



**Full Council Meeting
Birchington Parish Council
Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 18.30 hrs
at the Library, Birchington**

Present: Cllr Marcel Pooke (Chairman)
Cllr Max Houghton (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. Nick Blankley
Cllr. Colin Brown
Cllr Phil Fellows
Cllr. Neville Hudson
Cllr. Jim Moore
Cllr. Bob Prebble
Cllr. Linda Wright

KCC Cllr. Derek Crow-Brown
TDC Cllr. George Kup
TDC Cllr. Reece Pugh

Ward Police Officer Steven England

Jane Bevan – Parish Clerk

6 x Members of the Public

FC/2024/132 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr John Tiley, Deputy Clerk Bill Anderson, Community Warden Jason Gordon.

FC/2024/133 Declarations of Interest

None.

FC/2024/134 Minutes

The minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 17th December 2024 were presented for approval. Cllr Prebble said that he had raised a question at the previous meeting which was not covered in the minutes. He had asked if the forthcoming KALC workshop for Councillors was free and the Chairman had responded yes. It had now transpired that it would cost the Parish Council £360 plus VAT. The Chairman said that as members of KALC the workshop was free but the cost was for the facilitators travelling expenses. Cllr Hudson said it was normal practice for KALC to charge for expenses incurred. Cllr Moore referred to the recordings of meetings and asked if they could be

Action

retained as a permanent record. The Clerk said it should be put forward as an agenda item for the next Full Council meeting. The minutes were **Agreed** as a true record.

FC/2024/135 Chairman's Report and Public Participation

The Chairman welcomed the attendees and asked if any of the members of the public wished to speak. A member of the public raised concerns about proposals for Birchington Library and said it was well used by residents and also acted as a community hub with many activities being held there. A member of the public thanked Cllr Moore for arranging to have the overgrown hedge in Epple Bay Road cleared. They also thanked PC Steve England for resolving the issue of parked cars near Ingle Close causing problems for motorists exiting Ingle Close. The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their comments. He said his report would be covered in the agenda items.

FC/2024/136 Ward Police Officer Report

PC England presented his report:

Illegal parking continued to be a regular complaint across Birchington. He had undertaken several visits to speak with owners about the positioning of their vehicles and engaged with drivers whilst conducting mobile patrol where offences were being committed. Thanet District Council Enforcement Officers had also been undertaking patrols in the area with tickets visible on vehicles.

Following on from the above, there had been seen a considerable improvement in the parking situation at the junction with Ingle Close and Alpha Road, Birchington. It would seem that the advisory warning letters being sent had achieved their objective. There was still a Thanet District Council consultation process about the installation of double yellow lines which would be the best long-term solution and he had provided support of this measure in writing to Thanet District Council.

He said he had arrested a driver on Saturday 4th January 2025 on Canterbury Road, Birchington. The driver exhibited poor driving all the way from Westgate on Sea and was subject to a proactive road traffic stop. The vehicle did not have a valid insurance policy, the driver was in possession of a controlled drug and then failed to provide a sample for drug analysis. He was charged in relation to all three offences and has been bailed to appear at court.

He said he was aware of an incident in Station Approach that continued into Alpha Road, Birchington on the evening of 13/01/2025; the individual responsible for the disturbance was not local to the area and was arrested at the scene by Kent Police patrols for an outstanding warrant.

PC England reminded residents, from a crime prevention viewpoint; that there had recently been several offences of theft from a motor vehicle in Westgate on Sea. Some of the vehicles were insecure, so a polite reminder to always secure vehicles when not occupied and to never leave any belongings or valuables in the vehicle.

Finally, he reminded residents that the next Birchington Ward Surgery was scheduled for Wednesday 19th February 2024 at 11:00 hours at Birchington Parish Council offices. This was a drop in session where residents could speak to him or KCC Warden Jason Gordon about any crime or anti-social behaviour concerns they had.

FC/25/137 Reports from KCC Councillors

Cllr. Derek Crow-Brown provided an update on the Government's white paper on English Devolution. He said that Kent County Council and Medway had formally written to the Government requesting to be included in the programme and to postpone the local elections in May. Cllr Crow-Brown then had to leave early to attend another meeting. Cllr. Wright provided an update on pensions vouchers available to people who did not qualify for pension credit.

FC/2024/138 KALC Training/Workshop for Birchington Parish Council

FC/24/143 Clerks Correspondence

The Clerk reported that following a recent feature in the Parish Council magazine regarding KALC annual awards, 4 nominations had so far been received..

FC/24/144 Reports from District Councillors

Cllr Kup provided an update on two planning applications for properties in Wilkie Road and Harold Road that had been called in. He referred to public waste bins that had not been emptied and requested that residents reported any unemptied bins to the District Councillors. He also provided updates on the Boundary Commission's Review of Thanet and the removal of equipment from the Dip.

Cllr. Pugh provided updates on tree felling and tree replacement in the village; the proposal to install a low level hedge at the Dip; the ongoing parking review and late night speeding of cars by young persons causing a nuisance at the Minnis Bay car park; and his request to have the entrance barrier re-installed. He said he was concerned at the lack of and the delay in responses to correspondence by TDC officers He had submitted a corporate complaint and asked for anyone encountering similar problems to let him know.

Cllr Fellows said he took a number of photographs of illegal parking of vehicles in Station Road which he had sent to Parking Enforcement. He had noted that enforcement officers were out at 9.15pm on a Friday evening placing tickets on illegally parked cars.

FC/24/145 To receive and approve the Monthly Bank reconciliations with payments for November and December 2024.

The bank reconciliations were presented and approved.

Date of next meeting

Extraordinary meeting of the Full Council on Friday, 31st January 2025. Venue and time to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 20.40pm

Signed by Parish Clerk

Jane Bevan

Dated: 20 January 2025