

**Minutes of The Full Council Meeting held at The Rackliff Centre on
Monday 4th July 2022 at 7.30pm**

Members Present:

Cllr Liz Ellicott, Chair; Cllr Barry Edwards, Cllr Chris Ducklin, Cllr Dave Funnell, Cllr M O'Callaghan and Cllr Doug Smith.

Officers Present:

Alison Stevens, Locum Clerk

Others and Members of the Public:

Two members of the public were also present.

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

- 2. To receive and approve apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Alex Britcher-Allan, Aimee Taylor and Paul Gripper. The reasons for their apologies were accepted by the Full Council.

- 3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**
Cllr Smith declared an interest and did not vote in Minute 8. Cllr Edwards declared an interest and did not vote in Minute 16.

- 4. Declarations of Lobbying**
None.

- 5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 6th June 2022**
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 6th June 2022 were amended and 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 Sharratt asked;

- If the Parish Council is aware that a consequence of the reduction of Rusthall St Paul's School's intake is that their school site is too big for them to maintain, and the Interim Executive Board's current plan is to move into one building and take over the current Children's Centre which will leave an empty building/land at the back.
- Is there anything the Parish Council can do to lobby for a continuation of the Children's Centre, and protect the whole of the school site for the community so that if the school is able to expand again there will be space for them to do that.
- The Parish Council to commit to supporting the school, so that it continues to be here for another 100 years.

This was discussed in more detail by Councillors later on in the meeting.

Ms Foster;

- said she would like to remind Councillors that some of the roundels still need repainting. Councillor Ellicott has already taken this matter up with County Councillor McInroy.
- also reported that the Speedwatch Team carried out six sessions the week before the meeting. Four were at Lower Green and two were at Ashley Gardens. It would have been three at Ashley Gardens but two cars were parked on the pavement outside Mary Caley which blocked the view so that session was moved to Lower Green Road.

They recorded 156 offenders across the two sites. 55 letters from Kent Police are in the process of being sent to repeat offenders and those that were travelling at 30mph or higher (50% above the 20mph limit). 40 of the 156 recorded offenders were travelling at 30mph or above. Both Lower Green Road and Ashley Gardens/Meadow Road are regularly seeing in excess of 20% of cars at 25mph or above.

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

There was no report from the County Councillor on this occasion.

Borough Councillor Funnell said he;

- Is no longer on the Planning Committee at TWBC. Cllr Britcher-Allan has replaced him and she has also been appointed as the Champion for the Charities and Voluntary Sector.
- Asked for the bins in the High Street to be repositioned because they were leaning and he also asked for the roads to be swept. Both issues have now been rectified.
- Reported the benches and hedges in Nellington Road to the appropriate bodies for action and was told the work had been carried out but it hasn't so he is now following that up.
- Has been dealing with a complaint from a resident who hasn't received the adult care they need after their release from hospital.
- Is looking into a land issue at the former allotments off Lower Green Road part of which residents have applied to be nominated as an Asset of Community Value. They will know if they were successful by the 15th July.
- Reported trees which were overhanging a footpath to the Commons Conservators and they have now been cut back.
- He helped out at the Summer Fete, two Speedwatch Sessions, the Rusthall Lunch Club and the Community Cinema.

8. Finance update –

8.1: Accounts for Payment – Councillors RESOLVED to approve the list of payments dated 4th July 2022 (see below).

			£	
01/07	EE	DD	52.06	Mobile
05/07	Cllr D Smith	BACS	78.60	Allotment padlocks
05/07	Microshade	BACS	245.98	Monthly hosting
05/07	Rialtas	BACS	214.80	Annual support
05/07	Festive Decorations	BACS	720.00	Jubilee bunting
05/07	C May	BACS	180.00	Locum RFO
05/07	A Stevens	BACS	1900.50	Locum Clerk
05/07	KCS	BACS	16.44	Photocopier
05/07	The National			
	Allotment	BACS	66.00	Annual membership
05/07	HMRC	BACS	27.55	NI & Tax
05/07	Quality Sussex			
	Plants	BACS	400.00	Planters
05/07	SSE	BACS	170.94	Gas Bill

05/07	Glass Supplies	BACS	92.40	Balance
05/07	KMJ	BACS	24.96	Laminating
05/07	L Neusten	BACS	10.88	Postage
05/07	A Stevens	BACS	1412.40	Thermal Imaging Camera
05/07	Capel Groundcare	BACS	436.03	Ground Maintenance
05/07	J Blackburn	BACS	7.50	Velcro
20/07	L Neusten	BACS	851.86	Salary
20/07	K Watson	BACS	735.55	Salary

It was agreed that the cost of cutting the trees back at the Southwood Road Allotments Extension will be met from the Parish Council's Annual Tree Budget.

8.2: Rusthall Life – Councillors RESOLVED to increase the contribution from the Parish Council to £750 bi- monthly because it will help cover the rising costs of printing. They said the magazine is very important to the village and felt it could be counter-productive to increase advertising costs.

9. Planning Committee update - RESOLVED to adopt the draft minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting which was held on the 13th June 2022.

10. Allotments Committee update - RESOLVED to adopt the draft minutes of the Allotments Committee Meeting which was held on the 20th June 2022.

11. Rackliff Centre –

11.1 It was RESOLVED that the Chair and the Locum Clerk will find out how much it will cost to have a larger sign on the outside of The Rackliff Centre so that residents know it is now The Rackliff Centre and Parish Council Office.

This follows feedback from the Jubilee celebrations where some residents said they thought it was still a Fire Station. Visitors to the Centre also said they find the 'no parking' signs on the forecourt confusing so Councillor O'Callaghan will find out if it is possible to get the no parking condition which is in the planning application discharged.

Councillors also agreed they would like to have a flagpole at the Centre. Cllr Edwards will look for the most suitable option and report back.

11.2 RESOLVED – to increase the hire fees for the Rackliff Centre from £10 to £12 an hour from 1st September 2022.

12. Defibrillator Update – It was RESOLVED that Councillor O'Callaghan will risk assess the defibrillator at The Toad on a monthly basis and email the Clerk the results. Councillor Britcher- Allan risk assesses the defibrillator at The United Reform Church.

13. Thermal Camera Funding – The Parish Council has now bought the camera and it's services were advertised at the village fete.

14. Commons Conservators' Meeting – Councillors Gripper and Ellicott attended the latest meeting. Councillor Ellicott said;

- A primary school carried out a pond survey at Fir Tree Pond recently during which they found 43 newts and a crested newt egg.
- Councillors Taylor and Gripper contacted the Conservators' Clerk to co-ordinate litter picking sessions.
- There is an article in the Rusthall Times about the new Ranger which might be of interest.

- Signage is not allowed on the Commons without a license and will be removed if need be.

- 15. St Paul's School** – Councillor Ellicott spoke to Nick Abrahams, who is the Area Education Officer for West Kent, and he assured her the changes as to how the school uses the building will not impact on the Children's Centre because the two are run independently. A review of Children's Services is, however, being held and there will be a formal consultation in due course. It is not known how many children visit the Centre but Councillor Ellicott will see if she can find out.

Concerns were raised about the falling intake at the school and Councillors generally agreed they would like to offer their support. They RESOLVED;

- To send a representative to a Governor's Meeting and find out their aims.
- That Cllr O'Callaghan will contact other schools who have been in the same situation and find out how they recovered.
- To support the continuation of the Children's Centre.
- To consider nominating the school and other village assets as Assets of Community Value at the next Full Council Meeting.

- 16. Rusthall Community Group** – Councillor Edwards asked for permission to store the new mini-bus on the forecourt at The Rackliff Centre. It was felt that the rear of the Centre would be more suitable and could be incorporated in the plans for the new garden, so this item was referred to the next Finance Meeting.

- 17. Chair's Report** – Cllr Ellicott said;

- She attended a Parish Chair's Group briefing on the 14th June. The Borough Council has a new Leader, Ben Chapelard. Details of the new Cabinet and Champions can be found at <https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/news/2022/may/new-council-leader-elected> Cabinet meetings are now to 'tour the borough' rather than be held at one venue.
- The results of the Boundary Commission Review are expected to be published on the 5th July.
- Rusthall Life has a new organiser for its deliveries who will take over from Ms Blackburn later this year.
- She has spoken to the Architect who has moved into the former Regency Cleaners shop. His wife is a jeweller and plans to share the premises. They aim to get the shop front looking better but need to concentrate on their living accommodation first.
- The memorial tree is doing well and she asked councillors to keep it watered when they are passing.
- The History Group has donated some table top display boards for loan to any village organisation and they are stored in the shed.
- She attended the KALC Conference on the 30th June. Speakers included John Rivers and Matt Morris. Mr Rivers spoke about building effective relationships. Mr Morris is an Environmental Consultant.

- 18. Officers' Report** – The Parish Council has received a request from a dog trainer who would like to hire the Rackliff Centre but if permission is granted, it will contravene the hirer conditions.

It was RESOLVED not to accept the booking or change the agreement because the hall is used by yoga and pilates groups whose members lay on the floor.

19. Diary Dates

5 th Sept 2022	7.30pm	Full Council Meeting.
11 th July 2022	7.30pm	Finance Committee Meeting
18 th July 2022	7.30pm	Environment Committee Meeting
19 th Sept 2022	7.30pm	Allotment Committee Meeting.

20. Items for Information –

Councillor O’Callaghan offered to tweak the website to make it look more attractive to users. His offer was accepted by the Parish Council.

Cllr Smith reiterated his thanks to those who made the lighting of the beacon such a warm, friendly and historical event. Councillor Ellicott agreed to write a small report about it so there is a permanent record of how the Parish celebrated the Jubilee, in the library.

21. Next meeting of Full Council -

5th September 2022 7.30pm The Rackliff Centre

There was no further business, and the meeting closed at 9.01pm.

..... Chairman

Dated