

RUSTHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Date: Monday 12th December 2011

at United Reformed Church, on the corner of the High Street and Manor Road, Rusthall

Present

Councillors: J.Blackburn (Chairman), C.Elwood (Vice Chairman), B.J.Edwards, M.Simmons, M.L.Lawrence, C.Codd, and J.Geer

Clerk: P. Cummins the Monitoring Officer of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is acting as Interim Parish Clerk

Also present: County Councillor Davies and Borough Councillors Atwood and Webb, Press and Public

1. Apologies for absence.- Apologies received from Councillor J.Clark

Announcement by the Chairman of the resignation of Councillor Kelly Watson. The Chairman read out the letter of resignation which was addressed to the Chairman and said:-

‘I am writing to offer my resignation as a Parish Councillor for Rusthall Parish Council. I feel that due to external pressures that I am unable to give my time to the position and feel that someone else would be better suited to the role.’

2. Declaration of Interests.

2.1 Councillor Lawrence declared a personal interest in item 8 as he is an allotment holder and Councillor Simmons declared a personal interest in item 9 as her children attend Bishop Down School.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th November 2011 were agreed.

4. Session for County and Borough Councillors

4.1 County Councillor Davies reported that Kent County Council had to make budget savings of £95M this year. County Members were also looking at a new structure for the County Council which sought to involve backbenchers in more decision making. Councillor Davies also confirmed funding to resolve the erosion problems at Harmony Street.

4.2 Borough Councillor Atwood also reported budget issues at Borough level. It was necessary to make up a budget deficit of £350,000 for this year. Councillor Atwood confirmed Borough council support for the improvements at Harmony Street. He also indicated the Borough Council was also looking at structures which would involve backbench Councillors in more of the Council's decision making.

4.3 Borough Councillor Webb reported on a number of areas in which he had been involved including lobbying Kent County Council to get the problem with the drain in the High St resolved, lobbying Highways re the potholes in Rusthall Road. He also informed the Parish Council of all the meetings he had attended and representations he had made at those meetings.

5. Open session for members of the public. A query was raised about a sign giving directions to the Pantiles had been taken down.

6. Report from the Planning Committee.

6.1 The report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee (Councillor Edwards) set the Parish Council's statutory responses to four applications which had been received since the last meeting.

6.2 Application 2 Rustwick – 2 storey extension – recommendation approve under Officer delegation.

6.3 Application 11 Redland – conservatory - recommendation approve under Officer delegation.

6.4 Application 21 Erskine Park – 2 storey extension – recommendation approve with condition that shared driveway be kept clear.

7. Notice Board – It was noted that the Notice Board site had been measured up and it was hoped it would be installed later that week.

8. Allotments Update – It was noted the Working Group would be meeting up with representatives of the three allotment sites to discuss future arrangements.

9. Still Green Boardwalk

9.1 A motion was moved that Rusthall Parish Council support the proposal for investigative drilling at the site. This motion was rejected by the Parish Council (4 against, 1 for and 2 abstentions)

9.2 It was resolved unanimously that Rusthall Parish Council would work with other partners to ensure that the path at Still Green is improved (subject to that part of the path being located within the parish).

10. Rusthall Precept – The precept for Rusthall as set out below was approved.

Expenditure

General administration

Salary	8977.20
NIC	200.00
Travel	500.00
Telephone	60.00
Mobile	300.00
Work from home expenses	500.00
Insurance	390.00
Stationery	750.00
Publications	75.00
Postage	100.00
Subscriptions	1250.00
Accounting software support	100.00
SLCC	170.00
Hire of meeting rooms	550.00
Audits	500.00
Training	1500.00
Chairman's Allowance	200.00
Miscellaneous	200.00
Elections provision	2,500.00

Total administration £18,822.20

Capital expenditure

Xmas lights	1500.00
Denny Bottom notice board	300.00
Street Furniture & supplies	1500.00

Grants

Local organisations(inc. Jubilee) 4000.00

Contingency

approximate	9,500.00
TOTAL	£35,622.20

11. Cheques/Payments – The payments set out below were approved.

Rusthall Parish Council – Payments for Approval/Made 12 December 2012

Balance brought forward - £6,335.90*

*Balances over £2,000 attract interest under the terms of the Council's banking arrangements with the Co-operative Bank.

Date	Payee	Description	Cheque Number	Amount	Balance
14/11/11	United Reform Church	Hall Hire 14/11/11	100013	£30-00 PAID	£6,305.90
12/12/11	TWBC	Reimburse TWBC for hire of United Reform Church 31/10/11	100014	£10.00	£6,295.90
12/12/11	KALC	KALC AGM	100015	£10.00	£6,285.90
12/12/11	Came & Company	Insurance Premium	100016	£390.53	£5,895.37

Authorise reimbursement of the Chairman when she purchases an HMV voucher for £20 and an M & S voucher for £30 for the child and adult survey prize draws.

12. Consideration of any Urgent Business

The draw was made for the prizes awarded from those who had responded to the Village Survey for Rusthall.

Councillor Davies made the draw for the Child Survey and the winner was John Akehurst who will receive a £20 HMV voucher.

Councillor Atwood made the draw for the Adult Survey and the winner was Mr Welch who will receive a meal for two at Toad Rock Retreat (value £30)

Councillor Webb made the draw for the second prize for the Adult Survey and the winner was Mr Sefton who will receive a free meal at the Red Lion (value £30).

Mr & Mrs Cons won a £30 M & S voucher.

The Chairman also announced that there had been 510 responses in total to the Village Survey of which 78 had been responses to the Youth Survey.

The Chairman thanked everyone for filling out the forms and thanked the two pubs for their generosity in offering prizes.

Councillor Codd raised an urgent item requesting agreement to order 8 'Kill Your Speed' signs. It was agreed to order the signs.

Date of the next meeting Monday 9th January 2012 at 7.30pm at the United Reform Church, Rusthall.