



Rolvenden Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Rolvenden Parish Council held in Rolvenden Village Hall, Rolvenden on 18th October 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mrs D Curtain (Chairman), Cllr E Barham, Mrs L Barwise, Cllr Mrs D Bray, Cllr S Bryant, and Cllr Mrs L Walker (Vice-Chairman)

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Also present 10 members of the public

945. **Apologies for absence:**

Cllr N Cackett, Cllr J Kelly and Cllr K Walder

946. **Declarations of interest:**

- a. **Disclosable Interests:** Under the Localism Act 2011 to be made relating to items on the agenda.

None.

- b. **Other Significant Interests:** Under the code of conduct adopted in May 2021 by the Parish Council, to be made relating to items on this agenda.

Cllr Mrs D Curtain War Memorial Trust

Cllr E Barham trustee of Basil Russel Trust, trustee of the Windmill Trust, Royal British Legion, Minute 951 Hole Park Invoice

Cllr S Bryant War Memorial Trust

Cllr Mrs L Walker Village Hall Management committee

Cllr Mrs D Bray, Minute 951 I Bray invoice

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- c. **Other Interests:** not required to be disclosed under (a) and (b) but voluntary announcements made only for transparency reasons.

Cllr S Bryant, Minute 950 planning application PA/2023/1894

947. **Public Participation:**

A resident raised concerns about the lack of maintenance at the flats in Halden Fields, this will be taken forward with the Housing Association.

948. **Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:**

Local Plan Call for Sites

As the review of the Local Plan has begun, ABC have issued a call for sites to come forward. These include categories for sites for housing development, Open Space,

sites hoping to attract Biodiversity Net Gain funding, informal play space etc. Given that these are new categories, I have requested an extension to the deadline for submission and have been assured that submissions will be taken into consideration beyond the 4 November deadline. There is, however, a problem with the online process and I have circulated a 'work round' to Councillors should any applicants find any problems with the online process. Please contact me if you receive requests for help. Newenden Parish Council have asked me to do a presentation on the Local Plan/Stodmarsh and current planning issues in early November & I will provide this to the Clerk for distribution.

2 Christmas is coming

And the waste collection arrangements are being finalised with each resident due to receive a timetable and clear guidance on collections/recycling and Christmas tree collections through the Demelza House scheme. Residents are asked to register for Christmas tree collection and make a donation to the Hospice. I'm sure we will all be delighted that the Christmas Fayre will be returning this year & I will be making a donation from my members' grant to Charlotte & Sasha.

3 Evictions and Rent Increases

There has been a large increase in rental increases and evictions by private landlords and a significant increase in the number of applicants for temporary accommodation. Residents facing eviction are being offered temporary housing in Medway, Rochester or the Travel Lodge in Ashford with estimates of up to 7 years before they could be offered social housing. If residents are concerned or want to discuss their housing confidentially please ask them to contact me as ABC are able to offer rent subsidies and other grants to keep people in their homes. However the availability of grants changes very rapidly and they are only available in certain circumstances.

Monypenny

ABC have agreed to an extension to the consultations taking place with Monypenny residents and whilst my accident prevented me from making individual visits for a couple of weeks, these will now resume with the assistance of the Scheme Manager now that I am able to drive. The results of the consultation will be fed into new designs and proposals by ABC's Assisted Housing team. Given the timescales that have operated in the past, I would not expect these to come forward before 2024.

5 Garage Sites & Management Companies

The new administration is responding tonight (Full Council 19th October 7pm) to questions both on the maintenance, sale and redevelopment of garage sites and how to assist residents where their management companies fail to deliver. Both of these issues are relevant to Rolvenden and I will circulate responses as soon as they are available. I am meeting the Residents' Association at Halden Fields on 30 October and look forward to supporting them.

6 Warm Hubs

I would be very happy to donate again this year to any Warm Hub proposals that may be planned - although fully understand that the Star picked up all the responsibility for this last year for which they should be commended for their incredible community support.

949. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st September 2023 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

950. **Planning:**

Planning application PA/2023/1894 – Proposed Dwelling land at Little Court, Maytham Road, Rolvenden – new dwelling with amenity garden and car barn.

Resolved: to support the application.

Planning application PA/2023/1851 – 1 Maytham Cottages, Frogs Lane, Rolvenden – Replacement garden shed (part retrospective)

Resolved: to support the application.

Planning application PA/2023/1225 – 5 Winsor Road, Rolvenden – Proposed single storey rear extension following demolition of existing extension and 2no rooflights to second floor.

Resolved to defer decision until the November meeting of the Parish Council as there does not appear to be a listed building consent (Conservation area) and the immediate neighbours in Maytham Road do not appear on the consultation list (to be brought to the attention of the planning officer)

951. **Finance:**

Schedule of payments:

Tompsett Landscaping	£1,988.02 (VAT £331.34)
Staff costs	£1,215.71
Litter picking	£150.00
Mazars LLP (Audit)	£252.00 (VAT £42.00)
Hole Park (RBL Wreath)	£20.00 (VAT £3.33)
I Bray (signposts)	£94.37 (VAT £14.89)

Councillor Mrs D Curtain verified the entries through the bank account.

Resolved:

- 1. To authorise the payment of the items in the schedule of payments**
- 2. To receive and note report RPC/2023/13**
- 3. To receive and acknowledge the financial movements for the period 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023**
- 4. To extend the “view only” option on the bank account to all councillors.**

952. **Section 106 funding for allotments:**

The Rolvenden Allotment Gardens have submitted a request for the release of Section 106 funds to enable the clearance of part of the site in order to create further plots as well as

other sundry works. Documentation attached includes two quotations for the works. The sum held by Ashford Borough Council for allotment capital projects is £11,767.01.

It was questioned if two quotations were sufficient as the Parish Council procurement rules require three, the Borough Council have previously stated that two quotations are sufficient for their purposes. It was also questioned whether a felling licence would be required to remove the trees, Ashford Borough Council to be contacted to verify.

Resolved: to submit a request to Ashford Borough Council for the release of £11,000 from the s106 funds held for allotments subject to confirmation regarding the trees.

953. **Play area Annual Inspections:**

Quotations for the repairs to the play areas highlighted in the RoSPA report are currently awaited.

954. **Christmas Tree:**

The Parish Council is asked if it wishes to install a Christmas tree on the High Street in the same location as last year. Hole Park have provided an up to date price list, a 16ft Norway Spruce is priced at £160 the same as last year.

Resolved: To place a Christmas tree on the High Street from 1st December with carols to be sung as the lights are turned on and seasonal refreshments.

955. **Monypenny / Vicarage redevelopment:**

See Ashford Borough Councillor's report.

956. **High Weald AONB Management Plan:**

The High Weald AONB Partnership is now collecting feedback on the draft High Weald AONB Management Plan 2024-2029.

The consultation runs until Sunday 5 November via an online survey on the High Weald AONB website: <https://highweald.org/aonb-management-plan/management-plan-public-consultation-2023/>

The High Weald AONB Management Plan is the single most important document for the area – it sets out a vision for the kind of place we want the High Weald to be in years to come and, crucially, some of the activities that organisations and local people could take to achieve that vision.

The Plan must be updated every five years. Working on behalf of the area's 15 local authorities, the High Weald AONB Partnership has prepared a new draft Plan that runs from 2024 to 2029.

957. **Other items for information:**

Cranbrook Parish Council have been in contact as they are petitioning for a new secondary school for the High Weald. At this stage they are looking for projected housing numbers to substantiate.

Concern was raised regarding the amount of vandalism that is happening in the area, the incidents have been reported to the Police. The Police are to be invited to the next meeting.

The Warm Hub will be returning at the Star from the 1st November.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:25pm