

**Full Council Meeting
Birchington Parish Council
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday 19 January 2021 at 18.30 hrs**



Present: Chairman Cllr Neville Hudson
Vice Chairman Cllr Marcel Pooke

Cllr. Nick Blankley, (joined 15 minutes late due to technical difficulties)
Cllr. Phil Fellows
Cllr. Nicola Hayes
Cllr. Max Houghton
Cllr. Sandra McCreddie
Cllr. Geraldine Watson
Cllr Linda Wright
Cllr Robert Wright

Denise Johnson, Clerk to the Council
TDC Cllr George Kup - Birchington South Ward
KCC Cllr Emma Dawson - KCC member for Birchington & Rural Division
Aaron Kluibenschadl - Team Leader for Thanet & Swale Districts - Kent
Community Warden Service

2 x Members of the public

FC2021/50: Apologies for Absence

Gordon Guillou-King (Acting Community Warden)
Lyn McDaid – Deputy Clerk (Joined meeting for last 30 minutes)

FC2021/51: Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

FC2021/52: Minutes

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on November 17 2020 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 14 January 2021 were presented for approval. Members advised on a couple of minor amendments which were required related to correction of SP16 and clarification of CCLA acronym. The minutes of the meeting held on November 17 2020 were accepted as a true and accurate record subject to the above amendments. The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 14 January 2021 were approved as a correct record.

The Chairman will sign the Minutes when he is next able to visit the Parish Office due to Covid-19 restrictions.

FC2021/53: Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on the asymptomatic testing centre at the Village Centre, currently being run by the military, who have a contract until the end of March.
BPC have advertised this facility on our Website and Facebook Page. It will also be promoted in the next magazine and posters will be placed on our noticeboards.

Action By

Clerk

FC2021/54 Budget 2021 / 2

The Chairman proposed the acceptance of the budget as now submitted.

A member of the Shelters group asked for clarification on the amounts allocated for Shelters, which were explained. They also asked if consideration could be given to information boards at Minnis Bay, which Cllr Houghton confirmed was being investigated. The Chairman advised that the November and December 2020 Bank Reconciliations had been distributed prior to meeting for Members information.

It was AGREED that the budget for 2021/2, as attached to these minutes be approved.

FC 2021/55 Precept 2021/21

The Chairman proposed a suggested increase of 4.963% in the precept figures for 2021/2. It was AGREED that the precept be set at £114630 an increase of 4.963%.

FC2021/56 Transfer of funds to CCLA

The Parish Clerk confirmed she was investigating transferring some of reserve to CCLA as had been previously agreed by Full Council. She informed she was drafting an Investment Strategy to be presented to the next F&P meeting. She thanked Cllr Hayes for her offer of assistance.

FC2021/57 TOR for the following Committees.

- Environment and Open Spaces
- Finance and Policy
- General Purposes
- Planning

Members approved the entire TOR as now submitted. The Chairman thanked the Clerk and her Deputy for all the work they had done on the TOR.

FC2021/58: Appointment of 2 x additional Councillors to the Environment and Open Spaces, (E&OS), plus one for Planning and Finance and Policy, (F&P) Committees

The Chairman confirmed 2 additional Councillors were required for E&OS Committee, one additional for Planning and F&P. Unfortunately; there were no volunteers for any of the vacancies.

Cllr Fellows clarified he had, with regret had to step down from E&OS as the meetings were scheduled during the day, he would be happy to stay on the Committee if meetings were in the evening. The Chairman stated that the meeting time would be reviewed for the next calendar of meetings.

FC 2021/59: Appointment of a Councillor to Birchington Parish Youth Council, (BPYC) and an update.

The Chairman requested a volunteer Member for BYPC, Cllr G Watson volunteered.

Cllr George Kup gave an update on the inaugural meeting which Cllr Kup had led on. Cllr Kup confirmed 6 young people had joined. The purpose of the Council was outlined and how they could have an influence on the future of Birchington. The young people expressed their views on activities they would like. They were asked to come to the next meeting being held on 01.02.21 with ideas as to how we could encourage more young people to join.

FC 2021/60 Appointment of 3 Councillors to the working group for the Memorial Recreation Ground. (MRG)

The Chairman requested approval for Cllr M Houghton, Cllr N Blankley and Cllr P Fellows to be the Councillor Members on the MRG working group with himself and Cllr Pooke as Chairman and Vice Chairman of BPC which was AGREED.

Clerk

Members
to
consider
joining

FC 2021/61 Report from the Community Interest Group (CIC) 'Birchington Together'

Cllr Watson confirmed completion of the Company requirements. Cllrs Watson and Pooke were Directors of the Group and Ron Castle, Ray Holland and Cllr George Kup had been invited to join. The first meeting will be in February 2021 and the minutes will be sent to BPC. Bankers had yet to be appointed. Cllr Watson read out the: Memorandum and Articles Aims: *"To enhance, support and improve the social, cultural and civic needs of the community and to position Birchington advantageously for the benefit of present and future generations"*. It was asked if they were VAT registered. Cllr Watson confirmed not at the moment as trading was restricted during Covid-19 lockdown. She also reported CIC were exempt from registering with the Information Commissioner's Office, (ICO) for GDPR.

FC 2021/62 Clerks Correspondence

The Clerk informed that the new website was live and the Clerk's Assistant was updating and populating it with items which needed to be carried over from the old website. The Clerk informed members of ongoing complaints regarding graffiti and general unkempt problems on and around the footbridge at Coleman Stairs, which no organisation wanted to take responsibility for, (Network Rail, TDC or KCC). Members advised it was KCC owned. Aaron Kluibenschadl advised there was a database of graffiti tags he would look at if Clerk sent pictures. Members confirmed the lack of maintenance at Coleman Stairs footbridge and approach paths had been ongoing for several years, and there had also been reported concerns with lighting and overhanging trees. The Clerk also reported Graffiti on some of the shelters. It was suggested the BYPC could consider ways of dealing with Graffiti.

FC 2021/63 Reports from District Councillors

Cllr Phil Fellows reported that the Birchington parking concession from TDC finished at the end of January 2021. There were no plans to renew during Covid-19 lockdown, but TDC would review District wide. after. Cllr Fellows informed that he had been approached regarding local planning issues. There was ongoing problems with rubbish in Albion Road Carpark which TDC were dealing promptly with. Cllr Fellows reported that all the Ward Councillors were going to have a meeting to discuss the SP16 Planning Application of 1650 houses in Birchington.

Cllr George Kup reported he had raised at Cabinet a review of Toilets, opening of all toilets and conditions.

Cllr Linda Wright reported there was a lot of funding for Climate Change issues, including Coastal and tree management. Cllr L Wright requested that a Committee could be formed to discuss Climate Change and informed that other Thanet Parishes were investigating this idea. The Chairman advised that once all the information was known Members could consider this. Cllr L Wright informed that Eve Lockton-Goddard was keen to promote a Green Homes Scheme. The Clerk confirmed she had contacted Eve for an article for the Parish Magazine.

Cllr Emma Dawson reported there would be 24 Asymptomatic Covid-19 testing sites across Kent and Thanet, giving 20,000 tests a day. HGV's and Testing Centres. Cllr Dawson reported that KCC were recruiting for various roles at the testing centres to replace the Military once their contract finished. There would be radio advertising for those who were not 'online'. KCC Trading Standards were working to ensure business were Covid-19 compliant. Roger Gough was pushing for Early Years staff to be inoculated as their working environment does not allow for social distancing This would enable Key Workers to send their Children to school. Cllr Dawson also reported on KCC's strategy to manage HGV's.

A question was asked of the vaccination programme, which Cllr Dawson confirmed was being rolled out as quickly as possible. Another question was asked if Cllr Dawson thought the Elections would go ahead in May? Cllr Dawson felt much would depend on Covid-19 restrictions, but felt due to these they probably would be deferred until the autumn? A decision on this would be made by the beginning of March 2021.

FC 2021/64 Report from Aaron Kluibenschadl

Aaron gave a brief overview of what his team have been doing during the pandemic – delivering food and prescriptions to vulnerable Thanet residents and assessing their physical and mental well-being, some referred by NHS and Social Services. Aaron confirmed Gordon Guillou-King had been covering Birchington 2 days a week to cover the full time Community Warden vacancy. Aaron also reported on an increase in various Scams, some Covid-19 related. There was an increase in ‘loan sharks’ offering loans at extortionate rates and puppy farms responding to the increased demand for puppies during the pandemic. He was working with KCC trading standards to highlight issues. He had investigated complaints regarding a Birchington Trader illegally and persistently blocking pavements with their goods. It was asked if the Full time Community Warden vacancy would be filled, Aaron confirmed it would, but could not confirm when. Aaron is happy for any Member to contact him with any issues.

FC 2021/65: Draft minutes of recent committee meetings

- **Environment and Open Spaces 8 December 2020**
- **General Purposes 8 December 2020**
- **Planning 19 November and 17 December 2020**
- **Finance and Policy 12 January 2021.**

The above minutes were all presented and approved.

FC 2021/66: Grant Application Policy - as agreed at Finance and Policy Committee 12th January 2021.

The Grant Application Policy as now submitted was AGREED.

FC 2021/67: SP16 – Parish response to TDC on SP16 Planning Application

Cllr N Blankley reported that the Extraordinary Council Meeting on Thursday 14 January had concluded that Cllrs Blankley and Houghton and Rod Giddens would draft a response on behalf of BPC, which Cllr Blankley would lead on. The Neighbourhood Plan Group would also draft their response, which Rod Giddens would lead on. The evidence would need to be consistent in both. Cllr Blankley reported that a Press Release had been circulated on Monday 18 January 2021. Cllr Blankley had responded to members of public who attended the Extraordinary Council meeting and had expressed an interest in being involved. The Parish Magazine had been brought forward so it would be distributed week beginning 1st February, which would enable articles to be included to inform residents on key topics such as proposed timings, roads, traffic and affordable housing, to reach them in sufficient time to assist them in navigating the 60+ documents, 1000+ pages on the TDC planning site, and to make a response if they wished, by the closing date of 19 February 2021. The core group would have regular meetings over the coming weeks and update Members weekly, for their information and involvement. As a Statutory Consultee, BPC has to provide a substantive response – reasoned and supported by evidence. Cllr Blankley suggested a draft proposal should be ready week beginning 8 February 2021, with the possibility of a Council meeting being held to discuss it; a decision would be made nearer the time. Rod Giddens confirmed a number of Neighbourhood Plan (NP) documents had been signed off, and the Village Master Plan and Design code had just been received. He and Cllr Blankley were going to discuss this with the Consultants on Friday 22nd February. Once agreed all evidence would go for approval. The intention had been to go out for

public consultation on the NP, but the decision had been made to wait until after the SP16 response had been submitted. Rod reported on aspects of the SP16 application such as Climate Change and sustainability. Policies based on evidence could be used to support representation to TDC. Rod reported he would draft a document for the Neighbourhood Plan forum to consider. Cllr L Wright reported on Grants which were available for the effect of urbanisation on agricultural land and wildlife and carbon levels of housing.

Cllr Fellows asked Cllr Dawson if she could enquire if KCC were going to fund the proposed new school. Cllr Dawson confirmed she would ask and report back.

Cllr Houghton asked the Chairman if he knew what arrangements Invicta Health had to expand their practice. The Chairman advised that Invicta Health were in talks with Contractor.

New medical staff were being recruited and there would be a comprehensive report in the magazine.

Cllr Blankley commented it wasn't just the cost of building a new school or expanding the Medical centre building, funds needed to be in place to staff and run them.

Cllr Blankley asked Cllr Dawson if she knew how long HGV's were going to use Manston airport for, she confirmed they had a 6 month contract until June 2021, which wouldn't conflict with building traffic for Westgate and Birchington developments once started.

Cllr Blankley also reported that TDC had extended the usual planning application consultation period from 3 – 6 weeks. However, during the current lockdown residents who did not have access to the internet and relied on accessing paper documents, which were usually available to view in Public Offices, which were closed due to the current lockdown, or attending public meetings were disadvantaged. Cllr Linda Wright invited Members to email her their concerns which she would escalate at TDC housing meetings. Cllr Houghton reiterated the need for Members to submit their views to the working group as soon as possible.

Rod Giddens reported on the cumulative effects of the application, considering the Westgate development. He suggested representations may need to be made to the Secretary of State as 600 hectares of best and agricultural land would be lost. Future implications of loss of land will have to be considered and built into the NHP.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Blankley and Rod Giddens for the tremendous work they had done.

Exclusion of Press and Public

FC 2021/68 - Financial contribution for Professional Consultants to advise on Parish response to TDC on SP16 Planning application.

Members considered the necessity for a financial contribution for Professional Consultants to advise on Parish response to TDC on SP16 Planning application.

FC 2021/69 Date of next meeting: Tuesday 16 March 2021 at 6.30 pm

Meeting closed at 20.00 pm.

Signed:

Chairman: Cllr Neville Hudson

Date: