

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 10th September 2012 at 7.30pm
IN THE UNITED REFORM CHURCH MANOR ROAD**

Present

Councillors: Mrs Blackburn (Chairman), C.Elwood (Vice Chairman), Mrs M.Simmons, M.Lawrence, Mrs C.Codd, J.Clark and R Benoy.

Parish Clerk: Mrs. S. Denne.

Also present: Kent County Councillor J Davies, Borough Councillor V. Webb and Public

1. Apologies for absence –Cllr Edwards on holiday and Cllr Geer personal reasons

2. Declaration of Interests – Cllrs Lawrence and Benoy have interests in item 12

3. Declarations of Lobbying -None

4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th August 2012 were agreed.

5. Session for Borough Councillors – *Councillor Davies* – Informed the meeting that budget consultation was being undertaken and that there would be a freezing of council tax, whilst looking into changing the way to deliver services.

The interactive sign has been ordered for Lower Green Road, but requires consent from The Commons Conservators. A request will be put to The Commons Conservators to add it to their agenda for the 4th October 2012.

He was pleased with the outcome of the parking problems in Harmony Street. The work that needs to be done by The Commons Conservators is estimated to be around £5,000 of which Cllr Davies kindly offered to pay 50%.

Councillor Webb – apologised for the absence of Cllr Wauchope, who was detained by work.

He informed the meeting that he had written to Cllr Davies last week, raising his concerns about the delay in erecting the speed sign.

The delivery of electoral registration forms around the village was nearly complete.

Pembury Hospital has put in a planning application to alter their public transport arrangements.

He also mentioned the street cleaning rota.

He informed the meeting that the borough council will be charging for pre planning advice, although this would be waived for the disabled. The charges would range from £50 to £450.

He also informed the meeting that there was to be a change to recycling, but not known at this point.

6. Public Open session –Mr Stevens, a member of the public informed the parish Council that he was concerned about the amount to be spent on purchasing the fire station just for a parish office and another youth facility. He was requested to put it his concerns in writing. He was also concerned about the proposed interactive speed sign being erected in Lower Green Road; he felt it was yet more street furniture. He put forward the suggestion of placing a traffic calming measure in the road, which would also enable children to see the traffic. Cllr Blackburn, Cllr Davies and Mr Stevens to arrange a meeting to discuss the issue. A member of the public mentioned that the Major York road was in bad repair, this is not in the Parish of Rusthall. Cllr Davies apologised but said that there was no money available for such a project. However, he would report it again.

Mrs Fallon, informed the Parish Council that the tidy up along Lower Green Road had been completed and looked a lot better. She was also concerned with the cost of the fire station and requested that the residents should be canvassed about it before any decisions were made.

Two residents from Hill View road were concerned with the increasing disturbances outside their homes late at night. The behaviour was described as aggressive, abusive and alcohol related. The police had been called on occasions but the culprits ran off before being spoken to. They wished to know how best they could handle it. They were also concerned with the effect it might have on the value of their homes and insurance premiums if they keep reporting incidents to the police. Cllr Blackburn informed them that a meeting was to be arranged for residents in the area to speak to the Pub Watch coordinator and Mrs Cooper.

There was also concern with the bin store of One Stop being used as a public toilet. It was suggested that they should write to One Stop.

7. Planning Committee– The report from the Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee (Councillor Clark) set out the Parish Council’s statutory responses to two applications which had been received since the last meeting. Cllr Edwards declared a personal interest in application 12/02259 as he knew the applicant but had not been lobbied. The Planning Committee had recommended approval by Officer delegated powers for both applications.

Cllr Clark informed the meeting that the next parish planning meeting would be on the 20th September 2012. This was to discuss minor amendments to the Cranwell Road Flats development.

8. Council tax - base and funding for local precepting authorities. Cllr Blackburn reported that the changes to the tax should only affect councils who have a precept over a £1,000,000. However, herself and the clerk will hopefully find out more when they attend the finance training day. Cllr Webb informed the meeting that town and parish precepts would not be affected by the Bill.

9. Snow patrol – Cllr Blackburn suggested that the Parish council look into what the residents could do to help others during bad weather. Suggestions of shopping, snow clearance, allocating each street with a snow shovel. It was suggested that stickers may be put in peoples windows requesting help and that all the elderly residential homes steps should be kept clear. Perhaps an article in the Courier about the proposed project.

10. Christmas Lights – Cllr Codd informed the parish council of her investigation into obtaining Christmas lights for the High Street in Rusthall. She shared three quotes with the parish council and asked them if they would prefer to hire or buy the lights. It was unanimously agreed that the lights should be hired and the cheapest quote accepted.

This was for £900 plus VAT and the installation of £300 plus VAT.

It was also decided to ask local businesses within Rusthall if they would like to contribute towards the lights. Cllr Elwood agreed to compose a letter and have it distributed.

11. MUGA - The handing over of this facility should be within the next two to three weeks. It will be for the primary school and organised community groups. Residents will have to set up clubs, such as netball and tennis in order to use the new facility. It is hoped that the hiring charge will be kept to a minimum but is unknown at the moment.

It is hoped that there will be an opening event in the near future.

Cllr Elwood was concerned that the use of the games area was somewhat restrictive. Cllr Blackburn informed the meeting that this was KCC's requirements.

12. KALC Area Committee representative – Parish councillors were asked to volunteer as a representative for Rusthall parish Council. The committee meets on a Tuesday every three months. Cllrs Codd and Lawrence volunteered.

13. Update on allotments - Cllr Blackburn informed the Parish Council that she, Cllr Lawrence and the clerk had had a meeting with TWBC with regards the possible taking over of the village allotments. The TWBC have agreed in principal but more work has to be carried out before a definite proposal is made. The Parish Council will have to decide whether they wish to take on the allotments as freehold or leasehold. The allotments at Hawkenbury are leasehold. Cllr Webb informed the meeting that there may be further job losses and restructuring within the Parks department.

14. Cheques/Payments –

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT			
Payee Name	Cheque Ref	Amount Paid	Transaction Detail
SLCC ENTERPRISES LTD	100073	£114.00	Allotment Course
S DENNE	100074	£30.00	Subs for CPLC
Orange	DD	£21.44	Mobile
TOTAL PAYMENTS		£165.44	

15. Consideration of any urgent business.

- a) Cllr Blackburn said that an outside table tennis table would cost about £2,000. If the Parish Council were to go ahead with it, maybe it could be placed either at the Southwood Road play ground or at the back of the Muga. Cllr Elwood said he had seen one in Bidborough and also an outdoor chess board.
- b) Cllr Blackburn reminded the meeting of the meeting on Monday 17th September with regards First Responders and purchasing a defibrillator.
- c) Cllr Blackburn informed the meeting that we had had a complaint with regards the website and lack of a Parish newsletter. As stated at our last parish meeting, we are looking into this as there are a few already in limited circulation throughout the village. The Parish Council agrees that the website could be better, but restraints on time and experience are a factor. If a member of the public would like to take it on, please would they contact the Parish Council.
- d) Cllr Benoy requested that if there was anyone else who would like to be on the reserve list for marshalling the bonfire event, to let him know. He also mentioned that a footpath required clearing. Cllr Blackburn informed him that Cllr Lawrence was in charge of this and that any concerns about footpaths should be directed to the Clerk.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm

Date of Next Meeting – 8th October 2012