

**Minutes of The Full Council Meeting held at The Rackliff Centre on
Monday 11th September 2023 at 7.30pm**

Members Present:

Cllr Mark O’Callaghan, Vice Chair; Cllr C Ducklin; Cllr A Funnell; Cllr D Funnell; Cllr P Gripper and Cllr D Smith.

Officers Present:

Linda Neusten; Deputy Clerk

Others and Members of the Public:

Three members of the public were also present.

1. Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting

The Deputy Clerk recorded the meeting for the purpose of writing up the minutes. The recording is to be deleted once minutes are approved.

2. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Cllr Liz Ellicott; Cllr Alex Britcher-Allan; Cllr Barry Edwards. The reasons for their apologies were accepted unanimously.

3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Cllr Paul Gripper is a friend of one of the disabled parking applicants.
Cllrs Angela & Dave Funnell are both members of the Bonfire and Fete Committee.
Cllr Doug Smith is an Allotment holder.

4. Declarations of Lobbying

Cllrs Angela & Dave Funnell – both received emails re disabled parking request

5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th July 2023

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th July 2023 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. Open session for questions from the public

Mr Mick Heasman, Chair of the local Speedwatch group said;

- Reference Agenda item 12. Calming measures – Cranwell Rd: Mick informed the meeting that Kent Speedwatch guidelines state that there must be a clear line of vision for a Speedwatch activity to take place. This isn’t possible in Cranwell Rd, due to on street parking on both sides of the road.
- Mick has previously written to TWBC regarding traffic calming measures in the village which have been previously reviewed and as yet no follow up.
- 20mph, ongoing issues regarding signage of 20mph zone which currently do not meet traffic regulations. KCC have been contacted and as yet no response has been received regarding these being improved or for the Parish Council to ‘self-manage’ bringing them up to the required standard. It was suggested that maybe the Council should respond that ‘ we will self-manage unless we hear to the contrary’.

Ms Helen Foster said:-

- Has still not had a reply regarding tree that was ‘illegally’ taken down in the garden next to The Red Lion public house. There has been no response from the Tree Man or from Parish Council. She would like this followed up.
- Meadow Road – hedge adjacent to the betting shop is sprouting long bramble branches, these are a hazard to pedestrians. The betting shop has been asked to cut these back. Cllr Paul Gripper to speak to betting shop and offer to cut these backs.
- Lower Green Road – repair to badger damage of wall. Repairers have run out of stones and the repair will be finished in due course.

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

There was no report from either County Councillor McInroy or Borough Councillors Sharrett or Britcher-Allan on this occasion.

8. Finance update – Cllr O’Callaghan was happy there was nothing to report on the accounts.

8.1: Accounts for Payment – Councillors RESOLVED to pay the following;

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
01/08/2023	EE	DD	59.54		Mobiles
01/08/2023	C May	BACS	154.00		Locum RFO
08/08/2023	COLLIBROOK	BACS	138.00		Boiler service
08/08/2023	Doug Smith	BACS	23.58		Allotment expenses
08/08/2023	KALC	BACS	60.00		Training
08/08/2023	HMRC	BACS	685.53		NI & Tax
08/08/2023	Wild at Hart	BACS	50.00		Wasp nest removal
08/08/2023	Wild at Hart	BACS	45.00		Wasp nest removal
08/08/2023	CAPEL GROUNDCARE	BACS	449.12		Monthly contract
08/08/2023	CAPEL GROUNDCARE	BACS	252.00		Clear overgrown plot
08/08/2023	K Watson	BACS	441.00		Dropped kerb application
08/08/2023	B Edwards	BACS	27.88		Reimbursement (History)
08/08/2023	LANGTON LIFE LTD	BACS	750.00		Rusthall advert
08/08/2023	S French	BACS	13.74		Reimbursement
08/08/2023	KCS	BACS	186.34		Photocopier
08/08/2023	Linda Neusten	BACS	6.58		Reimbursement
16/08/2023	Mastercard	Top up	75.91		Bring balance to zero
17/08/2023	D Maxwell	BACS	170.00		Weed spraying
17/08/2023	Mrs L Ashworth	BACS	30.00		Refund plot deposit
17/08/2023	Kevin Watson	BACS	441.00		Reimbursement Kerb
17/08/2023	GTW SERVICES	BACS	162.00		Water Hanging baskets
17/08/2023	The Cleaning Lady	BACS	78.00		Rackliff cleaning
17/08/2023	MICROSHADE	BACS	322.44		Hosting
17/08/2023	Crossways	BACS	150.00		Allotment strimming
18/08/2023	Employees	BACS	3,469.43		Salaries
18/08/2023	Employees	BACS	-3,469.43		Reversal incorrect amount
18/08/2023	Employees	BACS	3,365.22		Salaries
22/08/2023	BT GROUP PLC	DD	96.04		Telephone/BB
Total Payments			8,232.92		

List of Payments made between 01/09/2023 and 30/09/2023

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
01/09/2023	EE	DD	59.54		Mobiles
04/09/2023	NEST	DD	182.38		Pension
12/09/2023	Little Loads	BACS	90.00		Rubbish Collection Rackliff
12/09/2023	C May	BACS	99.00		Locum RFO
12/09/2023	KALC	BACS	84.00		Clerks Conference
12/09/2023	MICROSHADE	BACS	322.44		Hosting
12/09/2023	CAPEL GROUNDCARE	BACS	449.12		Allotment maintenance
12/09/2023	VIKING	BACS	128.38		Stationery
12/09/2023	HMRC	BACS	973.08		Tax & NI
12/09/2023	KCS	BACS	140.71		Photocopier
18/09/2023	SSE	DD	297.63		Rackliff Gas
20/09/2023	Employees	BACS	3,063.79		Salaries
29/09/2023	Unity Bank	DD	33.60		Bank charges
Total Payments			<u>5,923.67</u>		

8.2 Christmas Lights: It was RESOLVED to accept the quote of £2560 from Festive Decorations Ltd to prepare, install, and take down Christmas lights on 10 lamp posts along Rusthall village high street. Deputy Clerk was asked to submit a short list of lighting designs for the councillors to choose from.

8.3 Grant Application: It was RESOLVED to award the Grant request of £450 to Rusthall Bonfire and Fete Committee for family entertainment at the Summer Fete. (Cllrs on Bonfire & Fete committee abstained).

8.4 Dropped Kerb: It was RESOLVED to accept £200 cost of painting white lines to mark the new dropped kerb at Southwood Road allotments.

9 Allotments Committee:

9.1 It was RESOLVED to accept the quotes totalling £3000 from B.Akehurst to install the dropped kerb, and tarmac the adjacent grass verge at Southwood Road Allotments.

9.2 It was RESOLVED to accept the UKSPF Grant agreement, its terms and conditions. Which Cllr Mark O’Callaghan, as Vice Chairman duly signed on behalf of the Council. A vote of thanks was offered to Cllr Liz Ellicott who completed the complex Grant application.

10. Planning Committee Meeting

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting on 12th June 2023.

11. Defibrillator Update – The defibrillator at Toad Rock is in good working order. No update regarding the one at URC church.

12. Highways Updates:

12.1 It was RESOLVED to approve the applications for the disabled parking bay in Erskine Park Road and Valley Road. (Cllr Paul Gripper abstained from the Erskine Pk Rd vote).

12.2 Emerging Local Traffic Plan: Cllr Paul Gripper reported that there is a KCC consultation document available to review and comment on, date closes on Monday 18th Sept.

12.3 Traffic Calming in Cranwell Road: Cllr Paul Gripper will reply to the resident who wrote to bring issues to the Council’s attention.

12.4 Pedestrian crossing on A264. Cllr Paul Gripper reported a disappointing response to his letter. Responses within the letter do not consider public safety but are data driven. The Commons Conservators Committee are working towards a standard speed limit of 30 mph across both Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons. Cllr Paul Gripper would like

the issue is moved on and plans to set up a meeting here in the village with KCC Cllr James McInvoy, Nigel Rowe and Emma Tilbury to illustrate and discuss the issues and open discussion about available options to implement effective traffic calming. Cllr Paul Gripper has also written to MP Greg Clark seeking his support. Cllr Paul Gripper also plans to raise the issue of the incomplete implementation of the 20mph speed limits around the village.

13. Commons Conservators: It was RESOLVED to accept the offer to relocate a bench from Tunbridge Wells Common to the grassed area in front of St Pauls Church near the red chestnut tree.

14. Rusthall Volunteers: Cllr Mark O’Callaghan stated there were no updates to report. He will be sending out a letter and has spoken to Cllr Warne from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council who has shown interested.

15. Rusthall Civic Plaque Nominations: Cllr Dave Funnell proposed a schedule of candidates for the erection of a civic plaque.
The candidates suggested are:
Denis Penfold – History Society
Mark Rees – Involvement with national transgender policy
Roy and Rhoda Radcliff - Large donation of funds to the Council.
The Council RESOLVED to initially proceed with planning for a plaque for Denis Penfold in consultation with his family, with additional plaques to be installed in the future.

16. Chair’s Report – Councillor Ellicott met with Conservators regarding Big Litter pick to take place on morning of 28th October.

17. Officers’ Report – Deputy Clerk Linda Neusten reported:-

- That Clerk Alison Stevens had met with CEO of KALC to promote activities being carried out here in Rusthall Parish Council.
- That a Staff meeting was held to review the restructure implemented 12 weeks ago. Meetings will now be held regularly every 3 months.

18. Diary Dates

2 nd October 2023	7.30pm	Allotments Committee Meeting
9 th October 2023	7.30pm	Full Council
23 rd October 2023	7.30pm	Environment Committee

19. Items for Information:

- Cllr Dave Funnell reported recent social media reports of a tree being felled in Southwood Road and that the debris was ‘chucked over into the car park’.
- Cllr Angela Funnell drew the Council’s attention to the “excellent” training courses available for Councillors.

22. Next meeting of Full Council -
9th October 2023 7.30pm The Rackliff Centre

There was no further business, and the meeting closed at 9.14pm.

Chairman

Dated