



**Minutes of The Full Council Meeting held on
Monday 11th March 2019 at 7.30pm in The Rackliff Centre Lower Green Road**

Members Present: Cllr B Edwards (Chairman), Cllr J Blackburn, Cllr H Duncombe, Cllr Smith, Cllr C Ducklin. and Cllr A Britcher.

Officer Present: S Denne

In Attendance: County Cllr McInroy and Borough Cllr Podbury

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

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. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr J Clark and Cllr Ellicott
3. **Declaration of Interests** — None
4. **Declarations of Lobbying** – None
5. **Minutes** of the meeting held on **11th February** 2019 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) - None
 - 5.2 Matters outstanding from previous minutes - None
6. **Speaker - Lewis Jackson** – This was cancelled by the speaker.
7. **Session for County and Borough Councillors on matters concerning the Parish - KCC**
Cllr McInroy had nothing to report. TWBC Cllr Podbury informed the members that a meeting was to be arranged to discuss the football pitches in the area. She would keep the members informed. TWBC plan to remove single use plastic cups and hot drinks machines from their offices. Thus saving money and 7000 cups, that were used yearly. Cllr Podbury also informed the members that the Local Plan had been extended by 8 weeks.
8. **Committee Reports:** Planning Meeting 25th February 2019, Highways Meeting 18th February 2019 draft minutes have been circulated.
9. **Hanging Baskets** – The members agreed to purchase pole baskets but they asked the Clerk for further information on watering costs and plant costs before a final decision was made.
10. **Noise Monitor** – The Clerk informed the members that there would be a delay with the noise monitor being sited at Southwood Road allotments, due to the clerk not agreeing to the agreement on insurance cover. The company also had a few issues to rectify with regards the operation of the equipment. Clerk hoped for an update at the April meeting.

11. **Fencing for Southwood Road** – It was agreed to accept the quote for further security fencing at the Southwood Road allotments.
12. **Grants/ Donations** – None received this month.
13. **Tree Charter** – To consider adoption – Cllrs to read material and discuss at April meeting.
14. **Clerk's Pension – To review payment for 2019/2020** - It was agreed that the members would not increase the RPC percentage and therefore, it would remain at 3%.
15. **Age Concern** – The members asked KCC Cllr McInroy for an update about the rumour that Tunbridge Wells Age Concern would be closing due to having its funding removed.

He explained in detail what the changes would be.

The current arrangements through which Age UK Tunbridge Wells receives its funding are not sustainable in the long term. This is especially because these arrangements are annual and offer no guarantee of longer-term funding which organisations can then use to develop their services. In addition, there is an inequity of how funding is distributed across the county, and the type of services that are funded, resulting in a post code lottery for Kent residents. In order to address these issues, the Council will recommission these services. This means ending all current grant funding arrangements and re-investing funding in new contracts or grants that are awarded through open and transparent application process.

This process has already begun and commissioners from KCC are working with providers of services and people who access services and their carers in order to understand what is important to people. This will inform what is ultimately commissioned and how. A public consultation will be undertaken in May 2019.

The intention for new arrangements to be in place for 1st January 2020 will ensure that people accessing services continue to receive support they need.

16. **Update on Blood Pressure Monitor** – Cllr Smith reminded the members that last October the RPC awarded a grant of £600 towards the purchase of a self-operating blood pressure machine at Rusthall Medical Centre. It was understood the machine would be placed in the waiting area, which meant it would be accessible to all residents of the village, not just patients registered at the surgery. This was highlighted in the very first line of the practice manager's application letter, "As you may be aware, Rusthall Medical Practice would like to purchase a waiting area blood pressure monitor". It was this understanding that the machine would be in a publicly accessible place that led the Parish to approve the grant application. The machine was installed, however, in a private room in the doctor's area. To gain access one has to ask the receptionist to direct you to the correct room and check it is not in use.

Cllr Smith was concerned that with this regime it would be unlikely ever to be used by local residents who are not registered at the Surgery. The fact is only half our residents are registered at the Surgery. There is also no mention of the machine on the medical centre's website.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the practice manager requesting the machine be moved to the public waiting area and failing an agreement on that score we should ask for the money to be returned. The Clerk informed the members that the donation should have been agreed to come under section 137. The members agreed.

17. **Update on Website** – The Clerk informed the members that the new website should be up and running shortly. She wanted to publically thank Cllr Ellicott for her sterling job in proof reading every page, making suggestions and collecting contact information from the businesses in the High Street. Clerk requested photos of Cllrs for the contacts page.

- 18. **Chair's Report** – Nothing to report
- 19. **Clerk's Report** - Nothing extra to report
- 20. **Diary Dates** – 18th March Planning Meeting and an Allotment Meeting.
- 21. **Accounts for Payment** – to authorise the payment of invoices as listed - These were agreed.
- 22. **Open session for questions from the public:** A member of the public informed the members that a gutter above the Post Office One Stop was blocked and water poured down over the entrance. RPC to identify freeholder and request they have the gutter cleared.
- 23. **Items for Information**
 - a) Cllr Blackburn gave a small talk at the Rusthall Cinema Club about becoming a Parish Councillor.
 - b) Cllr Smith visited Gatwick, behind the scenes and found it very interesting.
 - c) Cllr Britcher informed the meeting that the RVAs next meeting was the 20th March, PCSO Matt Hill to speak.
 - d) RVA litter pick 13th April 2019 Southwood road car park 11.00 to 12.30 and then to the Red Lion for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 21:15

..... Chairman

Dated