

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.30pm  
IN THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MANOR ROAD**

**Present**

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

Parish Clerk: Mrs S. Denne.

Also present: Cllr Webb and public.

1. **Apologies for absence** –Cllr Davies
2. **Declaration of Interests** – None
3. **Declarations of Lobbying** -None
4. Minutes of the meetings held on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were **agreed**, and the Chairman signed them as a true record.
5. **Session for Borough Councillors** –Cllr Webb informed the meeting that Markerstudy Group were not going to appeal against the decision, re Father Christmas World. However, work was still continuing on the site, that planning permission isn't required for. He also went on to say that his grant of £200 had been turned down by the Rusthall Cricket Club and he had, therefore, presented it t Headway.  
Nigel Freeman, Community Safety Partnership, informed the meeting that the Community Wardens were facing cuts. There are 12 districts in Kent and 12 Supervisors at present, being cut to 6. There are 15 Community Wardens covering Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells, this will reduce to 6/7; 3/4 of them to cover the whole area of Tunbridge Wells. He handed out booklets to all at the meeting and requested those present to complete the questionnaire.
6. **Gatwick Airport** – Cllr Clark updated the members on the aircraft campaign. He has written to the Aviation Commision and a copy of the letter will be going on the website. He then proposed that Rusthall Parish Council join HWCAAG as an associate member. *This was agreed by a vote of 7/2.*
7. **Defibrillator** The clerk informed the members that a defibrillator would cost £695 plus VAT and the heated box would cost £450. It was agreed that *the clerk would find out more information* about the box and report back in the November meeting.
8. **Website** – The members discussed how to improve the website. Cllr Elwood informed the meeting that it received up to 2000 hits a month. However, it was felt that the site could be improved and also made easier to update information. *It was agreed that three quotes would be obtained to redesign the website, once Cllr Elwood had drawn up a spec.* He envisaged that £2000 to £3000 would need to be added to next year's budget for this.
9. **Speed watch** – The clerk informed the meeting that she had drawn up a speedwatch rota. The first session to take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014.
10. **Fire station** – To obtain members consent to submit application for Public Works Loan Board loan, already resolved at an earlier meeting. After some discussion Cllr Codd proposed that Rusthall Parish Council should apply for a loan of £100,000 for the purchase of the fire station, from the Public Works Loan Board over a period of 20 years, for an annuity, at a fixed interest rate. As of the 6<sup>th</sup> October this was 3.47%, but could go up or down when application accepted. Cllr Simmons seconded the proposal. The vote was 7/2 in favour of the application.
11. **Bus Stop at Parsonage Road** – Cllr Blackburn reported that she had taken 24 signatures at the Parsonage Road bus stop, requesting a bus shelter. *The clerk to obtain a second quote for a shelter*, before a final decision is made. Application for grants to be in by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015.
12. **KCC Highways Seminar** - Cllr Blackburn informed the members that she would attend the seminar. She would raise the problem of blocked gullies. Clerk to confirm meeting with Speldhurst and Southborough Councils, with regards lorries using Broomhill Road. Clerk also to report two street lights not working.

13. **Muga** – After much discussion by the members, it was decided that once the courts had been cleared of weeds and debris, the muga could be used free of charge until March 2015. Cllrs Blackburn, Clark and Lawrence to clear the courts on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October. One net to be installed. *Clerk to check on insurance for net and muga.* Shed also to be have sharp corners covered. Contractor to cut the grass, a metre around the outside of the court. To be advertised on the website once works completed.

#### 14. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Planning** –Committee meetings were held on 10<sup>th</sup> September & 8<sup>th</sup> October draft minutes have been circulated.

**Allotments** - A Committee meeting was held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 draft minutes have been circulated.

**Finance** - A Committee meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> October and the draft minutes have been circulated. Cllr Edwards requested to view the accounts. *Clerk agreed to email information to the Council,* but she would also present the accounts at the November parish meeting. The next Finance meeting to be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November primarily to discuss a precept for the next financial year.

15. **Chair s report – i.** Discretionary services – Cllr Blackburn and the Clerk attended a meeting with TWBC to discuss the possibility of Rusthall Parish Council taking over TWBC street lights. A report from Nick Green was sent/ given to all Parish Cllrs, by the clerk. TWBC are investigating whether the expense could be covered under Special Expenses. Further discussions need to take place. ii. Cllr Blackburn spoke to the Head teacher at St Paul’s Church of England Primary School about the campaign to support 20mph outside schools. The Head teacher was reluctant to take part this year due to pressures of work but would consider it next September.

16. **Clerk’s Report** – The invoices for the allotments have all been sent out. The Clerk to meet the Deputy Head teacher of Ridge View School with regards letting them an allotment. Further stealing had taken place at the Southwood site. Clerk read out a summary of the internal audit report, already passed to members. She also informed them that the external audit had been signed off, with no alterations or recommendations.

#### 17. Cheques/Payments

	ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT	October 2014	
<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
EE	DD	32.65	Mobile
SEW	DD	242.64	Wickham
SEW	DD	607.43	Southwood
Premier Alarms	300119	90.00	Keys
Viking	300120	76.51	Stationery
Littlejohn	300121	360.00	Ex Audit
Burslems	300122	546.00	War Memorial
Cllr Lawrence	300123	3.11	Shed Lock
AWCRK	300124	50.00	Seminar
URC	300125	40.00	Hall Hire x 2
HMRC	300126	70.85	Tax / NI Sept
S DENNE	S/O	820.91	Salary Sept
Contractor (2)	300127	12.00	Grass cut MUGA
S DENNE	300128	279.67	Back pay x3, WFH, Stamps, Posting, Car park
<b><u>Total Payments</u></b>	-	<b><u>3231.77</u></b>	-

**Public Session** – Cllr Webb informed the members that he had requested, that should the need arise this winter, the gritter lorry to go down Cranwell Road and Bretland Road. A member of the public informed the PC that there had been more damage to the table tennis table. *Clerk to contact suppliers of table, for paint.* A member of the public informed the PC that once again the boundary of Lampard Place was untidy. *Cllr Blackburn to investigate.* John Barber, Chairman of Friends of the Commons, informed the members that the letter with regards to the sale of the Common was ready to be endorsed.

**18. Items for Information:**

- a) Nominations for the Community Awards Scheme to be given to the Chair or Clerk.
- b) Cllr Blackburn informed the members of a new social networking site, called Streetlife.
- c) Cllr Edwards suggested that the parish council should consider giving Simmonds Court a donation to their residents group. As a thank you for the use of a room for many Committee meetings. *Clerk to put on November agenda.*
- d) Cllrs Simmons enquired if the Christmas Lights had been ordered. Clerk informed her that she hoped to hear from the supplier within the next few days.
- e) Cllr Benoy informed the members that the bottle bank and various public bins did not appear to have been emptied. Cllr Blackburn thought that they had all been cleared recently.
- f) Cllr Lawrence enquired about the progress of the purchase of the assets. Clerk informed him that this was still ongoing.

**The Meeting closed at 2120**