

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 16th APRIL 2012 at 7.30pm
IN THE UNITED REFORM CHURCH MANOR ROAD**

Present

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

Parish Clerk: MRS. S. Denne; Interim Parish Clerk: P. Cummins

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

1. *Apologies for absence* - No Apologies.
2. *Declaration of Interests* – None
3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th March 2012 were agreed.
4. *Session for County and Borough Councillors*

Councillor Attwood informed the meeting that Morrison's will be opening on the 23rd April. Also that information with regards to the old cinema complex will be issued in due course. The Borough Council is looking at new governance arrangements with Cabinet Advisory Boards comprised mostly of backbenchers. Bishops the greengrocers are seeking a temporary licence from Licensing Committee for four weeks to trade in the town. He attended a meeting of TWBC, Swale Council and Maidstone Council with regards to developing ICT of the three Councils together. Thus saving costs and bringing uniformity.

Councillor Webb informed the meeting that his £200 grant had been donated to Rusthall cricket club. He would like to see the Commons Conservators, whose budget is set in January, aligned with Rusthall Parish Council, whose budget is set in December. He said he was pleased to have attended the official opening of Simmonds Court.

Councillor Davis asked that the parish council and the public present inform the rest of the community to go online and vote for faster broadband within Kent. In response to a query from Chairman about payment of the Parish contribution to new kerbing in Harmony Street – He said that all contributions should be given to the Commons Conservators as they had commissioned the work.

5. *Open session for members of the public*

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for the St Paul's Street sign.

A member of the public was not happy with the limited tree trimming by the Red Lion Pub.

A member of the public asked the Parish Council if they knew how much the fire station would be on the market for. The Chairman stated the Parish Council had not been informed.

The Fair Trade Committee representative asked if the Parish Council would consider publishing a joint newsletter. The Chairman said that they would look into it next month.

6. Presentation on Tree Preservation by Mr Dan Docker.

Mr Docker gave an informative talk about tree preservation within the Borough. He talked to the meeting on how tree preservation comes into effect. What steps building developers have to take when submitting plans that may affect existing trees. He also informed the meeting that most parishes have a tree warden, whose job it is to monitor the trees with preservation orders and potential trees.

The Chairman thanked Mr Docker for his presentation.

7. Planning- No planning applications.

8. Grants There were two applications for Jubilee match funding.

- a) Fete and Bonfire stone plaque restoration - £151.54 which represented 50 % of the funding.
- b) Fete and Bonfire walking carnival and picnic - £793.00 which represented 50 % of the funding.

Before the debate and vote on the item Councillor Benoy declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as he is a Member of the Fete and Bonfire Committee. He left the room until after the debate and vote on the item.

It was agreed to award grants of £151.54 for the stone plaque restoration and £793 to support the walking carnival respectively.

Two further applications were then considered for Rusthall Youth and Community Project in the sum of £400 towards running costs and £500 for Tunbridge Wells Citizens Advice Bureau

These were agreed.

9. Localism Act – Community Assets. Mr Cummins explained how the community assets list worked and how the parish council can register an interest in a building or site.

10. Rusthall Library The Chairman explained how other parish councils run their libraries, overseen by the parish clerk and run on a voluntary basis. Discussions were continuing.

11. Cheques/Payments.

The Chairman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the debate and vote to reimburse her for expenses incurred in purchasing the lap top, phone and software for the Parish Clerk. The Chairman then left the meeting room during discussion of this item.

Mr Cummins explained he and the Chairman had obtained 3 quotes for equipment and PC World was the cheapest but on attending to pay for the purchases they would not accept a cheque for payment therefore the Chairman had to purchase the equipment and seek reimbursement. Mr Cummins had the receipts and quotes available at the meeting.

It was agreed to approve all the payments as set out.

Balance brought forward - £3,483.58*

*Balances over £2,000 attract interest under the terms of the Council's banking arrangements with the Co-operative Bank. January's bank statement shows the Council received a total £3.70 in interest up until 18 January 2012. The most recent bank statement shows an additional £1.47 in interest received up to 5th April 2012. Interest for the year (total of £5.17) has now been added to the mini-statement set out overleaf.

Date	Payee	Description	Cheque Number	Amount	Balance
16/04/12	Co-operative Bank	Interest received	N/A	- £5.17	£3,488.75
16/04/12	United Reform Church	Hall Hire	100028	£30.00	£3,458.75
16/04/12	KALC	2x attendance Chairman conference 7 Jan 2012 am only	100029	£144.00	£3,314.75
16/04/12	Jennifer Blackburn	Reimburse Chairman for purchase of laptop, software, etc.	100030	£693.92	£2,620.83

12. Consideration of any urgent business

- a) The Chairman informed the meeting that the Parish AGM will be on the 21st May with light refreshments. The meeting is for the electors of Rusthall and so consideration needs to be given to the agenda for the meeting.
- b) There have been serious complaints with regards to a property situated at Erskine Park and Ashley Gardens. The Enforcement Officer is dealing with the situation.
- c) It was decided that only notices relevant to the Parish Council or other official business would be placed on the Parish Council notice board.

13. Date of Next Meeting – 14th May 2012 at 7.30pm The United Reform Church.