



Rolvenden Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Rolvenden Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th August 2019 at 7.30pm in St Mary the Virgin Church, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4ND.

Present: Cllr Mrs D Curtain, (Chairman) Cllr Mrs L Walker (Vice Chairman) Cllr E Barham, Cllr S Bryant, Cllr A Johnstone, Cllr Mrs F May, Cllr Mrs I Newman, Cllr G Tiltman and

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

Also attending 9 members of the public, Ashford Borough Councillor C Walder.

306. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Mrs T Turner

307. Declarations of Interest:

1. Declarations of Members' Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Cllr E Barham declared an interest as land owner for the Rolvenden Football pitches.

2. Declarations of Members' Other Significant Interests:

Cllr Mrs I Newman, trustee of the War Memorial Trust.

Cllr E Barham trustee of the Basil Russel Trust, trustee of the Windmill Trust, Royal British Legion

Cllr Mrs L Walker Rolvenden Village Fete

Cllr Mrs D Curtain, trustee of War Memorial Trust

3. Declarations of Members' Other Interests:

Cllr G Tiltman, member of the Village Hall Management committee

Cllr S Bryant Chairman Rolvenden Football Club

308. Public participation:

There were no questions from the public.

309. Minutes:

The minutes of the meetings held on 16th July 2019 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

310. Planning:

19/01011/AS – Horseshoes, Frensham Road, Rolvenden – Demolition of existing conservatory; single story extension.

Resolved: The Parish Council supports the application.

19/01088/AS – Little Kensham Farm, Sandhurst Lane, Rolvenden – Erection of greenhouse.

Resolved: The Parish Council supports the application.

19/01125/AS – Barnshill Cottage, 5-6 Thornden Lane, Rolvenden – Replacement of 9 windows on the dwellings front elevation.

Resolved: The Parish Council supports the application.

19/01114/AS – Listed building consent, Great Maytham Hall, Maytham Road, Rolvenden – Proposed installation of single flight stair lift to enable disabled access.

Resolved: The Parish Council supports the application.

The working group led by Councillor Walker dealing with the Kent County Council Parish Highways Improvement Plan have agreed to meet on Tuesday 24th September at 7.30pm in St Mary the Virgin Church.

311. Meeting Venue:

The following communication has been received from the Village Hall in response to the request to attend the Parish Council meeting:

Parish Council meetings in Rolvenden Village Hall

The current situation:

1. Rolvenden Parish Council meets at 7pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and this is not a movable date.
2. Jack Davidson Ballroom Dancing books the main hall every Tuesday from 5pm to 8.45pm and plays ballroom music to teach his dancing. He is the Village Hall's largest hirer – see below for details.

Jack Davidson Ballroom Dancing:

The Village Hall Committee is charged with a range of responsibilities concerning the Hall, which include keeping it in a financially viable position. Some of these responsibilities are set out by the Charity Commission and are legally binding if the Hall wishes to remain a charity.

The Village Hall would have to close down without its hirers, due to the costs involved in replacing capital items, such as currently the main windows and boiler, plus substantial day to day running costs. Three hirers account for 72% of the Hall's income, with all other hirers combined accounting for the remaining 28%.

Jack Davidson Ballroom Dancing provides a significant share of total income, plus a further four figure sum from the planned Christmas Panto this year, Jack Davidson has been using the Village Hall for over 5 years as his business has grown with us and, as a resident of Rolvenden, he gets the residential hourly rate.

Options:

There are five options for a potential venue for the Parish Council meetings.

1. Holding the meetings in the Gallery Room is no longer an option. The Parish Clerk has advised that the Equalities Act 2010 has made it incumbent on the Parish Council to ensure wheelchair access is available for public meetings. As the Gallery Room does not have a lift, the Parish Council are in breach of the Act and could have action taken against them.
2. Hold the meetings in the Pre-school. This has also been used many times and allows disabled access. There is a 15min window at 4.45 – 5pm between the Charlotte Hudson Ballet Class and Jack Davidson’s booking. This allows the tables and chairs to be moved from the main hall cupboard and put up in the Pre-school. Again this has been done comfortably many times in the past in less than 10 minutes.

Alternative Venues:

The following venues are also potentially suitable for P,C. meetings. The Rolvenden Club, St Marys Church, Monypenny Lounge and the Rolls Room at Hole Park.

Rolvenden Village Hall Committee: Fred May – Chair Tony Vening – Treasurer.

Councillor Tiltman responded:

The decision was made to send the letter was made at an impromptu meeting of the trustees including the chairman to which I was not asked to attend and had no chance to comment on as a trustee, this is against the Charity Commission’s policies. In my opinion the letter contains incorrect and misleading statements and does not represent the true position of the Village Hall’s financial position and performance, some comments are speculative and unproven and not based on facts. Councillors have been made aware of my concerns. I do not believe the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee has acted fairly or correctly in the execution of the letter and I wish it to be minuted that I did not authorise my signature to it and made every effort via email and letter to have a discussion with the Chairman to make amendments prior to it being sent ,and these have been totally ignored to date.

Following discussion it was **resolved that future meetings between the months of October and March will be held in the lounge at Monypenny and the remaining months in St Mary The Virgin Church.**

312. Finance:

Prior to the meeting the Village Hall Management Committee forwarded the invoice for the Village Hall Insurance which has historically been paid by the Parish Council. There are insufficient funds allocated in the budget under insurance to cover this sum, however, it was agreed that the remaining £600 of the training budget be transferred to insurance,

Payments authorised at the meeting

Cheque No.	Payee	Net amount	VAT	Payment
300181, 300182 &300183	Staff costs			£716.62
300184	Litter Picking			£120.00
300185	Cornex Garage	£60.83	£12.17	£73.00
300186	Tompsett Landscaping	£1450.00	£286.00	£1,736.00

300188	Playsafety	£158.00	£31.60	£189.60
300189	Rolvenden Village Hall			£855.91
300190	Rolvenden Rocket expenses			£109.60

Report RPC/19/07 brings to the Parish Council a summary of the receipts and payments together with bank reconciliation and funds statement for the period ending 31st July 2019.

Rolvenden Rocket: the annual summary of receipts and payments as presented to Ashford Borough Council was submitted.

Councillors Barham and Bryant left the room.

Discussion was held regarding the grass cutting of the Rolvenden Football pitches having ascertained details of the lease as requested. It was agreed that an offer would be made to the football club for the cutting of the grass subject to the Parish Council invoicing them for 50% of the costs. This was conveyed to councillor Bryant upon his return.

Councillors Barham and Bryant returned.

The Village Hall have forwarded a quotation for the replacement of a boiler for the Parish Council to consider a financial contribution towards. It was agreed that this would be carried forward to the September meeting for consideration.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.