

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7.30pm  
IN THE RACKLIFF CENTRE LOWER GREEN ROAD**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** Cllrs, B Edwards (Chairman), A Britcher (Vice), J. Blackburn, J. Moore, M Fraser, R. Benoy, Punyer and Clark.

**Parish Clerk:** S. Denne.

**Also present:** Cllr Huggett and Cllr Podbury (arrived at 2100)

1. **Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting** - None
2. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs M Simmons and Cllr Davies.
3. **Declaration of Interests** – None
4. **Declarations of Lobbying** – None
5. **Minutes** of the meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 were agreed, and the Chairman signed them as a true record  
5.2 **Matters outstanding from these minutes** (not listed as separate agenda items) None  
5.3 **Matters outstanding from previous minutes:** None
6. **Session for County and Borough Councillors on matters concerning the Parish** – Cllr Huggett replied to a previous enquiry as to why Gillingham ice rink was cheaper than the Christmas ice rink in Tunbridge Wells. The price difference was because the T'Wells rink was only open for a short period of time and was a special Christmas attraction. She informed the meeting that the consultation period for parking charges had been extended until the end of January as there had been complaints that the time period had not been long enough. Finally Cllr Huggett wished everyone a Happy New Year.
7. **Committee Reports:** Planning Committee meetings were held on 12th December 2016 draft minutes have been circulated. Allotment Committee meeting was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016 draft minutes have been circulated.
8. **Broadband** - Discuss Cabinet 16 – Mr Huxham contacted Parish Council about the lack of fibre optic for 520 households using BT cabinet 16. Mr Huxham has now heard from BT and been informed that this work should be carried out by this summer. Clerk to keep an eye on the situation and report back if this deadline is passed.
9. **Warden Scheme** – Cllr Edwards informed the members that Speldhurst PC would not be taking up the voluntary warden scheme. He felt that Rusthall should not do so either. Cllr Blackburn disagreed and thought that the scheme would reassert some element of authority within the village. After much discussion it was agreed by the majority that the scheme could benefit Rusthall. However, it was felt that more information was required. Cllr Blackburn to obtain more detail and request for an extension of time for RPC.
10. **Winter Weather Policy and Salt Bins** – Clerk to update winter weather policy. Clerk suggested that a grit bin could be placed near or on the High Street by St Paul's Centre. Cllr Benoy and Clerk to investigate. It was suggested that grit bins be locked during the summer months.

- 11. Boundary Change:** Cllr Edwards reported that Speldhurst PC would consider the transfer of the land at Jockey Farm and the Nellington Road cemetery into the Civic Parish of Rusthall. However, the Broadwater down Ward were not so keen to transfer Rusthall parish Church and nearby homes into the civic Parish. It was agreed that homes in Southwood Rd, Westwood Rd, Lower Green Rd would be considered to be transferred into Rusthall and a couple of homes in Longmeads would be transferred into the Civic Parish of Speldhurst. The Clerk raised her concerns on any costs that the RPC may incur for the upkeep of the cemetery. The members agreed to go ahead with all sites currently in Speldhurst. Cllr Edwards to inform both Borough Councillors to put forward request to TWBC. The transfer could take up to two years to complete and all affected householders would have a say in what they wished.
- 12. Full Council Meeting Dates for 2017 -** It was agreed that the Annual Parish Assembly would be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.30 pm. A further discussion to be made at the February Parish meeting, but it was suggested that local organisations could be invited. Clerk informed members that she would be on leave in July and therefore, unable to attend the Parish meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Clerk from Speldhurst and ask if he would be able to minute the meeting.
- 13. BEAT –** Cllr Benoy asked if the Parish Council would consider donating to the Mayor’s Charity, BEAT, as a thank you for his contribution of time to visiting Rusthall on more than one occasion. It was agreed to donate £100.00. Clerk to arrange payment.
- 14. Parish Council’s Commons Conservators Representative –** It was agreed that Cllr Blackburn would represent the Parish Council at the CC meetings.
- 15. KALC –** To decide whether all parish councillors can have personal access to the KALC members section of their website – This was agreed
- 16. Chair’s Report -** Cllr Edwards reported that he visited TW fire station and spoke to them about the ‘Are we getting there’ campaign. Unfortunately it has yet to be introduced to this area of Kent and KF&R were not able to give the PC the flyers to place on badly parked cars because the leaflet is in the name of KF&R. Cllr Edwards to keep in contact with TW fire station.
- 17. Clerk’s Report –** The Clerk reported that she had received a complaint about parking on the Common at Bretland Road. She had been in discussion with the Commons Conservators over the matter. The CC has restricted funds to install wooden posts (approx. £45 each). Suggestions made were tree stumps and possible crowd funding. CC also has flyers that they put on illegally parked cars. Clerk to ask if PC were permitted to help with this. Clerk has yet to hear from TWBC officially about the transfer of the Mary Caley Playground. Clerk received letter from Samaritans requesting a donation, to be put on February’s agenda. The complaint about inconsiderate parking in Harmony Street was still ongoing. Cllr Davies, despite being out of the country was making enquiries. Clerk informed members that she had taken a few more party bookings.
- 18. Diary Dates –** NHS England speaking at February Parish Meeting about mental health. Home Start Charity speaking at March Parish Meeting.

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

	ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT	JAN 2017 ACCOUNTS	
<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Payment Type</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
C PATTERSON	BACS	308.33	Grass Cutting December 2016
PWLB	DD	3388.65	Loan
EE	DD	30.71	Mobile December
CLERK	SO	1070.48	Salary December
HMRC	3003015	185.84	Tax/NI December
BT	DD	48.12	Phone and Broadband
VIKING	BACS	81.46	Stationery
VIKING	BACS	148.80	Leaflet Rack
RAFC	BACS	85.80	Grant Insurance
TWBC	BACS	100.00	Toy Appeal
UNITY		18.00	Service Charge
TOTAL GAS	DD	215.15	Gas
HOME START	300314	500	Donation
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>6181.34</b>	

**20. Open session for questions from the public:** None

**21. Items for Information:**

- a) Cllr Blackburn informed members of a mobile App called Country Eye, where you can report any fly tipping and abandoned cars.
- b) Cllr Blackburn reported that an area of the Rusthall Common near the parish Church has been cleared and looks very good.
- c) Rusthall Life has been given to all the volunteers to deliver.
- d) Cllr Britcher informed the meeting that a litter picking group was being set up by the **RVA**, volunteers required. All equipment to be supplied and rubbish taken away by Sodexo.
- e) Cllr Britcher reminded the members that the next RVA meeting to be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January, where a member of IMAGO would be speaking.
- f) RCA to hold an event on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017, on the Common. There will be amongst others, poetry, TW Rock choir and hanging items on a tree which is an old custom to mark re-birth.
- g) Cllr Britcher informed the members that the Music Centre is looking for a location within Rusthall to maybe set up a class for 7+ year olds.
- h) Cllr Fraser informed the members that four cars had apparently been abandoned or were without tax, in the carpark by the MUGA. The authorities were dealing with the problem.
- i) Cllr Fraser informed members that the school sign issue had yet to be resolved but correspondence received by her recently suggested that it may be done so soon.
- j) Cllr Benoy felt that there was a lack of candles marking the way to the Parish Church for midnight service on Christmas Eve. He informed the church that the PC maybe able to help pay for extra candles next year and was informed that the church had sufficient.
- k) Cllr Benoy informed the members that he knew someone who might be able to reduce the cost of painting the double yellow lines. He would obtain a quote.
- l) Cllr Benoy would like to set up a ‘Santa ride’ for Christmas 2017 with the PC involvement. This would be where some adults would dress up in Santa outfits and ride on push bikes around the village with any children that would like to take part.
- m) Cllr Punyer congratulated Cllr Clark on his article in Rusthall Life.

**The meeting closed at 21.15**