



Rusthall

Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Rackliff Centre

Thursday 13th April 2023 - 7.30pm.

Minutes

1. **The Chairman, Cllr Liz Ellicott welcomed the public** and opened the meeting.
2. **Apologies** – none received
3. **The Chairman**, Cllr Liz Ellicott delivered an Annual Report- This report is available from The Clerk on request.
4. **Dan Colborne, Commons Ranger**, gave an interesting report outlining the work of the The Conservators. He also outlined the successful work he has carried out on the common over the last year that has improved both public safety and the ecological health of the Common. Dan closed by outlining some of his plans for the future which included a detailed ecological survey that he hopes the village will assist him with. These plans will be published on social media as they unroll.
5. **Reports from Clubs and Associations:**
 - a. **Friends of The Commons:**
 - i. **Forest School** – The Easter school was very successful with 120 people turning up on the 1st day and over 340 children taking part over the week.
 - ii. **Litter Picks** – held regularly, and always seeking additional volunteers. Future dates will be advertised by The Friends of the Commons.
 - iii. **Funding** – finance for projects drawn from Freehold tenants; subscription from 429 members. Projects over £8,000 external grants, or funding would be sought.
 - b. **Rusthall Larder** – The weekly larder serves an average of 57 people a week. Turnover in the last year was £10,600. Costs to operate and stock the Larder were £10,365. Leaving a small profit of £235. About 10 tonnes of food waste have been saved from landfill and put to good use! This was all possible due to team of volunteers.
 - c. **Tea & Toast** - 24-30 people, of all ages, made use of this facility. Run through the cold winter months, it was very successful initiative.
 - d. **Lunch Club** – Run weekly, by a team of volunteers on behalf of the churches in Rusthall, for the over 60s. Approx. 50 people turn up regularly. The Club is always seeking volunteers to assist with a variety of roles.
 - e. **Litter Pick:** Regular dates, arranged by Commons Conservators.
 - f. **Formerly Bonfire & Fete committee:** Main activities are the summer fete and the autumn fireworks with other fund raising activities such as quiz nights. This year they are working with Langton Green to provide a joint Coronation Treasure Hunt.
 - g. **Charlie's Angels:** Using supermarket surplus food to provide cheap "pay what you feel" home cooked meals. The initiative, running for a year in Rusthall, is now being extended to Southborough.
 - h. **Citizen Advice NW Kent:** New office in Royal Victoria Place which provides privacy for those seeking advice on debt management and a range of other confidential issues. Citizens Advice is constantly looking for volunteers to support various roles.

- i. **Rusthall Library** – Notification of the range of events and clubs available to the community. Info available at the library or a Rackliff Centre.
6. **Open Forum** – no questions were received from members of the public.

Linda Neusten,
Deputy Clerk.