

RUSTHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Date: Monday 13th February 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, J.Geer and R.Benoy.

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

Also present: County Councillor Davies and Borough Councillors Atwood and Webb, Press and Public

1. Apologies for absence - No Apologies.
2. Declaration of Interests - Councillor Lawrence declared a personal interest in item 7 as he is a resident of Common View.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th January 2012 were agreed subject to a spelling correction.

The Chairman announced she was going to alter the order of agenda items slightly to deal with the co-option of Richard Benoy as the next item so Mr Benoy could take a full part in the meeting should he be co-opted by the Council.

4. Co-option of Councillor.

4.1 It was unanimously agreed that Richard Benoy be co-opted on to Rusthall Parish Council.

4.2 He would complete the remainder of the available term of office created following the resignation of Kelly Watson.

There was a short interlude while Mr Benoy signed the declaration of acceptance of office with the Clerk.

5. Session for County and Borough Councillors

5.1 County Councillor Davies reported that Kent County Council would not be increasing Council Tax. He reported on the ways KCC was making savings. He said there was no plan for the library closing in Rusthall.

5.2 Borough Councillor Webb reported a note sent to Borough Councillors that if their personal Council Tax was 2 months or more in arrears they would not be able to vote on the setting of Council Tax. He noted the pot hole had been repaired in Harmony Street. He requested constituents to contact him with ideas for his £200 Borough Council grant.

5.3 Borough Councillor Atwood gave an update on a number of things happening in the Borough. Morrisons will be employing about 250 people when they open their store. The owners of the cinema site are looking to demolish the buildings on the site. Ownership of the Pantiles had changed hands. Councillor Atwood confirmed Council Tax would be increased by the Borough Council to protect services this would represent an increase of about £5 per annum for a band D property and less for others.

6. Open session for members of the public.

There were concerns that tenants in Cranwell Road flats were being treated differently to tenants in Sherwood in respect of the provisions of carpets, curtains etc following the intended demolition by Town and Country.

A number of members of the public spoke about the proposed move of the Recycling Centre from Common View.

7. Recycling Centre

7.1 It was resolved to ask Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to remove all the recycling bins except the glass bins.

7.2 It was resolved to keep four glass bins at Common View.

7.3 It was resolved to ask Environmental Services to give the area a deep clean and that the Parish Council monitor the area.

8. Report from the Planning Committee.

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

8.2 Application 3 Colbran Way – conservatory - recommendation to approve under Officer delegation.

8.3 Spa Garage – infilling at front - recommendation to approve under Officer delegation.

8.4 12 Apsley Street – rear single storey extension- recommendation to approve under Officer delegation.

8.5 7 Ashley Gardens – rear single storey extension- recommendation to approve under Officer delegation.

8.6 1 Colbran Way – conservatory - recommendation to approve under Officer delegation.

8.7 Tree at 44 Common view – decision to remain neutral on the matter due to complex issue – unclear at this stage whether tree roots affecting foundations.

9. Still Green update – It was reported that following investigation at the Land Registry that the boggy area of land at Still Green is part of the Commons. The Chairman intends to discuss the matter with the Warden.

10. Street Lighting – It was reported a consultation was circulating about turning off street lights. KALC had prepared a draft response to the consultation.

11. Cheques/Payments

Rusthall Parish Council – Payments for Approval/Made 13 February 2012

Balance brought forward - £5,605.37*

*Balances over £2,000 attract interest under the terms of the Council's banking arrangements with the Co-operative Bank. The recent bank statement shows the Council has received a total £3.70 in interest up until 18 January 2012.

Date	Payee	Description	Cheque Number	Amount	Balance
30/01/12	Festive Decorations	Christmas Lights	100021	£1080.00 PAID	£4525.37
13/02/12	United Reform Church	Hall Hire	100022	£30.00	£4495.37
13/02/12	North Cliff Media	Parish Clerk advert in the	100023	£454.80	£4040.57

		Courier			
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12. Consideration of any Urgent Business

The Chairman reported that the snow clearing exercise was successful.

It was agreed to establish a Footpath Working Group comprising Councillor Lawrence and Mr Simon d'Albertanson.

Date of the next meeting Monday 12th March 2012 at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Rusthall.