

Minutes of The Full Council Meeting held on

Monday 12th April 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, Cllr D Smith, Cllr D Funnell and Cllr M O'Callaghan

Officers Present:

S Denne and K Watson

In Attendance:

Tunbridge Wells Borough Cllr Podbury

Members of the Public:

Three (including PCSO J Burt)

Special Announcement

Cllr B Edwards read out a prepared statement on behalf of the Parish Council paying tribute to the late Duke of Edinburgh and offering our condolences to the Queen and the Royal Family. The statement included COVID-19 guidance and confirmed there would be a Book of Condolence situated within St. Paul's Church Centre.

Cllr Podbury confirmed she has made a press announcement as Mayor on behalf of TWBC.
A minute's silence followed.

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
None.

3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Cllr Britcher-Allan expressed personal interest in Item 10 iv in view of her work with the Community Larder. Cllrs E Ellicott and D Smith expressed personal interest in Item 9 as they are both allotment holders.

4. Declarations of Lobbying

None.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 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): Cllr Edwards and Cllr Ellicott requested amendment of two errors against Items 12 and 19 due to the mistyping of Cllr Britcher-Allan's name. Cllr Edwards requested Item 13 be revised to confirm the Unity Trust Chargecard limit is now £500.

5.2 Matters outstanding from previous minutes:

Cllr Funnell confirmed he is still pursuing Town & Country Housing charging fees to residents for the upkeep of land between Grange Gardens and Grange Road and is raising this as a Stage 2 complaint. Officer Watson advised the ability to convert PDF to Word is

6. Open session for questions from the public:

Mrs H Foster confirmed Speedwatch has started again with 5 sessions conducted thus far and details of 16 regular offenders passed to the Police. The highest speed recorded was 42mph on Lower Green Road (limit is 30 mph currently). Mrs Foster has recently visited Paddock Wood and witnessed new pink road markings being used for speed awareness adjacent to a new housing development. It was suggested this could be an ideal solution for Rusthall Road once the new 20 mph Zone is launched.

Cllr Edwards invited PCSO Burt to speak. PCSO Burt confirmed he is now trained to use Speedwatch and is planning various visits with the local Police to enforce road safety, including on-the-spot fines. They will also look to enforce unsafe parking on double yellow lines especially around the High Street and Manor Road junctions. Cllr Britcher-Allan requested more visibility from TWBC Enforcement Officers and PCSO Burt agreed to pursue. Vandalism, including an increase in graffiti, is under investigation and several local residents have agreed to share any incidents captured on their personal CCTV. The current tag of "RHV", seen in Rusthall and across Tunbridge Wells, is thought to stand for "Rusthall Vandals". It was agreed an article to help combat vandalism will be added to the Parish Council Facebook page. Drug dealing is under investigation and PCSO Burt encouraged everyone to report any known incidents and locations to him. Cllr Funnell drew attention to anti-social behaviour by 3 very young youths in Allan Close who are riding a small motorbike and causing a nuisance. PCSO Burt is aware of the small car park in Edwards Street where known cannabis smoking is being undertaken. Cllr Funnell raised a similar recent incident at the small car park in Fremlin Close which PCSO Burt has agreed will be followed up.

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

Cllr Podbury reported this will be her last meeting as Mayor of TWBC and Borough Cllr and Cllr Edwards thanked her for the hard work and dedication during the last 6 years. Cllr Podbury confirmed her mayoral duties will cease on 26th May 2021. Cllr Podbury will remain as a member of the Rusthall Village Association and is becoming a Friends of the Common Committee Member on 14th April 2021.

Cllr Funnell provided an update now the travellers have been evicted from Rusthall Cricket Ground. TWBC Environmental Health have agreed to instructing specialists to disinfect the area. Officer Denne explained all local Parish Councils provide financial support to a TWBC Travellers Fund which is used to cover costs associated with cleaning sites following travellers' occupation. It is likely the latest round of local occupations across Tunbridge Wells Borough will lead to a further contribution next year. In addition, Cllr Funnell has reported fly tipping, abandoned cars, broken benches, broken kerb stones and various dangerous pot holes to TWBC since the last Full Council Meeting.

8. Tunbridge Wells Local Plan - Consultation

Officer Watson provided a summary of the recent site visit with Speldhurst Parish Council to the land proposed for development at Southwood Road Rec. A follow up Zoom meeting was conducted and several action points, objecting to the development, were proposed for approval by both Councils. It was approved that Officer Denne can progress investigation with Speldhurst Parish Council into obtaining costs associated with engaging a Planning Consultant.

9. Allotments

- i. Officer Watson provided the background to the Badgers Trust site visit to Southwood Road allotments under Item 8.
- ii. It was agreed Officer Denne will write to both allotment holders at Wickham Gardens and request immediate removal of the children's play equipment currently on-site.
- iii. To progress several proposed changes to the existing Tenancy Agreement a small working party of Cllrs Edwards, Smith, Ellicott and Britcher-Allan will meet to discuss the revisions required.

10. Finance

- i. Officer Denne read out a response from Fiona Payne, KCC Highways and Transport Schemes Project Manager advising the bid for funding for a new A264 pedestrian crossing (opposite St. Paul's Church) was unsuccessful but further opportunities will be available this financial year. It was agreed Officer Denne will explore how this can be achieved and any costs involved.
- ii. Approved.
- iii. Approved.
- iv. Cllr Britcher-Allan provided an overview of the services provided by the Hygiene Bank and an initial grant of £250 was approved.
- v. Approved.

11. Future Face to Face Meetings

- i. Whilst current legislation stipulates face to face meetings should return after 17th May 2021, the matter is subject to objections from numerous sources e.g. Greg Clark MP, TWBC, KALC, etc. A decision to hold face to face meetings after 17th May 2021 was deferred until next Full Council Meeting 10th May 2021.
- ii. To support our objections it was approved Officer Watson will share our previous letter to Greg Clark MP on the government "Call for Evidence" web site.

12. Chair's Report

Cllr Edwards has received one response thus far and the advice is to revisit the original Transfer Deed from TWBC to understand what restrictions are contained therein. Officer Denne is to investigate and report back at the next Full Council Meeting.

13. Clerk's Report

- i. An update was provided by PCSO Burt under Item 6.
- ii. Officer Watson confirmed "scan to email" is now available at the Rackliff Centre for all Cllrs.

Officer Denne expressed her gratitude for the personal support received. 3 applications have been received thus far for the 2 Co-Opted Cllr vacancies. £140 annual membership fee for ILCA was approved for the Deputy Clerk. Cllrs Edwards, Ellicott and Funnell have agreed to form a small working party to arrange installation of a "Bob Doe" memorial plaque at the former petrol station site.

14. Policy updates and Assets Register

Officer Denne advised the Complaints Policy has been updated to reflect COVID-19 restrictions regarding complaints in person. The review of the Assets Register remains outstanding

15. Deputy Clerk Probation

Unanimous approval was received to confirm the Deputy Clerk has passed his probation and Cllr Edwards formally welcomed him as an Officer of the Parish Council.

Parish Council Office Rackliff Centre 26 Lower Green Road Rusthall TN5 8TE

16. Deputy Clerk Report

i. We received 379 responses to the High Street Survey and Cllr Edwards confirmed this is over 10% of the electorate. Officer Watson will provide an analysis of the results at the next Full Council Meeting following which the Highways and Transport Committee will progress possible solutions. ii. Cllr Funnell agreed to progress our claim for funds from the government’s “Welcome Back Fund” (roadmap out of COVID-19 support) being offered through TWBC.

17. Diary Dates

Allotments Working Party on 16th April 2021 at 2pm.

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

19. Items for Information

Cllr Butcher-Allan provide an update on the Community Larder and expressed her sincere thanks to One Stop (top of Manor Road) for donating £286.27 from their recent Easter Egg draw.

Cllr Ellicott recently attended a Common Conservators Committee meeting. They have greatly improved the Marl pits pond and installed new steps at the site. They have agreed to install a new steel lockable bollard on Rusthall Cricket Pitch although unfortunately this was not in situ when the travellers arrived last week. The next Committee meeting is due in September and they would like to use the Rackliff Centre; Cllr Ellicott will ask the Committee to formally approach Officer Denne for this purpose. The Committee confirmed the new large wooden bin site on the Coach Road car layby will be emptied every Monday.

Cllr Funnell advised the land at Valley Road is still not being cut by contractors for Town & Country Housing Association and has received several complaints due to its untidiness. Officer Watson has agreed to research and identify the land owner.

Date of Next Meeting – 10th May 2021

The meeting closed at 935pm

..... *G.A. Ellicott* Chairman

Dated *10/5/21*

DATE	NAME	DETAILS	DEBIT	CREDIT
31-Mar-21	Service Charge		-18	
31-Mar-21	Direct Debit (NEST) Pensions		-83.95	
30-Mar-21	B/P to: Langton Life	Rusthall Life	-500	
30-Mar-21	B/P to: Woodcraft	Installation of Tanks	-1,965.00	
30-Mar-21	B/P to: KALC	Training	-84	
30-Mar-21	B/P to: KALC	Training	-42	
30-Mar-21	HMRC	Tax & NI	-358.2	
30-Mar-21	HMRC	Tax & NI	-358.2	
30-Mar-21	B/P to: Viking 2	PPE for Larder	-64.97	
30-Mar-21	B/P to: Microshade	Computer and Email Hosting	-159.58	
30-Mar-21	B/P to: EJP FIRE PR	Fire Alarm Fault	-72	
29-Mar-21	Staff	SALARY	-1,390.16	
26-Mar-21	Staff	SALARY	-571.74	
23-Mar-21	SPELDHURST PARIS	Stationery		98.16
22-Mar-21	Direct Debit (BT GR	Phone & Broadband	-72.24	
16-Mar-21	Fencer	FENCE WG	-1,342.00	
16-Mar-21	B/P to: Rialtas	ALLOTMENTS Software	-148.8	
16-Mar-21	Llyods Bank	Card	-128.45	
16-Mar-21	TUNBRIDGE WELLS	Payment		2,096.00
15-Mar-21	Plot Holder	Rent		28.75
15-Mar-21	Direct Debit (SCOTI	Utilities	-109.72	
12-Mar-21	Plot Holder	Rent		6.9
11-Mar-21	EMC Academy	Hire of Hall		334
11-Mar-21	GTW	Maintenance February	-484.25	
11-Mar-21	Fencer	FENCE WG	-3,970.00	
11-Mar-21	EE LIMITED	Credit note		34.36
TOTAL			-11923.3	2598.17

DATE	NAME	ITEM	DEBIT	CREDIT
08-Apr-21	B/P to: Capel Groundcare	Grass Cutting March	-399.32	
01-Apr-21	S/O to: Microshade Bus Con	Computer Hosting	-102.6	
01-Apr-21	Direct Debit (EE LIMITED)	Mobile Phones	-45.6	
TOTAL			-547.52	