

**Minutes of The Full Council Meeting held at The Rackliff Centre on
Monday 7th November 2022 at 7.30pm**

Members Present:

Cllr Liz Ellicott, Chair; Cllr Barry Edwards, Vice Chair; Cllr Alex Britcher-Allan, Cllr Chris Ducklin, Cllr Dave Funnell, Cllr Paul Gripper, Cllr M O'Callaghan and Cllr Doug Smith.

Officers Present:

Alison Stevens, Locum Clerk

Others and Members of the Public:

There was one member 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**
No apologies for absence were received.

- 3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**
Cllrs Ellicott and Smith declared a personal interest and did not vote on Minute 10.2.
Cllrs Britcher-Allan and Funnell declared an interest and did not vote on Minute 15.

- 4. Declarations of Lobbying**
There were no declarations of lobbying.

- 5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3rd October 2022**
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3rd October 2022 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). Cllr O'Callaghan has looked into the path issue reported at the September Meeting and he confirmed;

- i. The path across the golf club is not a public Right of Way.
- ii. He has asked Southborough Town Council about the path that runs between Speldhurst Road and Reynolds Lane because it is in their area.

5.2 Matters outstanding from previous minutes. None.

- 6. Open session for questions from the public**
Ms Foster thanked Councillor Gripper for clearing the debris which had fallen across the footpath in Lower Green Road, and asked;
- Why there are so many large lorries driving up and down Lower Green Road lately. The Parish Council understands work is being carried out at the school.
 - The Parish Council if it would consider making a donation to this year's Christmas Dinner at Rusthall Lunch Club. She was invited to complete a grant application form so the matter could be discussed at the next Full Council Meeting.

- 7. Session for County and Borough Councillor on matters concerning the Parish**
There was no report from County Councillor McInroy on this occasion.

Borough Councillor Britcher-Allan reported that the Local Government Boundary Commission Review has been suspended until the outcome of the Tunbridge Wells Electoral Review is known.

Borough Councillor Funnell said he has reported the bench by the United Reform Church for repair. He will report a lamp post which is not working in Manor Road too.

8. Finance update –

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

				£	
01/11/2022	EE	DD	52.06		Mobile
05/11/2022	S Wadey	BACS	-60.00		Reversal of refund
07/11/2022	The Cleaning Lady	BACS	72.00		Rackliff cleaning
07/11/2022	Gallagher	BACS	8.53		Insurance upgrade
08/11/2022	S Wadey	BACS	30.00		Refund part payment
08/11/2022	Alison Stevens	BACS	2447.70		Locum Clerk
08/11/2022	GTW Services	BACS	167.58		Hanging baskets/maintenance
08/11/2022	C May	BACS	285.00		Locum RFO
08/11/2022	Viking	BACS	95.25		Stationery
08/11/2022	Viking	BACS	119.40		Stationery
08/11/2022	Alison Stevens	BACS	13.60		Postage refund
08/11/2022	Linda Neusten	BACS	3.40		Refund postage
08/11/2022	Microshade	BACS	239.98		IT
08/11/2022	P Goldsmith	BACS	3.95		Refund Allotment maint
08/11/2022	Gallagher	BACS	1895.32		Insurance
08/11/2022	HMRC	BACS	20.54		NI & Tax
08/11/2022	NEST	DD	40.65		Pensions
18/11/2022	K Watson	BACS	735.55		Salary
18/11/2022	Linda Neusten	BACS	858.67		Salary

8.2 It was RESOLVED to adopt the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on the 17th October 2022.

8.3 After careful consideration it was resolved to accept the recommendations of the latest Finance Committee Meeting which means the precept for 2023-2024 will be £85000. The increase is needed to cover the increasing costs of inflation. £10000 will also be transferred to the Highways budget from General Reserves to help address local highways issues.

8.4 It was also RESOLVED to accept the contract (reference 2334719/34010069) offered by SSE Business Energy which will fix the energy costs for six months.

8.5 Councillors RESOLVED to accept the price offered via the Commons Ranger to secure the trough at the memorial. The Locum Clerk will instruct the contractor to go ahead.

9. Highways and Transport Committee - It was RESOLVED to adopt the draft minutes of the Highways and Transport Committee Meeting held on the 20th October 2022.

10. Allotments Committee –

10.1 It was RESOLVED to adopt the draft minutes of the Allotments Committee Meeting held on the 26th September 2022.

10.2 Councillors RESOLVED to approve the purchase of a new shed at £895, new padlocks at £1255 and new water tanks at £5735. The Parish Council expressed its thanks to Councillors Ellicott and Smith for all their hard work which meant the costs fell well within budget.

11. Rackliff Centre –

11.1 The new signs have now been fitted and have been well received.

11.2 The Commons Ranger has confirmed he would like to rent a shed and have some outside storage at the rear of the Rackliff but will provide more detail after he has spoken to the Conservators. Councillors confirmed he can use half the bike shed in the meantime.

Councillor Edwards said the Boxing Club's mini bus is now being stored at the rear of the Rackliff although access to and from the premises is restricted by the many cars parked there. Councillor O'Callaghan offered to find out how much it would cost to paint 'dog bones' (white 'h' shaped lines) on the road.

12. Defibrillator Update – The Parish Council has received no new updates from The Circuit since the last meeting.

Councillor O'Callaghan confirmed he has checked the defibrillator at the Toad and found it to be sound.

Councillor Britcher-Allan said she has yet to check the one at the United Reform Church but a quick visual inspection gave her no immediate cause for concern.

13. St Paul's School – St Paul's School has offered to meet Councillors Ellicott and O'Callaghan over a Teams Meeting. The Parish Council is now trying to arrange a mutually convenient date.

14. Assets of Community Value – Cllr Edwards had previously circulated a list of suggestions which all councillors agreed to look at and bring a shortlist of to this meeting. Having read the guidance they RESOLVED to review the matter in a year's time because they didn't feel there was anywhere appropriate at this time.

15. Boundary Commission Review – After much discussion it was agreed that Councillors will submit individual responses to the Review rather than a collective one. The consultation ends on the 23rd November. Details can be found at; <https://talkingpointtunbridgewells.uk.engagementhq.com/a-consultation-on-our-electoral-system>

16. Rusthall Library Archaeological Display – Councillors Ellicott and O'Callaghan are to meet the Library Manager and the archaeologist on the 23rd November because the archaeologist has some local artefacts he would like to store there. The Friends of the Conservators are understood to be funding the display.

17. Rusthall Warm Banks – Councillor Funnell said he is in the process of drafting a list of places members of the public can go to, to help them save money on their energy bills. Councillor O'Callaghan said he will create a page on the Parish Council's website for the finished list.

Councillors agreed they would be happy to consider any requests to help fund such events.

18. Chair's Report – Cllr Ellicott was invited to the Friends of Rusthall School's Annual General Meeting. The Friends were equally frustrated by the school's poor response to the Parish Council's request in Minute 13. They also asked her if the Parish Council would consider making a contribution towards the construction of a new outside play area and/or towards restocking the school library.

19. Officers' Report – Kent County Council is offering to give Parish and Town Councils a one tonne bag of salt/sand mix for them to use on the public highway. Rusthall Parish Council RESOLVED to accept the offer.

20. Diary Dates

5 th Dec 2022	7.30pm	Full Council Meeting.
12 th Dec 2022	7.30pm	Allotments Committee Meeting
12 th Jan 2023	7.30pm	Highways Committee Meeting
16 th Jan 2023	7.30pm	Environment Committee Meeting

21. Items for Information – Cllr Britcher-Allan announced there is to be a ‘Reclaim the Night Walk’ on the 25th November from 7.30pm to 10.00pm. Details of how to register can be found at <http://www.tunbridgewellsevents.co.uk/event.php?eid=32152>

Councillor Edwards clarified the Parish Council’s current position on commenting on planning applications, which was supported by all.

22. Next meeting of Full Council -

5th Dec 2022 7.30pm The Rackliff Centre

There was no further business, and the meeting closed at 9.03pm.

..... Chairman

Dated