

Birling Parish Council
MINUTES of the MEETING held on
Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 8pm All Saints Church, Birling.

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

Also Present: J Miller Clerk; PCSO Jamie White

118. Apologies for absence

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies with reasons from Cllr Yates.

119. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

120. Approval and signing of minutes of meeting of 2nd December and 17th December 2025

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of 2nd December and 17th December 2025.

121. Monthly Reports - County, Borough and Police Reports

(a) County Councillor Dodger Sian – apologies were received.

(b) Borough Councillors Paul Boxall and Bill Banks – a report was received from Cllr Boxall.

(c) Kent Police – A slight increase in burglaries was reported compared to last year. While this rise is typically observed in the lead-up to the festive period, residents are advised to remain vigilant. Cllr Westwood reported on a meeting held with PCSO White prior to Christmas. Issues discussed included fly-tipping, catapulting, anti-social behaviour, and the misuse of motorised scooters and motorbikes. The increased police presence in Snodland High Street was noted as successful and is scheduled to continue until June.

122. Open Forum – Public Participation Session - There were none.

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

i. Ryarsh School

There were no updates, Cllr Wright agreed to update on any matters that are of significance in the future.

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

09/12 Local Government Reorganisation

09/12 E watch 2344

09/12 KALC news

09/12 KALC T&M minutes

09/12 E Watch 2345

09/12 E Watch 2346

15/12 E Watch 2347

15/12 Christmas message from TMBC Mayor

15/12 KCC Budget consultation 2026-27

124. Meetings

(a) Meetings attended on behalf of the parish council

- i. Local Plan Meeting (TMBC) 08/12/2025 7.15pm Church

(b) Future meetings

- i. KALC T&M Committee - 15/01/2026
- ii. John May Charity 29/01/2026 3.30pm

125. Parish Business for Decisions

(a) Oast Park Golf Course

- i. To receive any updates.
The response from the action group was noted and was considered to clearly and effectively address the lack of infrastructure.
- ii. To note update on response from TMBC regarding TPO application, chase up emails have been sent.
It was noted that the application numbers had been submitted to the leader of TMBC to follow up but no response has been received as yet.

(b) Highways Improvement Plan

- i. To note update on annual review.
Cllr Hirst advised that there had been no response to the request for an update meeting, and this would be followed up. A letter, reportedly sent to Cllr Hirst in November 2024, had since been forwarded by KCC officers. Although the letter was not received at the time, its contents suggest that the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit may be possible. This matter will be raised again at the annual review meeting.
- ii. To note lining of Bull Road referred to Cllr Sian – noted.

(c) Local Plan

- i. To receive any updates – there was none.
- ii. To note consultation response sent on 2nd January 2026.
Cllr Hewett was thanked for contributing to the parish council's response to the Local Plan consultation.

(d) Community Transport Grant / Bus Services

- i. To receive update on KALC T&M parish council initiatives – there were no further updates

(e) Jubilee and Coronation

- i. To receive update - It was noted that the base has been installed, and Cllr Hirst will follow up a delivery date for the stone.

(f) John May Charity

- i. To receive update – to note further meeting arranged. The Godden Charity was discussed, which focuses on supporting tools and training for apprenticeships. There isn't currently a formal process to apply for funding to this charity, Cllr Nevill will forward details to the Clerk to promote.

(g) Village Maintenance, Waste and Litter

- i. To receive any updates.
A series of littering from a vehicle had been reported and a resident had cleared it. It was **RESOLVED** that the annual parish litter pick will take place on Sunday 22nd March.
- ii. To note update on new noticeboard. It was noted that the grant application had been submitted to Kent County Council and the board will be ordered once the grant application has been approved.

(h) Focus Session on Long Term Vision

- i. To review ideas circulated since the last meeting.
The ideas were discussed and councillors were asked to revisit the process provided by Cllr Nevill to discuss at the next meeting.

(i) Casual Vacancy

- i. To receive update.
It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Helen Padgham to the parish council.

126. Parish Business for Noting

(a) Website/social media update

- i. To note the following added to the website:-
 - KCC budget consultation
 - Local Plan Consultation

(b) Parochial Church Council

- i. To receive regular update. It was noted that the Christmas trees are due to be collected and decorations are being taken down.

(c) Resident Matters

- i. To note any recent local issues raised – there were no new issues to raise. The village donation to the postman was acknowledged. There had been some flytipping in Bull Road reported. There had been tree felling noted and further power cuts.

127. Correspondence

- (a) Thank you letter from Ryarsh School pupils – noted.

128. Finance & Accounts

(a) To approve Bank Reconciliation December 2025

Net Bank Balances as at 31/12/2025 £16,116.79

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliation for December 2025.

(b) To note budget position year to date December 2022 – noted.

(c) To approve PAYE record January 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the PAYE record for January 2026.

(d) BACS to be approved and signed:

Payee	Budget	Gross	Net	VAT	Detail
Various	Staff Costs	£ 1159.03			Jan Salary PAYE for Dec and Jan
Hugo Fox	IT Costs	£ 11.99	£ 9.99	2.00	Monthly website costs
Laser	Streetlighting	£ 24.21	£ 23.00	1.21	Streetlight energy
Waveney IT	IT Costs	£ 63.65	£ 53.04	10.61	Monthly mailbox costs

(e) To finalise Budget and Precept forecasts for 2026/27

To approve an annual budget for 2026/27 at £16,880 and a precept of £16,570.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the annual budget for 2026/27 of £16,880 and a precept of £16,570. This equates to £81.37 to a Band D property, which is still below neighbouring parishes.

129. Roads

(a) To report any road issues

It was noted that the streetlamp outside Clacketts on the build out is intermittent.

(b) Road Closures

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

130. Planning

(a) Applications to be considered

There are none.

(b) Decisions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

There are none.

131. Matters for future meetings – vision will be discussed.

132. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 17th March 2026; Wednesday 22nd April 2026 and Tuesday 26th May 2026.

Meeting closed at 21:13hrs.

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