

**Minutes of The Full Council Meeting held at The Rackliff Centre on
Monday 7th February 2022 at 7.30pm**

Members Present:

Cllr Liz Ellicott, Chair; Cllr B Edwards, Vice Chairman; Cllr A Britcher-Allan, Cllr C Ducklin, Cllr D Smith, Cllr A Taylor and Cllr D Funnell.

Officers Present:

Alison Stevens, Locum Clerk

Others and Members of the Public:

Mrs Jennifer Jadia (Citizens Advice, Tunbridge Wells) and three members of the public were also present.

- 1. Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting**
No one present filmed, photographed or recorded the meeting.
- 2. To receive and approve apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Gripper and M O'Callaghan. The reasons for their apologies were accepted by the Full Council.
- 3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**
Councillor A Britcher-Allan and D Funnell declared a prejudicial interest in item 15 because they are both serving Borough Councillors.
- 4. Declarations of Lobbying**
None.
- 5. Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 13th December 2021**
The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 13th December 2021 were agreed, and it was RESOLVED that the Chair sign them as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
5.1 Matters outstanding from these minutes (not listed as separate items). None.
5.2 Matters outstanding from previous minutes. None.
- 6. Jennifer Jadia, From Citizens Advice, Tunbridge Wells and District**
The Chair introduced Mrs Jadia and said the Parish Council gives Citizens Advice a generous donation each year and really appreciates the work it does.

Mrs Jadia said Citizens Advice;

- Had to take on board remote meetings and home working during Covid but is now gradually moving back to face to face meetings.
- Is located at Southborough, Royal Victoria Place and the Kitchen Table Community Café.
- Is looking to expand into rural areas and it would also like to have someone at The Community Larder.
- Needs more volunteers. There are currently between 10 and 12.
- Helped 136 residents from Rusthall during lockdown.
- Has three core projects which are Money and Mental Health, Involve Wellbeing (for over 55s with complex needs) and Council Tax Debt.

- Is applying for grant funding to employ a permanent member of staff.

In answer to Councillor's questions, Mrs Jadia confirmed;

- The number of telephone calls is expected to reduce now that face to face meetings have resumed.
- They used to also be based in Doctor's Surgeries but had to withdraw because of lockdown. Councillors agreed the one in Rusthall seemed particularly successful.
- They would very much like to link up with The Community Larder and agreed to talk to Councillor A Britcher-Allan who is involved with the project.

7. Open session for questions from the public

Mr Barber;

- Also thanked Mrs Jadia for all the work she does and suggested advertising for volunteers in Rusthall Life.
- Put forward the Rackliff Centre as a location for surgeries but the Rackliff Centre has other bookings.
- Congratulated the Parish Council on getting the incursion works at the Cricket Ground done.
- Has had second thoughts about the location he suggested for the crossing at The Langton Road because it would not be very practical for wheelchair users, the elderly or those who have pushchairs but he would still like to know if the Parish Council has any updates yet.

At the latest Finance Meeting, Councillor O'Callaghan said he has spoken to the County Councillor who said officers have yet to receive a quote but he will keep chasing for updates.

Mrs Foster;

- Thanked the Parish Council for getting the pavements swept.
- Announced Speedwatch is starting up again on the 8th February and it will be able to start policing the new 20mph zone from March.
- Thanked the Parish Council for reporting the graffiti on a garage door she owns to the police.

8. Session for County and Borough Councillor on matters concerning the Parish

Councillor Funnell said he was pleased to be able to help a local family move to a larger property recently. The family are also happy. Other problems he has dealt with included potholes and pavements.

Councillor Britcher-Allan;

- Has received no further updates about the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) or the roadside mirrors. The Locum Clerk said she will chase the appropriate authorities for updates.
- Confirmed that moving the staff at The Amelia Scott to the library is not part of their plans.

9. Finance update

9.1: To adopt the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on the 31st January 2022 - Councillors RESOLVED to adopt the draft Minutes. The precept for 2022-23 is to stay at £79000.

9.2: To formally appoint Chris May as Locum Responsible Finance Officer – Councillors RESOLVED to appoint Chris May as their Locum Responsible Finance Officer.

9.3: Accounts for Payment; To authorise the payment of invoices – Councillors RESOLVED to approve the list of payments dated 5th February 2022 (see attached).

10. Environment Committee

10.1 To adopt the minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on the 17th January 2022 - Councillors RESOLVED to adopt the draft Minutes.

10.2 To proclaim a Climate Emergency – Councillors RESOLVED to adopt the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Declaration dated February 2022.

11. High Street Crossing

Councillor Taylor said she has received reports of some near misses caused by cars overtaking at the crossing and asked if would be possible to have a pelican crossing there.

The Locum Clerk said she will ask KCC, and in the meantime she will also make the PCSO aware so they can patrol the area more frequently. The matter was then referred to the next Highways Meeting.

12. Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – The Working Party met on the 27th January and considered the following ways the Parish Council can help celebrate the Jubilee, namely;

- i. Light a beacon on The Common – this would need permission from the Conservators as well as a licence, stewards and ideally a larger beacon.
- ii. Light the existing beacon at The Rackliff Centre which is owned by the Parish Council and therefore easier and cheaper.
- iii. Decorations in the High Street – bunting on lamp posts would cost £60 per lamp post and a licence would be required from KCC.

Councillors RESOLVED unanimously to;

- i. Light a beacon on the Rackliff forecourt on the first day of the celebrations and open up the hall for a low key social gathering after.
- ii. Ask the contractor who provided the Christmas lighting to decorate ten lamp posts in the High Street with bunting at a cost of £60 per lamp post.

13. Defibrillator Update – The Locum Clerk and Deputy Clerk carried out a risk assessment of the defibrillators in the parish and found the defibrillators at the URC and Sunnyside both had full batteries.

Councillors RESOLVED to ask the Parish Council’s contractor to fit the defibrillator which is currently at The Rackliff Centre, at The Toad. The battery needs replacing first so Councillors authorised the Locum Clerk to buy a new one.

14. PCSO Update – The Parish Council no longer has a dedicated PCSO but it has a PCSO it can contact if it needs to. The contact for Rusthall Parish Council is PCSO Ewan McKim.

15. Boundary Commission Ward Review – The Boundary Commission for England is reviewing Borough Councillor boundaries in Tunbridge Wells. It is the first review in twenty years and will reduce the number of Borough Councillors by 9. It is critical for Rusthall because if it goes ahead it will mean Rusthall, from a Borough Council perspective, might be merged and lose its unique identity.

Comments can be made on line at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk>, or by post to the Review Officer (Tunbridge Wells), LGBCE, P.O.Box 133, Blyth NE24 9FE. The consultation ends on the 21st March 2022.

Councillors RESOLVED to respond individually and ask residents to do the same. The statutory criteria relevant to Rusthall is ‘Community Identities and Interests’ ie; include

schools, places of worship, the topography, shops, The Parish Council, what goes on in the Parish and the fact it is an ancient settlement. Rusthall appears in an early Saxon charter.

16. Chair's Report – Cllr Ellicott;

- i. Confirmed she has submitted an article for the back page of the Rusthall Life.
- ii. Reported that the incursion work at the Cricket Club is now finished and came in on budget. Mr Cheek from the Cricket Club has agreed to attend the next Parish Council.

17. Officers' Report - Officer Stevens said the memorial rowan has died and was referred to the Conservators at The Common to see if they can help.

Councillor Britcher-Allan asked for an update on the ECV Point at the allotments. The Locum Clerk will chase for one.

18. Diary Dates

7 th March 2022	7.30pm	Full Council Committee Meeting
14 th March 2022	7.30pm	Finance Committee.
25 th April 2022	7.30pm	Environment Committee Meeting

19. Items for Information

None.

20. Next meeting of Full Council -

7 th March 2022	7.30pm	The Rackliff Centre
----------------------------	--------	---------------------

The meeting closed at 9.02pm

..... Chairman

Dated

List of Payments made between 01/02/2022 and 28/02/2022

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
1/02/2022	EE	DD	47.64		Mobile
7/02/2022	NEST	DD	25.51		Pension contributions
7/02/2022	LANGTON LIFE LTD	BACS	480.00		Advertisement Rusthall Life
7/02/2022	CASTLE WATER	BACS	40.22		Late payment charge
7/02/2022	Honnington Farms	BACS	5,640.00		Rusthall Cricket security
7/02/2022	VIKING	BACS	46.74		Stationery
7/02/2022	Festive Decorations Ltd	BACS	1,344.00		Festive Decorations Ltd
7/02/2022	C May	BACS	380.00		Locum RFO
7/02/2022	Alison Stevens	BACS	1,443.30		Locum Clerk Jan
7/02/2022	The Living Forest	BACS	3,604.80		Allotment tree maintenance
Total Payments			<u>13,052.21</u>		