

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 9th JULY 2012 at 7.30pm
IN THE UNITED REFORM CHURCH MANOR ROAD**

Present

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

Parish Clerk: Mrs. S. Denne.

Also present: Borough Councillors V Webb and P. Wauchope , Press and Public

1. Apologies for absence – Kent County Councillor J Davies was on holiday

2. Declaration of Interests – Cllr C Elwood is a governor at St Paul's Primary School. Cllr M Lawrence is a resident of Common View.

3 .Declarations of Lobbying -None

4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th June 2012 were agreed.

5. Session for Borough Councillors - *Councillor Webb* – informed the Parish Council that the Borough Council was looking into the costs of the upkeep of the brick pavements in the area. He also mentioned that they were considering expanding permit parking, which could affect Rusthall. He also mentioned the Kent Local Authority Mortgage Scheme that will help first time buyers. They may be able to borrow a maximum loan to value initially be set at £350,000 (20 per cent guarantee would be £70,000). The TWBC initial deposit and indemnity of £1 million along with match funding of £1m from Kent County Council would be set aside for this scheme. Cllr Webb also mentioned that he had received a complaint from a Bretland Road resident with regards to the Cranwell Road proposed development.

6. Guest Speaker – Chief Inspector Nicola Faulconbridge, the new District Commander. She spoke about the New Police Model and how it would affect us as a community. She explained that her main aims were to have high visual policing, to reduce anti-social behaviour and to engage with the community. She plans on visiting each Parish and going out on patrol with her officers. She informed the Parish Council that anti-social behaviour was already on the decrease. Also that her aim is to attack the roots of the problem, not just to touch the surface.

She also informed the meeting that the public are now able to arrange an appointment with the police to discuss any problems they may have.

Cllr Codd asked her to explain what night time economy meant. CI Faulconbridge explained that this was pubs, clubs and food outlets.

Borough Cllr Webb asked what her view was, on extra security staff being employed by the Borough Council. His concern was on the powers being given to these individuals and the potential police record a member of the public could receive. CI Faulconbridge informed the meeting that she was also very concerned with this issue and was arranging to speak to the Borough Council on this matter.

Members of the public also raised their concerns that there was low visibility policing in Rusthall and some antisocial behaviour in Southwood Road Park. It was requested that the police, when patrolling would get out of their car and walk around the park. CI Faulconbridge said that she would look into this.

Another member of the public also raised concerns with regards to the decanting of Cranwell Road flats. He wished to know what security measures were being put in place to prevent squatting and any potential anti-

social behaviour in this area. CI Faulconbridge informed him that talks had already taken place between the police and Town and Country with regards to this issue.

Cllr Benoy informed her of a knife that had been found at the Southwood Park and the lack of police interest. CI Faulconbridge said she would look into the incident.

Cllr Simmons thanked PCSO Gemma Pepper for her swift response to an anti-social problem that had been going on in the Denny Bottom area of Rusthall.

7. Public Open Session – Mr Atwood informed the Parish Council that the April and May minutes were not on the website. He was ensured that this would be rectified. Mr Huxham enquired of the Parish Council whether they would consider an email mailing list. Cllr Blackburn informed him that the Council use Twitter, website and the notice board. However, the Parish Council would consider his request. A further member of the public informed the parish Council that Taylor Wimpey had been served an enforcement notice as they had failed to meet the demands of the planning authority.

8. Kent Code of Conduct – All councillors were in favour of deferring this until more was known.

9. Draft Freedom of Information procedure – This was approved for adoption, by all Councillors, with minor amendments.

10. Committees and Working Groups – *Planning Committee*- Cllr Barry Edwards (chair) Cllr Jon Clarke (vice chair) Cllr Mrs Maria Simmons and Cllr Richard Benoy. *Finance Working Group*- Cllr Mrs Clare Codd, Cllr Mrs Jane Geer, Cllr Mrs Jenny Blackburn and Cllr Chris Elwood. *Allotment Working Group*- Cllr Mrs Clare Codd, Cllr Mrs Jenny Blackburn, Cllr Barry Edwards, Cllr Malcolm Lawrence and Cllr Richard Benoy. *Footpath Working Group*- Cllr Malcolm Lawrence , Mr Simon D'Albertanson and Mr Mark Reeves.

11. Planning Committee – The report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee (Councillor Edwards) set out the Parish Council's statutory responses to two applications which had been received since the last meeting. The Planning Committee had recommended approval by Officer delegated powers for one of the applications and recommended neutral by Officer delegated powers for the other.

Cllr Edwards informed the Parish Council that he had received a reply from Town and Country with regards the decanting and return to the village of the Cranwell flats tenants. The email informed him that the tenants would not have any more rights than anyone else wishing to live in social housing with in the village.

Mr Huxham spoke of his concerns with regards to the parking availability for the proposed new flats. He also voiced his displeasure with the Parish Council on how he believed they had handled the planning application.

12. Jubilee Grant- There was one application for Jubilee match funding:- St Paul's School Garden Party and Olympic celebrations. Cllr Elwood declared a personal and prejudicial interest as he is a governor at the school.

This was agreed.

13. Cheques/Payments-

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT			
<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
URC	100045	30	Hire of Hall 9 July 2012
S Denne	100051	797.68	Salary
HMRC	100052	49.37	NI
SLCC	100053	48	Clerk course General Power
KALC	100054	72	Clerks Conference
RBS	100055	881.1	Finance package
Manor Rd pre school	100056	200	Jubilee Grant 50% 50%
Common View	100057	100	Ditto
St Paul's Court	100058	50	Ditto
Woodside Road	100059	100	Ditto
St Paul's Womens Fello	100060	298.5	Ditto
St Paul's School	100061	800	Ditto
Orange	DD	23.65	Mobile
TOTAL PAYMENTS		3450.3	

All Jubilee monies, for requests so far, have been received from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

The clerk also requested to attend an allotment course in September. This was agreed.

14. Consideration of any urgent business –

(a) Cllr Blackburn requested it should be minuted that The Venture kindly donated the flowers for the trough on the cross roads.

(b) Cllr Lawrence informed the Parish Council that there would be two footpath clearing evenings.

(c) Cllr Blackburn asked the Parish Council if they would agree, to a joint venture with Speldhurst Parish Council, to sponsoring a defibrillator and the necessary training in aid of the village.

This was agreed.

(d) Cllr Blackburn also mentioned that the Parish Council may be able to borrow a speed watching kit, if they so wished.

(e) Cllr Blackburn asked the PCSO, Gemma Pepper, if she may look into the parking of a camp van and trailer, parked on Parsonage Road. There were concerns that it was dangerous to other road users.

(f) Cllr Codd, who is on the Standards Committee, discussed the TWBC idea of removing the Standards Committee and merging it with the Audit Committee. Cllr Codd was very concerned with this idea and requested that a letter should be sent highlighting the Parish Councils fears of this proposal. Cllr Edwards

informed the committee that he was happy with the merging. Mr Attwood stated that Audit and Standards would not fit together and was concerned that Parish Councils would have nowhere to go to, if the need should arise.

It was agreed that a letter would be written voicing the concerns of the parish Council.

(g) Cllr Blackburn reminded the other councillors that the village fete was being held on the 21st July 2012. Please would councillors consider helping at the entrance.

15. Date of Next Meeting –13 August 2012 at 7.30pm, The United Reform Church

The Meeting ended at 9.40pm

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