

# RUSTHALL PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Meeting

Date: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012

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, J.Clark, J.Geer and R.Benoy.

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

Also present: Borough Councillor V.Webb, Press and Public

1. Apologies for absence – Apologies from County Councillor J.Davies and Borough Councillor B.Atwood.
2. Declaration of Interests – Councillor Simmons declared a personal interest because she knows Su Denne.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012 were agreed subject to a couple of typos which the Interim Clerk would amend before publication.
4. Session for County and Borough Councillors
  - 4.1 Borough Councillor Webb set out all the meetings he has attended and had list which could be viewed by Parish Councillors and the public. He said he was pleased the best option had been pursued on the recycling issue. The Commons conservators had recently completed the clearance. He intended to lobby Town & Country Cranwell Road decanting and the decision not to provide assistance for redecoration. He will to grant £200 to a local shop to provide materials for decorating for some of the tenants from Cranwell Road.Councillor Webb highlighted the recent Road Safety meeting and indicated that Councillor Derrick, the Councillor behind the campaign, would be contacting Parish Councils about persuading local schools to invite talks on road safety.
5. Open session for members of the public.

There was a suggestion that St Pauls Street be swept once per month. The Chairman advised she would contact the Borough Council Streetscene Service.

A member of the public suggested the bins at Parsonage Road and Lower Green Road should be replaced with bins with lids as foxes often pulled the contents out of them. Again the Chairman advised she would speak to the Borough Council Streetscene Service.

Councillor Benoy advised there was a plan to put another bin at the top of Harmony Street.

A request was made for a bulk refuse collection. The Chairman advised she will speak to the Borough Council Streetscene Service.

A question was asked about the Fire Station. The Chairman confirmed it was now closed. In response to a further question about ownership of the building the Chairman confirmed Kent Fire and Rescue owned the building.

## 6. Rusthall Football Club

6.1 Mr John Ronaldson gave a talk about the proposed planning application by Rusthall Football Club. The application was for a new driveway on Lemington Road. One of the main reasons for the club wanting to have a new driveway was it was justified on health and safety grounds as there was currently a danger particularly for children with the current access.

Mr Ronaldson talked to the meeting about the football club including that there were 400 players covering all ages and one ladies team.

## 7. Report from the Planning Committee.

7.1 The report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee (Councillor Edwards) set the Parish Council's statutory responses to one application which had been received since the last meeting. This was in fact the application by the football club referred to at item 6. The Planning Committee had recommended approval by Officer delegated powers.

## 8. Appointment to the Planning Committee – The Council resolved unanimously to appoint Councillor Benoy to the Planning Committee.

## 9. Parish Clerk update

Mr Cummins reported that the Recruitment Panel consisting of Cllrs Blackburn, Elwood, Codd, Simmons and himself as Interim Clerk had shortlisted a number of

candidates for the post of Parish Clerk. The Panel had interviewed the shortlisted candidates on the 29<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March. All the shortlisted candidates did well at interview and demonstrated many of the skills required however the Panel unanimously thought one of the candidates (Ms Su Denne) stood out and therefore would be recommending her appointment to the Council. This item would be taken later on the agenda as an item of confidential business including a discussion of the terms and conditions of contract that the Panel would propose.

## 10. Appointment of Internal Auditor

On the recommendation of Mr Cummins the Council agreed to the appointment of Ms Zoe Jagniaszek of the Finance Section, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

## 11. Cheques/Payments

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

Balance brought forward - £4,040.57\*

\*Balances over £2,000 attract interest under the terms of the Council's banking arrangements with the Co-operative Bank. The recent bank statement shows the Council has received a total £3.70 in interest up until 18 January 2012.

11.1 The payments set out below were approved/noted as appropriate.

Date	Payee	Description	Cheque Number	Amount	Balance
12/03/12	Viking Payments	Salt Spreader	100024	£191.99	£3,848.58
12/03/12	United Reform Church	Hall Hire	100025	£30.00	£3,818.58
12/03/12	Keypoint - Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Village Survey Analysis	100026	£300.00	£3,518.58
12/03/12	Action with Communities in Rural Kent	ARK Membership	100027	£35.00	£3,483.58

11.2 It was also agreed to incur expenditure up to £1,000 (as per the budget) to purchase a laptop computer, mobile phone and software for use by the Parish Clerk.

## 12. Consideration of any Urgent Business

The Chairman reminded the Council and those members of the public present of the availability of Jubilee grants.

A summary of local issues including gulley cleaning in the High Street and traffic calming issues were noted.

Councillor Benoy advised he can be contacted regarding information about the village fete and bonfire as well as the proposed walking carnival. Councillor Benoy also informed the meeting of the possibility of a farmers market for Rusthall.

### **Confidential Business**

The Parish Council then discussed in private session the appointment of the Parish Clerk including the starting salary.

Upon the recommendation of the Interview Panel the Parish Council resolved to offer the position of Parish Clerk to Ms Su Denne to commence on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012.

Date of the next meeting Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Rusthall.