

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.30pm  
IN THE RACKLIFF CENTRE LOWER GREEN ROAD**

**Members Present:** Cllrs, B Edwards (Chairman), M Fraser, A Britcher (Vice Chair), J Blackburn, H Duncombe, K Punyer and D Smith.

**Officer Present:** S Denne

**In Attendance:** County Cllr McInroy and Borough Councillor Podbury

**Members of the Public:** There were two 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 Clark and Cllr Benoy,( Both ill) Cllr Huggett
3. **Declaration of Interests** –Cllr Edwards is on the Fete and Bonfire Committee, Item 21.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying** – There were none.
5. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were agreed, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman signed them as a true record  
**5.2 Matters outstanding from these minutes** (not listed as separate agenda items) Item 10: Cllr Duncombe informed the members that the village meeting, with regards WW1,would take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> November at The Rusthall. She had 15 acceptances from 11 organisations. Item 13 Cllr Edwards informed the members that the previous lights for the village Christmas tree were purchased in 2013 for £78.  
**5.3Matters outstanding from previous minutes:** None
6. **Session for County and Borough Councillors on matters concerning the Parish** County Cllr McInroy requested that the PC and individuals respond to the KCC budget consultation. Cllr Podbury congratulated the Bonfire & Fete Committee for a wonderful evening. She informed the members that Speldhurst PC had voted against the change of use for fields at Jockey farm to be made into football pitches. She also informed the members that Speldhurst PC had received planning training from TWBC.
7. **Committee Reports:** Planning Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and Finance Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 draft minutes have been circulated
8. **Honours Board** – Cllr Blackburn felt that all Cllrs should be mentioned and a leather bound book would be best suited. Cllr Edwards suggested boards for all. Cllr Fraser thought that the walls would look too congested and suggested a book for Cllrs and a board for chairmen. Cllr Britcher liked the idea of boards, but not too dark in colour. Cllr Smith suggested small picture frames with just the Chairmen. It was agreed that Cllr Edwards would obtain quotes for all suggestions.

- 9. 20 is plenty** – Cllr Punyer asked the members whether they would consider researching the 20 is plenty campaign for the village. He proposed raising money for a road survey and informed the members that he and his wife would like to donate. Cllr Podbury informed members that Speldhurst had just become an enforceable 20 mile an hour area. Cllr Duncombe informed the meeting that the RVA had raised a petition in favour of 20 is plenty some time ago and had had a good response. She suggested that Cllr Punyer should speak to the RVA, as they had a wealth of information already. Clerk to contact Speldhurst Clerk for any information. Clerk and Cllr Punyer to work together initially. County Cllr McInroy suggested that he may be able to help with speaking to the relevant people at KCC.
- 10. Community Awards Scheme 2018** – The Members agreed who to put forward for this. Cllr Blackburn to complete application form.
- 11. KCC Budget** – Consultation – Cllr Edwards to complete
- 12. Insurance renewal** – This was agreed
- 13. Annual Parish Assembly** – It was agreed to hold the Assembly on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Clerk to invite the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 14. Highways Report** – Cllr Edwards gave the members a report on the seminar that he and the Clerk attended in October (Clerk sent copy of seminar’s power points to all members). Highways were given 5.2m to blitz pot holes. There are 118,000 lights to be converted to LED, 74,000 have been completed. Community transport is relying on volunteers, perhaps this is something that the RPC could look into in more detail. This could be a service for clubs as well as individuals. Cllr Edwards to speak about the topic at the Parish Assembly. Drainage clearing is carried out as follows: Hotspots-twice yearly maintenance, main roads annual maintenance and minor roads targeted maintenance in response to customer enquiries. Fly parking of HGVs is bad around Ashford and there is call for evidence, in conjunction with Lorry Watch, of HGVs using unsuitable roads. Road accidents and serious injury have reduced in the area. Tunbridge Wells appears to be one of the safest towns in Kent for road accidents.
- 15. Maintenance Man** – The Clerk discussed the possibility of hiring maintenance man on an occasional basis. It was agreed that she contact Speldhurst PC with regards to their man and ask if he would be interested.
- 16. Civic Development Planning Framework** – It was agreed that the members would not complete this as the PC, as opinion was divided.
- 17. Data Protection** – The Clerk informed the members of the new legislation for data protection, coming into force in 2018. It had been suggested that TWBC be asked to supply one officer to cover all the Parish Councils. The members felt that this probably wouldn’t be necessary for Rusthall PC and that any decision be made after the KALC training session.

18. **Chair's Report** – Cllr Edwards reminded the meeting that Rusthall Road would be closed for up to five days in order for potholes to be filled. He then informed the members that Cllr Fraser had resigned and that December would be her last meeting. He thanked her for all she had done and achieved for the village, including the reinstatement of the school sign near the school.
19. **Clerk's Report** - Clerk informed members that the water board were cleaning out the water pipes within the village; it should take a couple of weeks. Clerk reminded members of the local capital grant, any suggestions to Clerk.
20. **Diary Dates** – 18<sup>th</sup> November Cllr Blackburn to attend KALC AGM, 7<sup>th</sup> December Crime Prevention and Safety Conference.
21. **Finance: i. Grants** – Bonfire and Fete Committee requested £180 for new Christmas tree lights for the village tree – Agreed. It was agreed to donate £100 towards the Mayor's Toy Appeal.
22. **Accounts for Payment** – to authorise the payment of invoices as listed (attached)
23. **Open session for questions from the public:** A member of the public informed the PC that there was vegetation growing on a footpath over the commons. Informed that this was the responsibility of the Commons.
24. **Clerk's Appraisal and Salary** – (Clerk and members of the public left the room) It was agreed to increase the Clerk's salary by one spine point, as from April 2018.
  
25. **Items for Information:**
  - a) Cllr Blackburn mentioned the change in the recycling waste for next year.
  - b) Cllr Smith reported that he attended the Dynamic Cllr workshop and found it informative.
  - c) RVA meeting on Wednesday 15th November. The defibrillator to be demonstrated.

**Meeting Closed at 21.10**