

**Minutes of The Full Council Meeting held at The Rackliff Centre on
Monday 11th October 2021 at 7.30 pm**

Members Present:

Cllr Liz Ellicott, Chair (LE), Cllr B Edwards, Vice-Chairman (BE), Cllr A Britcher – Allan (ABA), Cllr D Smith (DS), Cllr M O’Callaghan (MO), Mr C Ducklin (CD) and Cllr P Gripper (PG)

Officers Present:

Mr K Watson (KW); Ms L Neusten (LN)

In Attendance:

None

Members of the Public:

Five

1. **Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting**
No-one present intended to film, photograph and/or record the meeting.
2. **To receive and approve apologies for absence**
Kent County Cllr J McInroy due to a prior engagement for a TWBC Local Board meeting; Cllr D Funnell due to a Borough Council Meeting & Cllr A Taylor due to a prior engagement.
3. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**
None.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying**
Cllr A Bricher-Allan regarding opening of One-Stop Branches for Rusthall Bonfire Night Event
5. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th September 2021**
Cllr M O’Callaghan pointed out Item 17 “Watson should be replaced by Neusten
These were agreed, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Chair signed them as a true record.
 - 5.1 Matters outstanding from the 25th September 2021 minutes (not listed as separate agenda items):
Cllr Ellicott reported that the Bob Doe plaque was installed on 25th September 2021. Robert Doe and members of his family attended together with Cllrs Ellicott, Edwards and O’Callaghan and several members of the public. Refreshments were served in The Daily Bread afterwards. Cllr Ellicott Thanked Officer Watson for arranging for white lines at end of Parsonage Road to be refreshed. A Planter and condolence card had been sent to Su Denne from The Council. Cllr A Bricher-Allan reported 1st Environment Committee will be held Mon 18th October 2021 at 7.30pm

5.2 Matters outstanding from previous minutes: None

6. Open session for questions from the public:

It was raised that Footpaths at bottom of Lower Green Road are not well lit, and have become obscured with debris, leaves. Is there anyone who could help clear this?

Speedwatch report was read out.

7. Session for County and Borough Councillors on matters concerning the Parish

In the absence of Cllr McInroy, Cllr A Bricher-Allan reported that at last Borough Council meeting election it was decided that elections would be discussed. They plan to be conducted in 3rds with there being 3 councillors per ward resulting in less councillors and some areas being reabsorbed back into larger existing areas and this could affect Rusthall. The Harmony Child Centre Phase II is to reopen. James Sanderson to give Cllr Alex Bricher Allan an update regarding specific date.

8. Southwood Road Rec/ Jockey Farm TWBC Local Plan Update – Cllr Ellicott

Contacted Speldhurst Parish Council with results of last meeting and received a full summary back “LE read document to meeting”. It is now too late for Rusthall Parish Council to respond and there is nothing we can do. **Action: Clerks to arrange a meeting with Dave Rusbridge**

8.1 Rusthall Parish Council response to TWBC local Plan – null and void.

8.2 Alternative recreational ground proposals from Speldhurst Parish Council –

Proposal: We do not suggest an alternative but wait and see what happens. All present agreed. **Action: It was decided LE to meet with both Clerks and discuss the situation.**

9. Happy Valley All Abilities Path Proposal – Mr J Barber, Friends of TW and Rusthall

Commons: Petitioned Parish Council for a grant which could be added to existing funds allowing them to create a robust all abilities path with better drainage. Work quoted at £89,000. A lottery application for £75,000 has been unsuccessful. They have £12,000 already in the bank and now need to target a lot of likely organisations/people to seek further support. Petitioned for a grant in “low four figures” to show motivation to other organisations. One major issue to being able to make a donation is that Happy Valley is outside the Parish boundary although Parishioners would benefit hugely from the improved path. **Proposal from Cllr D Smith “That we agree to gift a donation – amount to be confirmed” Vote: Unanimous. Action: Clerk to seek guidance about legality of allocating grants ‘outside the Parish”**

10. Rusthall Cricket Club proposal – Mr N Cheek, Cricket Club Chairman.

Petitioned for Parish Council for a grant to carry out works to limit future Traveller incursions; carry out necessary repairs to the pavilion roof, improve the outfield and drainage. Works quoted as £20,000, club has £13,000 in funds with an existing contingency of £5-6,000. Revenue is down due to impact of Covid and cancellation of fund raising activities. Cricket Club also seeking funds from England/Wales Cricket board, other local organisation in TWBC area. Issues raising/gaining funding: - Pavilion can't be rented out as lacks basic facilities such as power and only one toilet on site. Cricket club lacks a youth policy. LE proposed we support this request in principle All Councillors voted and agreed.

Action: Cllr Liz Ellicott proposed and Cllr A Bricher-Allan seconded That there be an extra Finance meeting set up to discuss these petitions.

11. Neighbourhood Plan – Cllrs Ellicott and Bircher-Allan

Cllr Bricher-Allan requested that questions be submitted via Officers Watson & Neusten and she plans to have a Zoom meeting with TWBC date to be confirmed. Both Lamberhurst and Benenden have posted their Plans on their websites. **Action: All councillors to submit questions before Zoom meeting.**

12. Chair's Report - Attended Chair's meeting at Goudhurst and a TWBC Chairmen meeting by zoom. Also attended, with Cllr B Edwards, the TBW Citizens Advice AGM. Gratified that Rusthall Parish Council was publically thanked for the recent donation (the 2nd largest they had received). LE has invited Liz de Villiers to attend and speak about their work alongside local GPs for those needing support with Mental issues, depression and debt at a future Council meeting. **Action: Clerk to contact Liz de Villiers and arrange a date.**

Commons Conservators meeting had decided to remove Ash Trees along Rusthall Road due to Ash Die Back. Health and Safety measures have been introduced at the archaeological dig. St Paul's Forest School site is already in use.

Cllrs Ellicot; Edwards & Bricher-Allan all attended funeral of former Clerks' husband.

13. Salomons Road Update – Officer Watson

A quote has been received by Living Forest but did not include step free access. Will ask for a revised quote.

14. Bonfire and Fireworks Night 30th October 2021. One Stop proposal – Cllr Britcher Allen

One Stop are looking for support in their petition of their own HQ for the Post Office One Stop to remain open as well as the Manor Road Junction branch, on Fireworks night. Cllr Edwards believes this is an issue for the Fireworks Committee.

Cllr Britcher- Allan proposed we support the One Stop Manager. All voted and proposal was passed.

15. Queens Green Canopy proposal from TWBC – Cllr Ellicott

TWBC are going to supply all Parishes in the borough with Free of charge saplings. 'We' need to establish a plan as to where we would position these. Initial suggestions – Alms Houses, School, St Pauls Court, Medical Centre and Care home. We decided to order 12 trees and distribute them.

16. Officers Report – Cllr Watson

Platinum Jubilee – Action: Cllr Ellicot to follow up

Covid-19 Health and Safety measures are being tightened regarding the use of The Rackliff Hall. All users to receive an update of their responsibilities.

Defibrilators – two. One at Toad Rock Retreat and second (paediatric safe) is at The United Reform Church.

17. Finance Agenda items 17i – 17vii all approved

18. Diary Dates

15.10.2021 Allotments Working Party

18.10.2021 Environment Committee meeting

21.10.2021 Family History Group 10.30 at Library

30.10.2021 Bonfire and Fireworks Event

08.11.2021 Full Council meeting

Parish Council Office Rackliff Centre 26 Lower Green Road Rusthall TN4 8TE

19. Accounts for payment

23. Items for Information

New electrical sockets and load testing needs to be carried out on Lamp post need to be tested before Xmas decorations can be hung up. **Action: Clerk – to mark arrangements**
20MPH going ahead for the Village. A-BA Can the boundary be amended to include Coach Road?
Reserves! We need to decided what we are going to do with these? MOC – we need a meeting with TWBC to establish how we can allocate funds to projects.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 8th November 2021 at 730pm

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

Chairman Signature *E Elliott*

Date *8/11/21*