

**Minutes of The Full Council Meeting held at The Rackliff Centre on
Monday 5th December 2022 at 7.30pm**

Members Present:

Cllr Liz Ellicott, Chair; Cllr Barry Edwards, Vice Chair; Cllr Alex Britcher-Allan, Cllr Chris Ducklin, Cllr Paul Gripper and Cllr M O'Callaghan.

Officers Present:

Alison Stevens, Locum Clerk

Others and Members of the Public:

There were two members of the public present.

The Chair began by paying tribute to Dennis Penfold who died recently. Mr Penfold was Chair of the History Group and a well-respected member of the community.

1. Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting
No one present filmed, photographed or recorded this meeting.

2. To receive and approve apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Funnell and Smith. The reasons for their apologies were accepted by the Full Council.

3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests
Cllr Edwards declared a personal interest and did not vote on items 8.2i, 8.2ii, 8.iii and 8.2iv.

4. Declarations of Lobbying
There were no declarations of lobbying.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 7th November 2022
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 7th November 2022 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
Ms Foster;

- thanked Councillor Gripper for clearing the debris which had fallen across the footpath in Lower Green Road.
- asked for updates on a number of highways issues. Cllr Gripper said he has referred them to Highways who requested an updated Highways Improvement Plan, which he has completed and returned.

7. Session for County and Borough Councillor on matters concerning the Parish
The Chairman read County Councillor McInroy's report which confirmed the position with the issues raised by Ms Foster.

Borough Councillor Britcher-Allan said;

- The Reclaim the Night walk went well.

- Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is to vote on the Electoral Review on the 14th December.

Borough Councillor Funnell sent a written report in which he said;
 ‘During the last month I have reported a broken bench on the High Street, two lamp posts that are not working and various potholes, kerb stones and pavements. I have also done Speedwatch sessions and helped with the Senior Lunch Club and supported the Reclaim the Night event. Unfortunately due to work I was not able to attend the walk from Rusthall but I did go straight from work to The Pantiles to meet up with the walkers and listen to their concerns.

I have also attended meetings of the Communities and Economic Development Cabinet Advisory Board, Licensing Committee and tonight I am at a meeting of The General Purposes Committee, as well as meetings at the Rackliff Centre.’

8. Finance update –

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

				£	
02/12/2022	EE	DD	52.06	Mobile	
06/12/2022	Microshade	BACS	239.98	Computer hosting	
06/12/2022	P Goldsmith	BACS	3.95	Reimbursed expenses	
06/12/2022	Castle Water	BACS	224.13	Rackliff Water	
06/12/2022	Capel Groundcare	BACS	436.03	Allotments Maint – October	
06/12/2022	Capel Groundcare	BACS	436.03	Allotments Maint – November	
06/12/2022	Su Denne	BACS	434.31	Back Dated Pay	
06/12/2022	Rialtas	BACS	240.00	Training	
06/12/2022	Langton Life	BACS	750.00	Magazine	
06/12/2022	Alison Stevens	BACS	2376.60	Locum Clerk	
06/12/2022	C May	BACS	140.00	Locum RFO	
08/12/2022	NEST	DD	40.65	Pensions	
08/12/2022	HMRC	BACS	20.74	NI & Tax	
12/12/2022	PWLB	DD	3388.65	Loan Repayment	
13/12/2022	Castle Water	DD	485.21	Allotments Water	
20/12/2022	K Watson	BACS	1183.32	Salary	
20/12/2022	Linda Neusten	BACS	1255.71	Salary	

It was also resolved to pay an invoice of £72 to The Cleaning Lady.

8.2 Councillors RESOLVED to award the following grants;

- Rusthall Bonfire and Fete Committee – Entertainment for the bonfire - £550.
- Rusthall Bonfire and Fete Committee – Monthly Coffee Morning - £600.
- Rusthall Bonfire and Fete Committee – Christmas Tree and Entertainment - £350.
- Rusthall Bonfire and Fete Committee – New Gazebos - £500.
- The Counselling Centre – Contribution to its running costs - £300.
- Rusthall Lunch Club – Christmas Lunch - £600.
- British Legion Donation – Wooden Crosses - £150.

£2500 will be funded from the Local Charities budget and the balance will be taken from the Contingency Fund.

8.3 It was RESOLVED to increase the Locum Finance Officer payment from £20 to £22 an hour.

- 9. Environment Committee - It was RESOLVED;**
- i. To adopt the draft minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on the 31st October 2022.
 - ii. That Councillor O’Callaghan will join the Environment Committee.
- 10. Allotments Committee –**
- 10.1** It was RESOLVED to adopt the draft minutes of the Extra Ordinary Allotment Committee Meeting held on the 21st November 2022.
- 10.2** Councillors RESOLVED to accept the price of £55 from Dermot Maxwell to carry out the work needed on allotment WG28 as long as the pesticides used are as safe as they can be for local wildlife and pets.
- 11. Rackliff Centre –** At the last meeting Councillor O’Callaghan offered to find out how much it would cost to paint ‘dog bones’ (white ‘h’ shaped lines) at the rear of The Rackliff. As a result of his query, Kent County Council has painted the lines free of charge. The lines were needed to help make it easier for the mini bus to be driven in and out of the rear of The Rackliff Centre.
- 12. Defibrillator Update –** Councillor Britcher-Allan said she has yet to check the defibrillator at the United Reform Church but a quick visual inspection gave her no cause for concern.
- Councillor O’Callaghan confirmed he has checked the one at the Toad since the last meeting and found it to be sound.
- 13. St Paul’s School –** St Paul’s School has offered to meet Councillors Ellicott and O’Callaghan over a Teams Meeting. The Parish Council is still trying to arrange a mutually convenient date.
- 14. Rusthall Library Archaeological Display –** Councillors Ellicott and O’Callaghan met the Library Manager and the archaeologist on the 23rd November at the library because the archaeologist has some local artefacts he would like to store there. The Friends of the Conservators have agreed to finance the display subject to the Parish Council’s approval.
- Councillors RESOLVED unanimously to support the proposal.
- 15. Rusthall Warm Banks –** Councillor Funnell has drafted a list of places members of the public can go to, to help them save money on their home energy bills. Councillors agreed the list should only include places that are free to attend. The amended list will be added to the Parish Council’s website.
- The first Tea and Toast Session was held on the 2nd December and it was well attended. More volunteers are needed to help set it up and put things away after.
- 16. TWBC Litter Bins –** Councillors RESOLVED to ask TWBC to relocate one of the litter bins in Common View to the top of the Tarry path and remove the other completely for now because both bins are being regularly filled with domestic waste and foxes rummage in them which spreads rubbish over a large area.
- 17. Medical Centre –** Cllr Ellicott read the following report submitted by Cllr Smith; ‘Earlier this year Dr Langridge left to join a practice nearer her home in Goudhurst. The Clinical Commissioning Group then imposed a block on any new patients being accepted as we had a total of 7000 patients to 5 doctors.

Early February next year Dr Powell-Jackson will go on maternity leave. To help cover her appointments and one day a week visits to Rusthall Lodge Dr Mike Harvey from the Amhurst Surgery will provide some part time cover.

However, the good news is that Dr Yusra Husaini will start a permanent position in January to take over the patient list of Dr Langridge.

In addition to these extra appointments in recent months the practice now employs a permanent Prescribing Paramedic.

The backdrop to all these staff changes is the unrelenting pressure for appointments post-pandemic. Fuelled not by physical illness but mental.

Patients are clogging up doctor's surgeries because the referral waiting list to get expert help is years rather than months. Most of these patients are young people.'

18. Highways –

- i. Councillors RESOLVED to replace a mirror on private land at the junction of Ashley Park and Lower Green Road. The landowner has given verbal permission and will be asked to sign a disclaimer.
- ii. The Parish Council has asked for prices to update the security measures at the trough and plans to report back to the next meeting.

19. Chair's Report – Cllr Ellicott said;

- She represented the Parish Council at the Remembrance Day Service held at St Pauls Church. Cllr Edwards represented the Parish Council at the one in Tunbridge Wells.
- All the allotment holders now have their new keys thanks to help from Cllrs Gripper, Smith and Edwards and Ms French.

20. Officers' Report – Officer Stevens had nothing more to add at this stage.

21. Diary Dates

5 th Jan 2023	7.30pm	Full Council Meeting
12 th Dec 2022	7.30pm	Allotments Christmas Event
19 th Dec 2023	7.30pm	Environment Christmas Event
16 th Jan 2023	7.30pm	Highways Committee Meeting
13 th Mar 2023	7.30pm	Finance Committee Meeting

22. Items for Information – Councillor Edwards asked if anything can be done to stop so many adverts coming through on his Council iPad. The Locum Clerk will ask Microshade if they can help.

Councillor Britcher-Allan said the Community Larder is going well. Numbers are increasing and between 60 and 70 people now attend each week.

Councillor Ducklin asked for an update on KCC finances following concerns he had after hearing reports it is close to bankruptcy.

23. Next meeting of Full Council -

5th Jan 2023 7.30pm The Rackliff Centre

There was no further business, and the meeting closed at 8.32pm.

..... Chairman

Dated