficulties can be reported to Harry Rayner and he will assist.  
The new CEO of TMBC will attend the next meeting.

### (b) Future meetings

- i. Snodland Asphalt Liaison Meeting 23/10/24
- ii. Parish Partnership Panel 21/11/2024
- iii. KALC T&M Area Committee 12/12/2024 (Teams)
- iv. Parish Partnership Panel 06/02/2025

## 89. Parish Business for Decisions

### (a) Oast Park Golf Course Development

- i. To receive update on meeting with developers.  
It was noted that another meeting had been held and they have been working on landscape strategy to retain trees and wildlife surveys. In order to meet biodiversity net gain a £4m offset payment is due. The housing numbers will need to be increased to cover this by 44 units. Technical reports are due now, preparing an environmental and viability statement and a planning application is due to be submitted this month.  
Access and integration into Birling has been raised with the developer. Concerns were raised about the suggestion that the catering business had been given notice to quit from the layby on the A228. The preservation of the trees was discussed.

### (b) Highways Improvement Plan

- i. To receive update on Highways Improvement Plan  
It was **AGREED** to write to Mrs Hohler for a detailed update on the Sandy Lane improvements.  
Cllr Hirst will chase for an update on the plan.

### (c) Local Plan

- i. To receive any updates – it was noted that the next update will be in December after the final version of the NPPF is published.

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

- i. To receive update on KALC T&M parish council initiatives.  
It was noted that further funding may be required from parish councils however grants are being sought.

- (e) Jubilee and Coronation**
  - i. To receive update on visit to Gallaghers to choose stone.
- (f) Village Maintenance, Waste and Litter**
  - i. To receive any updates.  
It was noted that a Spring litter pick will be arranged.
- (g) Community Resilience Plan**
  - i. To receive an update.  
Updates were received from the pub. A map is being arranged to fit into the plan and the emergency contacts ready for approval at the next meeting.
- (i) Reviews**
  - i. To review Strategy Plan and consider long term vision.  
The Strategy Plan was **APPROVED**. A long term vision 2050 will be considered at future meeting.
- (j) Remembrance Sunday 2024**
  - i. To note event plan submitted and police approval received.  
Cllr Hewett will operate one end of the road closure, another volunteer will be sought. The wreath will be laid by Cllr Westwood.

**90. Parish Business for Noting**

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

To note the following added to the website:-

- Road Closures
- Oast Park Golf Course
- KCC Local Transportation Consultation

**(b) Parochial Church Council**

i. To receive regular update.

It was noted that the pet service was very successful. Tree decorating will take place in December, and a request for funding was made and the parish council would be happy to contribute, an amount will be agreed at the next meeting.

**(c) Resident Matters**

i. To note any recent local issues raised. It was noted that parking on the pavement was raised as a continuing concern.

**91. Correspondence – there were none.**

**92. Finance & Accounts**

**(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation Sep 2024**

i. Net Bank Balances as at 30/09/2024 £22,152.76

**(b) To note budget position year to date September.**

**(c) To approve PAYE record Oct 2024.**

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

Supplier	Budget	Gross	Net	VAT	Reason
J Miller	Clerk Expenses	£207.55			Ink and Mileage
Various	Staff Costs	£582.24			Staff costs Sept
LASER	Streetlighting	£28.59	£27.16	£1.43	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

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

Donations will be added to the next agenda. An additional contribution to the bus service will be made from the budget and create a reserve for future planning projects.

**93. Roads**

**To report any road issues**

**(a) Road Closures**

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

**94. Planning**

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

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

**95. Matters for future meetings.**

Budget for 2025-26 shall be considered.

**96. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

*Meeting closed at 22:08pm*

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