

**Minutes of The Full Council Meeting held at The Rackliff Centre on
Monday 3rd April 2023 at 7.30pm**

Members Present:

Cllr Liz Ellicott, Chair; Cllr Barry Edwards, Vice Chair; Cllr C Ducklin, D Funnell, P Gripper, M O'Callaghan and Cllr D Smith.

Officers Present:

Alison Stevens, Locum Clerk

Others and Members of the Public:

There were three members of the public present.

- 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 A Britcher-Allan and D Smith. The reasons for their apologies was accepted by the Full Council.

- 3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

Cllrs Ellicott and Gripper declared interests in item 9.1 and did not take part in the vote.

Cllr Edwards declared interests in items 8.3 and 8.4 and did not take part in the vote.

Cllr Funnell declared an interest in item 8.4 and did not take part in the vote.

- 4. Declarations of Lobbying**

There were no declarations of lobbying.

- 5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 6th March 2023**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 6th March 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**

Ms Foster asked if the Parish Council knows when the 20 mph roundels are being repainted and offered to chase Highways up. The Parish Council is expecting the work to take place after May.

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

There were no reports from County Councillor McInroy or Borough Councillor Britcher-Allan.

Borough Councillor Funnell received a complaint about the larches in the Mary Caley Play Park. He said they had to be removed because they were all diseased and should never have been planted there. The plan is to replace them with a mix of trees which will be more beneficial to the wildlife.

- 8. Finance update** – Cllr O’Callaghan reported that a few budget variances were made at the recent Finance Committee Meeting but nothing significant.

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

				£	
01/04/2023	EE	DD	52.06	Mobile	
04/04/2023	Alison Stevens	BACS	3482.10	Locum Clerk	
04/04/2023	C May	BACS	374.00	Locum RFO	
04/04/2023	Rialtas	BACS	280.08	Payment Rejected March	
04/04/2023	Capel Groundcare	BACS	436.03	Allotment Maintenance	
04/04/2023	Sticky Monkey	BACS	30.00	Banner	
04/04/2023	KALC	BACS	60.00	Training 15/06/22	
04/04/2023	KALC	BACS	60.00	Training 16/012/22	
04/04/2023	The Cleaning Lady	BACS	72.00	Rackliff Cleaning	
04/04/2023	HMRC	BACS	52.75	PAYE	
04/04/2023	L Neusten	BACS	941.20	Salary	
04/04/2023	ICO	DD	35.00	Data Protection	

8.2 It was RESOLVED to adopt the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on the 13th March 2023.

8.3 Councillors RESOLVED to award a grant of £150 to the Langton Green and Rusthall Coronation Treasure Hunt. The Treasure Hunt is being held to commemorate the Coronation.

8.4 It was also RESOLVED to award £1323.61 to The Molyneux Almshouse Charity. The money will help landscape areas in front of the central almshouses.

9. Allotments Committee –

9.1 At the last meeting Councillors RESOLVED to commission an independent surveyor to help settle a boundary dispute with an allotment holder at Wickham Gardens. The homeowner subsequently refused permission for a surveyor to enter their property

Councillors agreed the legal route would be a poor use of public money but as they still had concerns about the security of the western border they RESOLVED instead to fit a 6’ fence which tapers down to 4’. The cost of the work will be £2865.

9.2 It was RESOLVED to adopt the draft minutes of the Allotment Committee Meeting held on the 20th March 2023.

- 10. Defibrillator Update** – Councillor O’Callaghan confirmed he has changed the defibrillator pads at The Toad.

- 12. St Paul’s School** – Councillors Ellicott and O’Callaghan are to meet the Head Teacher later this month to find out if the Parish Council can help support the school.

- 13. Rusthall History Group Archive Records** – Councillor Edwards said that as Mr Penfold’s family has to apply for probate, it may take some time to rehome the archives. It was agreed they could be stored in the Rackliff until a more permanent home is found. Cllr O’Callaghan said he thought that if they become the Parish Council’s property the Borough Council is obliged to store them but he will check.

- 14. Highways** – The Research Curator at the Amelia has offered to look into the history of the trough and will carry out a site visit next time he is in the area recording insects.

A discussion took place about the amount of potholes that need repairing. The County Council relies on members of the public to report them but because many residents don't know that they don't get fixed. There will be an article in the next edition of Rusthall Life to let residents know they need to notify Highways and how to do it.

15. Fremlin Pond –

- i. Councillors RESOLVED to accept the price of £1254.80, including VAT, to repair the fencing alongside the Bowen Road end of pond.
- ii. Discussions about adopting the path alongside the pond which adjoins Bowen Road are ongoing with TWBC. The Locum Clerk will report back when she knows more.

16. Chair's Report – Councillor Ellicott attended a meeting about the Treasure Hunt and another at the Children's Centre. At the latter she stressed to KCC how the Centre is too important to lose.

Councillors Ellicott and Gripper met the Rusthall Speedwatch Co-ordinator, Mick Heasman. KCC has provided banners, stickers and posters to display around the village to help raise awareness of the 20 mph zone.

17. Officers' Report – Officer Stevens;

- i. asked for permission to continue the compensation arrangement with Gatwick. Councillors confirmed she can sign the agreement. The fee paid by Gatwick goes into the allotment budget.
- ii. Notified councillors that this year's close down with Rialtas is to take place on the 5th April.

18. Diary Dates

15 th May 2023	7.30pm	Annual General Meeting
6 th April 2023	7.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
13 th Apr 2023	7.30pm	Parish Assembly
17 th Apr 2023	7.30pm	Highways and Transport Committee Meeting
24 th Apr 2023	7.30pm	Environment Committee Meeting
12 th June 2023	7.30pm	Allotments Committee
19 th June 2023	7.30pm	Finance Committee Meeting

19. Items for Information – Representatives from various local Community Groups have been invited to attend this year's Parish Assembly. There will be a banner to advertise the event on the railings at the URC.

Councillor Edwards said he attended the opening of the Citizens' Advice Centre on the 21st March.

Councillor O'Callaghan has received an email from the Cabinet Office asking if Councils would like a portrait of the King. Rusthall Parish Council declined the offer because it did not display one of the late Queen.

20. Next meeting of Full Council -

15th May 2023 7.30pm The Rackliff Centre (AGM).

There was no further business, and the meeting closed at 8.19pm.

..... Chairman

Dated