

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 10th April 2017 at 7.30pm
IN THE RACKLIFF CENTRE LOWER GREEN ROAD**

Present:

Members Present: Cllrs, B Edwards (Chairman), J. Blackburn, A. Britcher, K. Punyer, J. Moore, M Fraser, R. Benoy and J. Clark.

Officer Present: S. Denne.

In Attendance: Borough Councillors Joy Podbury and County Councillor John Davies

Members of the Public: There were five members of the public present

1. **Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting** - None
2. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs M. Simmons (personal reasons).
3. **Declaration of Interests** – Cllr Edwards is a trustee of the RC&YP, item 13.v .
4. **Declarations of Lobbying** – None
5. **Minutes** of the meetings held on 13th March 2017 were agreed, and the Chairman signed them as a true record
- 5.2 **Matters outstanding from these minutes** (not listed as separate agenda items) Clerk still to investigate Tesco bag for Help and Cllr Benoy still to contact St John’s Ambulance re first aid training.
- 5.3 **Matters outstanding from previous minutes:** None
6. **Session for County and Borough Councillors** on matters concerning the Parish – Cllr Davies informed the members that the meeting was to be his last attendance to RPC. He thanked the members for their support and said that he enjoyed working with them. Cllr Podbury informed the members that Targetfollow, the property company which acquired the Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons in 2008 had submitted an application for a certificate of lawful development on the car park at the bottom of Major Yorks Road. This could be their first step in an attempt to de-register the site as Village Green land and then develop on it. A short article would be in the next issue of Rusthall Life. It was agreed that the RPC would add to the article. Cllr Davies informed the meeting that this was a serious issue as the site came under Village Green legislation. There would have to be a public enquiry. Cllr Benoy informed the members that Targetfollow’s option to purchase the Spa Golf Club, having paid £50,000, had been extended to December 2017. Cllr Podbury informed the members that she had been approached to join the Molyneux Alms Houses as a trustee.
7. **Committee Reports:** Finance Committee meeting was held on 16th March 2017, draft minutes have been circulated. Planning Committee meeting was held on 20th March 2017, draft minutes have been circulated. Allotment Committee meeting was held on 20th March 2017, draft minutes have been circulated.

8. Parish Policies and Assets register– It was resolved to adopt/update the following policies:

- i. Co-Option Policy
- ii. Media Policy
- iii. Lone Worker Policy
- iv. Code of Conduct Policy
- v. The Assets Register

Remaining Policies and Terms of Reference to be considered at the May Parish Meeting

- 9. Gatwick Runway Consultation** – After discussion, Cllr Clark agreed to complete the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council. He also volunteered to look at the CAA consultation.
- 10. Chair’s Report** – Cllr Edwards reported that the Fete and Bonfire Committee had made donations to the School, £300 for books, Film Club, £300 for equipment and £400 to the Lunch Club. He had received a complaint from a resident with regards to rubbish on the ground around the bins in the High Street, he believes caused by foxes. Cllr Edwards was informed that the bins are emptied regularly. It would be too expensive to replace the bins with bins with lids and would not deter foxes. It was agreed that Cllr Edwards would put an article in Rusthall Life requesting householders and traders not to use the bins to put in waste food. Cllr Edwards then went on to thank Cllr Davies for all his support, both in personally and financially for the Parish Council and the residents of Rusthall. He would be sadly missed and a hard act to follow. Cllr Davies thanked him for his kind words and said that Rusthall was a great community. Cllr Britcher added her thanks for all the support he had given the RVA and RCA.
- 11. Clerk’s Report** - The Clerk informed the members that CCTV was now installed at the Rackliff Centre and a sign informing the public would be erected shortly. A DD had been set up with the ICO for £35. The Clerk thanked the Cllrs who carried out risk assessments; these would be typed up and sent to all Cllrs. The Clerk had received an email from Groundwork inviting a representative to their open day on the 2nd June, to inform people how the Sheds for Men scheme worked. Cllr Blackburn said that she may be able to attend. Clerk to put on the agenda for June. Only four/ five tables have been booked for the Parish Assembly. Posters are ready to be put up, Cllr Blackburn volunteered to do this. The Film Club kindly offered to advertise the event during their film screening on the 8th April. Lastly the Clerk informed the members that the Village Assets register would be on the agenda for May, to discuss who would draw up the register to protect local buildings and register it with TWBC. Cllr Benoy said he might have a list previously drawn up. Clerk to enquire to TWBC if there are relevant forms that need to be completed.
- 12. Diary Dates** – April 26th Parish Assembly
- 13. Finance:**
- i.** Hire charges – It was agreed that the hire charges for the RC would be simplified.
 - ii.** Clerk’s Salary – It was resolved to increase the Clerk’s salary by one spine point.
 - iii.** Membership to KALC – This was agreed at a cost of £1099.94
 - iv.** Pension – It was resolved to accept the Finance Committees recommendation on the amount the PC would contribute to the Clerk’s pension.
 - v.** Grant application – RC&YP – After discussion it was resolved to grant 50% of the grant requested. The further 50% to be paid in September should the organisation still be running.

14. Accounts for Payment – to authorise the payment of invoices as listed

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT		Mar 31 st 2017 ACCOUNTS	
Payee Name	Payment Type	Amount Paid	Transaction Detail
C PATTERSON	BACS	308.33	Grass Cutting March 2017
TELEVID	300318	1049	CCTV
EE	DD	30.71	Mobile March
CLERK	SO	1070.48	Salary March
HMRC	300319	185.84	Tax/NI March
CLLR BLACKBURN	300320	25.2	Travel
KCC	BACS	500	Fremlin Pond
K.O.	BACS	60	Posters
LANGTON LIFE	BACS	250	Magazine
D. CONSTABLE	BACS	25	Window Cleaning
Total Payments		3,504.56	

15. Open session for questions from the public: A member of the public raised his concern about the two way traffic along the part of Woodside Road, leading to and from Apsley Street, due to the narrowness of the road. He would like to see the road made one way. The members advised him that he should get other residents opinions by drawing up a Yes/No petition. This would need to be seen by the residents in neighbouring streets as well, as they would be affected by the change. He would then need to send the petition to KCC Highways through the Rusthall County Councillor. Another member of the public raised concerns about the speeding along Meadow Road and the length of the double yellow lines in that area, Erskine Park and Ashley Park. He felt that the lines were too long and therefore a loss of parking of up to four cars. Cllr Blackburn informed him of Speedwatch and that RPC were looking for volunteers. Cllr Edwards said that he would enquire about the length of the lines. However, it was thought that the lines were the given length due to the line of site.

16. Items for Information:

- a) Cllr Blackburn reported that there had been a change in the plan for the Marl pit. It was now being considered that the old marl pit be opened up for the Blue Crested newts and other pond life to habit whilst the existing pond be cleared of all weed and then the wild life would be transferred back.
- b) Cllr Fraser informed the members that she had attended a talk about the Culture and Learning Hub in Tunbridge Wells. She thought that the scheme was a good idea but felt that it should be brought to the outline areas and villages of the area, as getting into the town was not possible for all.
- c) Cllr Britcher informed the meeting that there would be a litter pick, organised by the RVA on the 22nd April, all equipment to be provided. Meeting at the Toad Rock Retreat and then back there afterwards for refreshments.
- d) Cllr Benoy reminded everyone that the village fete is to be held on the 24th June

Meeting Closed at 21.15