

RUSTHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Date: Monday 9th January 2012

at United Reformed Church, on the corner of the High Street and Manor Road, Rusthall

Present

Councillors: J.Blackburn (Chairman), C.Elwood (Vice Chairman), B.J.Edwards, M.Simmons, M.L.Lawrence, C.Codd, J.Clark and J.Geer

Clerk: P. Cummins the Monitoring Officer of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is acting as Interim Parish Clerk

Also present: Borough Councillors Atwood and Webb, Press and Public

1. Apologies for absence.- Apologies received from County Councillor Davies
2. Declaration of Interests.
 - 2.1 Councillor Lawrence declared a personal interest in item 8 as he is an allotment holder.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th December 2011 were agreed subject to a number of corrections.
4. Session for County and Borough Councillors
 - 4.1 Borough Councillor Atwood reported that the improvements at Harmony St were going ahead. He noted the ice rink at Tunbridge Wells had been a great success and would be arranged again next year. It was noted Morrisons were already recruiting staff. Also planning consent had been obtained for demolition of the cinema site. Councillor Atwood also reported he had received complaints from residents of Cromwell Road flats about a lack of information on the development proposals and that as a result he had been in touch with Town & Country. T & C had indicated there would be 1-2-1 consultations with residents and he would also be meeting with T & C.
 - 4.2 Borough Councillor Webb noted the Parish Notice Board had been erected and looked good. He reported that he had received feedback on the signs in Lower Green Road but there had been suggestions they should be cited differently. He

reported that the Commons look great at the moment with no litter and the recent storms had not caused damage to the Commons. He noted the tragedy that had occurred last week in Sandhurst Road. He made reference to the Sport and Culture Passport that had been produced for children at low cost by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. He reminded the Parish Council of the opportunity to apply for grants for the Jubilee. He noted he did have some funding to spend locally. He asked if anyone had anything that they wanted raising by him at Full Council.

5. Open session for members of the public.

Nigel Freeman, TW Area Warden Supervisor, gave a short talk introducing himself and Chrissy Howlett.

A question was asked about a defective sign at St Paul's court. The chairman advised she understood a new one had been ordered.

A question was asked about the deadline for submission of applications for Parish Jubilee Grants. Councillor Webb advised it was 31st March.

Mr Richard Benoy announced he was interested in the vacancy created by the departure of Kelly Watson.

A question was asked if the permission of the Parish Council was needed to set up a resident's association. The Chairman advised it was not.

There was positive feedback about the Christmas lights in Rusthall.

6. Report from the Planning Committee.

6.1 The report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee (Councillor Edwards) set the Parish Council's statutory responses to two applications which had been received since the last meeting.

6.2 Application 29 Fremlin Close – extension of time for 3 year old approval for 2 storey extension - recommendation approve under Officer delegation.

6.3 Application Holme Grange – replacement of all double glazed windows with brown pvc – noted there would be no change aesthetically - recommendation approve under Officer delegation.

7. Parish Clerk update – It was noted that a Working Group comprising the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Councillors Codd, Clark and Simmons would be meeting on 18th January to agree an advert, job description and person specification for the position of Parish Clerk.

8. Allotments Update – It was noted the Working Group would be meeting to agree the way forward to talking with the Borough Council again.

9. Salt Spreader

9.1 The idea of providing a salt spreader was agreed.

9.2 It was agreed to purchase a salt spreader at a cost of £158.99.

10. Annual Parish Meeting

The Interim Clerk advised that the Parish Council was required to facilitate an Annual Parish Meeting for the Electors of Rusthall. The meeting would be chaired by the Parish Chairman. The Parish Chairman noted that the Annual Parish Meeting could make resolutions that, although not legally binding on the Parish Council, had to be considered by the Parish Council.

10.1 It was agreed the date of the Annual Parish Meeting would be 21st May 2012 at the United Reformed Church at 7.30 pm.

11. Cheques/Payments – The cheque for £180 payable to Premiere Digital was approved and other payments previously approved but now paid were noted.

Rusthall Parish Council – Payments for Approval/Made 9 January 2012

Balance brought forward - £5,895.37*

*Balances over £2,000 attract interest under the terms of the Council's banking arrangements with the Co-operative Bank.

Date	Payee	Description	Cheque Number	Amount	Balance
12/12/11	United Reformed Church	Hall Hire 12/12/11	100017	£30.00 PAID	£5,865.37
03/01/12	Jenifer Blackburn	Reimburse for prizes Village survey HMV voucher £20, M &S voucher £30	100018	£50.00 PAID	£5,815.37
09/01/12	Premiere Digital	8 x Street signs	100019	£180.00	£5,635.37
09/01/12	United Reformed Church	Hall Hire 09/01/12	100020	£30.00	£5,605.37

12. Consideration of any Urgent Business

The Chairman reported the KALC conference on Localism and Councillors Codd and Simmons volunteered to attend.

Councillor Edwards reported a request for a grant from the Rusthall Youth Project. The Project was seeking a grant of £400. It was agreed details of the Council's Grant Procedures would be sent out and a form designed for grant applicants.

The Chairman announced that following research carried out by the Borough Council it looked like the ownership of the boggy area at Still Green was in fact the Borough Council. The Interim Clerk advised a conveyance showed this was the case in a conveyance from 1985 and confirmation was awaited from the Land Registry.

Date of the next meeting Monday 13th February 2012 at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Rusthall.