

Minutes of The Full Council Meeting held on

Monday 8th March 2021 at 7.30 pm Conducted Online Via Zoom

Members Present:

Cllr B Edwards (Chairman), Cllr A Britcher - Allan, Cllr E Ellicott, Cllr C Ducklin and Cllr M O'Callaghan

Officers Present:

S Denne and K Watson

In Attendance:

Kent County Cllr McInroy and Tunbridge Wells Borough Cllr Podbury

Members of the Public:

Three

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

No-one present intended to film, photograph and/or record the meeting.

2. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Cllr D Smith, Cllr D Funnell

3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

4. Declarations of Lobbying

None

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2021

These were agreed, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman signed them as a true record

5.1 Matters outstanding from these minutes (not listed as separate agenda items): Due to Cllr Funnell absence the update regarding Town & Country Housing charging fees to residents for the upkeep of land between Grange Gardens and Grange Road remains outstanding and was postponed until the next Full Council meeting.

5.2 Matters outstanding from previous minutes:

None

6. Open session for questions from the public:

Following the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) Planning Meeting regarding development of the land at Southwood Road Rec a member of the public enquired as to why there was no Neighbourhood Plan? Cllr Edwards explained the Parish has very little land which can be used for development and the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan was discussed and dismissed ago on the basis it can take up to 2 years to complete with a potential cost of

£35/40,000. Also, the Neighbourhood Plan is outweighed by TWBC Local Plan anyway. It should be noted the land in question is located within Speldhurst Parish Council.

Cllr Edwards confirmed the pathway outside the development near the Red Lion should be left in a good state of repair upon completion of the development.

It is anticipated Speedwatch should be able to re-commence on 29th March 2021. Mr M Heasman, our Speedwatch Co-Ordinator is to be invited to present at a future Council Meeting which will include details of enforcement for regular offenders once the 20mph Zone is live.

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

The Parish Clerk read an update from Cllr Funnell advising he is currently supporting a local family who are having issues with Town & Country Housing Association, liaising with Kent County Council (KCC) regarding the poor state of repair of Hill View Road pathways and attempting to get TWBC street cleaning team to clean the litter up and chewing gum in the High Street. He is also trying to source more graffiti cleaner for our use.

Cllr Podbury reported several members of the public in Speldhurst have expressed their anger at TWBC decision to approve development of Southwood Road Rec. The fire at Sevenoaks Recycling Centre is causing ongoing issues for local bin collections. Following representation, TWBC traffic car has been seen more frequently in Rusthall to combat the problems of vehicles parking on the existing double yellow lines. Evidence of the number of parking fines issued will be sourced and shared at the next Full Council Meeting. The issue of unpleasant bonfires being lit during the daytime should be raised with TWBC Environmental Health who act quickly and efficiently.

Cllr McInroy advised the KCC increased budget for 2021/2022 Tax Year of 4.9% has been agreed. There were only four objections to the proposed new 20mph Zone so formal approval should be completed in the next couple of weeks.

8. Grass Cutting Contract

Following tenders from eight businesses it was agreed to renew the contract for April 2021 to March 2024 with Capel Groundcare.

9. Finance

- i. Migration of Parish Council email accounts to Microshade was approved.
- ii. The new two-year mobile phones contract for the Parish Clerk and Deputy Clerk was approved.
- iii. A new grit bin for the Shirley Gardens/Shirley Grove junction was approved.
- iv. Purchase of a PDF convertor software package was approved on the basis all other options are explored in the interim.

10. Update by Deputy Clerk

Our High Street Survey with Survey Monkey launched last week and we have received nearly 250 responses so far. Our Capital Project submission has been acknowledged by KCC covering a new handrail and boardwalk for the path between Woodside Road - Coniston Avenue and a partnership request with the Friends of Rusthall and Tunbridge Wells Common to provide wheelchair and pram accessible path, with improvement of drainage and surface for all users at Happy Valley.

11. To Discuss Extension of Remote Meetings

Following a request from the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) it was agreed we would rephrase our previous submission to Greg Clark, MP for Tunbridge Wells requesting extension of our ability to hold remote meetings. Cllr Butcher-Allan requested we add the accessibility advantage remote meetings provide and in the modern era this is the ideal opportunity to allow flexibility.

12. To Discuss the future of RPC owned land on Salomons Road

Cllr Britcher-Allan suggested we create a safe outside space for use by the community thus making it available for anyone hiring the Rackliff Centre. Cllrs Edwards and Butcher-Allan are to explore opportunities and report back to Full Council in due course.

13. To Agree to updated Standing Orders and Assets Register

There was no Assets Register provided this month. The Standing Orders were approved with 3F being changed back to 15 minutes. The Corporate Chargecard limit has been increased to £500.

14. To Discuss Recording Meetings

It was agreed we will not record meetings for the foreseeable future. Members of the public are able to record meetings should they wish as per Item 1 on our standard Meeting Agenda.

15. Chair's Report Nothing to report.

16. Clerk's Report

Our PCSO will be invited to the next Full Council Meeting to provide an update on the unsocial behaviour recently, including the alleged drug taking at Southwood Road Rec. Pre-meeting questions will be sought from the public and presented by the Clerk. TWBC have confirmed they didn't receive 10 signatures; therefore, we are able to co-opt to fill our Cllr vacancy.

17. Diary Dates

Planning Meeting is due 10th March 2021. The Clerk and Deputy Clerk are attending end-of-year accounts training by KALC tomorrow. Cllrs are invited to attend the Rackliff Centre on 10th March 2021 to provide wet signatures for the various Meeting Minutes approved this year.

18. Accounts for Payment – to authorise the payment of invoices as listed (to follow) Approved.

19. Items for Information

Cllr Britcher-Allan provide an update on marker research conducted for the Community Larder proving once more its success to date. Cllr Ellicott mentioned St. Paul's School now have a collection point for recycled clothes, textiles and shoes.

Date of Next Meeting – 12th April 2021

The meeting closed at 915pm

..... Chairman Dated

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ACCOUNT PAYMENTS

| DATE | NAME | DETAILS | DEBIT | CREDIT |
|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 05-Mar-21 | B/P to: K. Watson | SLCC MEMBERSHIP | -140 | |
| 05-Mar-21 | B/P to: The Living Forest | Tree & Hedge works | -747.6 | |
| 04-Mar-21 | Direct Debit (EE LIMITED) | Mobile Phone | -47.06 | |
| 03-Mar-21 | Direct Debit (EE LIMITED) | Mobile Phone | -34.36 | |
| 01-Mar-21 | Staff | Salary Feb 21 | -1,390.16 | |
| 01-Mar-21 | Capel Groundcare | GRASS CUTTING | -399.33 | |
| 01-Mar-21 | S/O to: Microshade Bus Con | Computer Hosting | -102.6 | |
| 01-Mar-21 | Direct Debit (SOUTHERN ELECTRIC) | Utilities | -71.85 | |
| 26-Feb-21 | Staff | Salary Feb 21 | -571.74 | |
| 26-Feb-21 | Direct Debit (NEST) | Pensions | -83.95 | |
| 24-Feb-21 | B/P to: K. Watson | PC Monitor | -199.2 | |
| 24-Feb-21 | B/P to: KALC | Training | -84 | |
| 24-Feb-21 | B/P to: Initial | Sanitary Bins | -46.8 | |
| 24-Feb-21 | B/P to: KALC | Training | -42 | |
| 24-Feb-21 | B/P to: KCC | Fremlin Pond | -500 | |
| 24-Feb-21 | B/P to: Barnard & Westwood | Stationery | -235.57 | |
| 23-Feb-21 | Direct Debit (BT GROUP PLC) | Phone 7 Broadband | -60.4 | |
| 16-Feb-21 | Direct Debit (LLOYDS BANK PLC) | Corporate Card | -126.99 | |
| 16-Feb-21 | TUNBRIDGE WELLS BC | Covid Payment | | 4,000.00 |
| 16-Feb-21 | TUNBRIDGE WELLS BC | Covid Payment | | 2,001.00 |
| 15-Feb-21 | B/P to: Castle Water | Water Allotments | -348.67 | |
| 15-Feb-21 | Direct Debit (CASTLE WATER LTD) | Water RC | -28.06 | |
| 12-Feb-21 | B/P to: SurveyMonkeyEuroUC | VILLAGE SURVEY | -384 | |
| 09-Feb-21 | TUNBRIDGE WELLS BC | Covid Payment | | 1,334.00 |
| TOTAL | | | 5,644.34 | 7,335.00 |