

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 14th OCTOBER 2013 at 7.30pm
IN THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MANOR ROAD**

Present

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

Parish Clerk: Mrs S. Denne.

Also present: Cllr Wauchope and Public.

1. **Apologies for absence** Cllr Davis
2. **Declaration of Interests** – None
3. **Declarations of Lobbying** -None
4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th September 2013 were agreed.
5. **Session for Borough Councillors** – None
6. **Planning Committee** – The report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee (Councillor Edwards) set out the Parish Council's statutory responses to six applications which had been received since the last meeting.
The Planning Committee then recommended approval by Officer delegated powers for
13/02439/ADV/SE2 (One Stop Community Store 4-6 Rusthall High Street Rusthall) this was a retrospective planning application. However the Committee objected to the internally illuminated fascia sign on the grounds of possible light pollution to residents above store and within a conservation area.
13/02370/HOUSE/EA1 (22 Westwood Road Rusthall) **13/02317/OUT/NR2 (The Paddocks Home Farm Lower Green Road Rusthall)** with a condition that the paddock area to the north of the orchard be preserved and prevent any further residential building. **13/02714/HOUSE/EA1 (4 Upper Street Rusthall)** **13/02589/FUL/SF1 (Rusthall Working Men's Club 5 St Pauls Street Rusthall)** The only difference we could find between this and application 13/01535 is amendment D "*to have professionally designed acoustic protection from the 'club noise' all to the satisfaction of the Chief Environmental Health Officer*" which we raised initially as a condition.
7. **Allotment Committee** – Cllr Benoy informed the meeting that it had been agreed to keep the allotment rental the same for the forthcoming year and that there were plots still available for rent. He informed the Parish Council that an enquiry had been made with regards the keeping of bees, this was being looked into. The water to the allotments to be turned off at the end of October and a couple of leaking tanks to be looked at and repaired. He also said that the Allotment Committee were in discussion with Ian Woodcraft over the possibility of him making a notice board for Wickham Gardens. There was also the idea of a smaller notice board for the Southwood extension site. Cllr Benoy informed the meeting that The Primrose Project had a new manager and was keen to advertise the project and its plants for sale.
8. **Finance Committee** – Cllr Codd (Cllr Elwood on leave) reported that the Finance Committee had had their first meeting. The Committee comprised of Cllr Elwood, chair, Cllr Codd vice and Cllrs Geer and Blackburn. Cllr Codd informed the meeting that the Finance Committee plan on meeting at least five times a year and possibly more often around the time the precept has to be submitted to TWBC. The accounts are audited both internally and externally, and both audits have been completed for the year 2012/2013. The precept for 2014/2015 was briefly touched upon, but will be discussed more fully in November.

9. **Bag it and Flag it** – Cllr Blackburn informed the meeting that the second Bag it and Flag it had been carried out. The High Street and streets leading off the High Street were the areas covered. The first Bag it and Flag it had shown up 35 bags as opposed to 18 bags for the latest one. She also informed the parish Council that a young mother had created some posters as she was fed up with the fouling problem. The Parish Council agreed that the posters should go up on lamp posts and in shop windows, for 2 weeks.
10. **Christmas Lights** – The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the lights chosen by Cllr Elwood were not available. Cllr Elwood was happy with the alternative. Clerk to confirm that order would cost no more than last year and then order the lights. *All agreed.*
11. **Webmaster** – It was thought that the webmaster should be paid for all her hard work on the website. Clerk to discuss with her how many hours she does a month and whether she would like to be paid. Cllr Elwood suggested that webmaster should invoice Parish Council.
12. **Traffic Warden** – Cllr Simmons spoke about the dangerous and selfish parking within Rusthall. She mentioned a parish in Cornwall who employed a part time traffic warden. Whilst the parish Council thought that it might be a good idea to see a traffic warden more often within Rusthall, they were concerned with the affect it could have on local trade. Cllr Blackburn said she had requested a costing from TWBC with regards a traffic warden visiting Rusthall 4 x a week. It was also mentioned that maybe there should be more double yellow lines put at junctions of roads as people were parking on the corners, causing great problems to other motorists and pedestrians. Cllr Edwards said that he would write to the traders for their views and Cllr Blackburn would mention the subject at the Rusthall Village Association. Cllr Lawrence mentioned limiting parking times.
13. **Fire Station** – Cllr Blackburn informed the Parish Council that she and the Clerk visited the benefactor to ask him if he would consider his donation going to another building for the parish Council, other than the fire station. He stated verbally and in writing that he wished the money to be used for the purchase of the fire station only. The Parish Councillors discussed the offer. Cllr Codd said that” this opportunity would never happen again”. Cllrs Lawrence and Elwood both agreed that the plot had potential in the future for the village. Cllr Edwards felt that it would be an expensive office and meeting room for the Parish Council. Cllr Edwards pointed out that should the Council have to sell it in the future, 50% of the sale should go to the community. Cllrs Geer and Clarke said that their concern was that the renovations could spiral out of control and therefore a tight rein should be kept on costs. It was proposed that the Parish Council would purchase the fire station, subject to the Change of use application being accepted. Cllrs Blackburn, Elwood, Codd, Geer, Clarke, Benoy, Simmons and Lawrence voted for the proposal. Cllr Edwards voted against the proposal. The vote was carried 8/1 in favour.
14. **Open session for questions from the public:** Two members of the public raised concerns of how much the fire station would cost to run each year and would there be interest from other organisations to rent the space when there were other halls in the village.
 A resident from Lower Green Road informed the Parish Council of her and others concerns on the speed of vehicles in Lower Green Road. Discussed was the possibility of speed humps and 20 mile hour zones. Cllr Blackburn told her that she should also contact Speldhurst Parish Council as part of the road was in their Parish. *Cllr Blackburn also said that she would speak to Cllr Davis and also write a formal letter to Highways, requesting a meeting.*
 A resident informed the Parish Council that she would like to find a more permanent base, such as the fire station, for her youth group. She also mentioned that in Yorkshire, residents self-policed themselves when parking, using paper dials (that they obtained from local shops). The dials showing the length of time that they had parked up to a maximum. Another resident said that she would like to see double yellow lines on the corners of St Paul’s Street.
 A resident informed the parish Council of a road closure taking place on the 4th November in Speldhurst Parish which will affect Rusthall residents. *Clerk to investigate.* The resident also raised concerns over a plot of land that was being used as a car park by residents and had been earmarked for development. She felt housing was more important than car parking.

15. **Clerk's Report** – The Clerk informed the Parish Council that a request had been made, from the Dogs Trust, to visit the village and chip dogs free of charge. *It was agreed that Clerk should organise this for early next year.* Clerk had also received a letter for a grant to purchase a shed for the residents of Headway. *Clerk to send out application form.*

16. **Cheques/Payments**

	ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT	OCTOBER 2013	
<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
British Legion	300007	15.00	Wreath
URC	300008	10.00	Hire of Hall
S. Denne	300009	820.91	September Salary
HMRC	300010	71.11	Tax & NI
S. Denne	300011	150.00	Work from Home
Web host	300012	50.00	Web host
Viking	300013	53.30	Ink
URC	300014	30.00	Hire of Hall
Home Base	300015	249.52	Library Garden
PKF	300016	480.00	External Audit
SEW	300017	534.04	Southwood Rd
SEW	300018	156.42	Wickham Gdns
S. Denne	300019	130.42	CPALC Subs, Ink, Arnold Baker, Stamps
Orange	DD	22.37	Mobile
Total Payments		2773.09	

17. **Consideration of any urgent business**

- a) Cllr Edwards raised concerns over the article in the Courier about the transfer of land assets from TWBC to the Parish Council. He felt that Cllr Blackburn had expressed her own view and not that of the Parish Council. Cllr Blackburn apologised and said that that was not her intent. She felt that she had expressed the views of the residents.
- b) Salt bins for Grange Gardens and Redland Avenue were now in place and driver training for the grit lorry was being carried out.
- c) Cllr Blackburn and the Clerk to have a meeting with Cllr Davis and KCC about the way forward with the MUGA.
- d) The Joint Transportation Board has been looking into the 20mph ruling. More information on the KCC website.
- e) Chief Inspector David Pate to speak at the December Parish Meeting.

- f) The new PCSO, Clare Cockburn has started her duties in the Parish.
- g) Cllr Benoy informed meeting that financially the Allotments were in credit. Also that the clerk had dealt with the complaint with regards the constant bonfire at Peacocks Farm.
- h) Cllr Codd said that she felt that Cllr Blackburn did a lot for the village.
- i) Cllr Simmons informed the Parish Council of a government scheme in which people on low or no incomes could receive help to replace their boiler, if over 10 years old.
- j) Cllr Elwood said that he would find out what the delay was with the application, for a grant, from the football club.
- k) Cllr Edwards reminded the Parish Council that all Councillors should be careful when expressing views that they clarify whether it is their view or that of the Parish Council.

The Meeting was closed at 2115