

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013 at 7.30pm  
IN THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MANOR ROAD**

**Present**

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

Parish Clerk: Chris May – Locum

Also present: KCC Cllr Davis, TWBC Cllr Webb, Inspector Wilshaw of TW Police and 12 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** –Mrs S Denne, Clerk (recovering from operation)
2. **Declaration of Interests** – Cllr Edwards declared an interest in 9iii) he is a Trustee
3. **Declarations of Lobbying** -None
4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were agreed and the Chairman signed them as a true record.
5. **Speaker:** Inspector Wilshaw is in charge of Neighbourhood Policing and was a replacement for the new TW District Chief Inspector David Pate who was called to a meeting with the Commissioner.  
He said that reported crime figures since April indicated that levels in Rusthall were comparable to Goudhurst and Lamberhurst for example. He said that the police were working with other organisations in partnership and the key to successful policing was communication. He admitted that much of their work was demand based and they relied on being informed and reacting to it.  
There was much interaction and discussion between members of the public and Councillors who were concerned at the lack of visible patrolling to deter blatant problems within the village. Concern was also expressed at the recently appointed PCSO who was now on sick leave and no replacement had been sent. There was further discussion about the need for activities for the young and the need for leaders.  
Cllr Mrs Blackburn thanked Inspector Wilshaw for attending the meeting.
6. **Session for Borough Councillors** – Cllr Davies informed the meeting that he was aware of problems on the new development and was monitoring the situation. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.  
Cllr Webb reported on a number of issues including a meeting with the Chief Constable who advised that good coverage was being maintained despite budget reductions. He reported that there had been a delay in the order of three bins due to an officer in TWBC leaving. He said that funds for new paths across the common were available and that there was another potential transfer of land adjacent to Wickham Gardens. Lastly he said that Tunbridge Wells was the first District in Kent to pioneer the street light saving in Kent.

7. **Planning Committee** – The report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee (Councillor Edwards) set out the Parish Council’s statutory responses to two applications that had been received since the last meeting.  
The Planning Committee then recommended **approval** by Officer delegated powers for  
1) **13/03026/HOUSE/HW1** Two storey rear extension and single storey side/rear extension with first floor balcony on east elevation at 2 Rustwick Rusthall  
2) **13/03341/HOUSE/CO1** Single storey rear ground floor extension 42 Meadow Road Rusthall
8. **Finance Committee** – Cllr Elwood said that the precept had been discussed and would be dealt under item 11 on the agenda.
9. **Grant Applications** – to consider the following grant requests
  - i. Football Kit £540 – It was **agreed** that a payment of £540 be paid when the invoice is submitted
  - ii. Christmas Tree Lights – decision deferred until January meeting
  - iii. Rusthall Community & Youth Project – a further grant of £2,000 has been applied for and the forms and information had been previously circulated. Cllr Elwood proposed that the amount be granted and this was seconded by Cllr Clark. All Cllrs **agreed** to fund the grant with the exception of Cllr Edwards who abstained.
10. **Request for Expenditure** –
  - i. Cllr Mrs Blackburn left the meeting for this discussion. The Chairman had requested that the Council subsidise 50% of the cost of a new printer totalling £32.50. Cllr Mrs Codd said that Cllr Mrs Blackburn did an extraordinary amount of extra work and supported the request. The payment was **agreed**. Cllr Edwards suggested that all Cllrs could apply for a subsidy but no decision was taken. Cllr Mrs Blackburn re-joined the meeting.
  - ii. Newsletter – disappointment was expressed at the Rusthall Club’s newsletter and Cllr Mrs Blackburn showed a copy of the Speldhurst Parish Council’s newsletter which cost £1,000 for two editions per year which included the layout. This would be discussed further at future meetings
  - iii. Road Closure Signs – an estimate of £2,750 had been received (inc.VAT) for equipment which would enable road closures for events in the Parishes. Cllr Davis had already committed up to a maximum of £1,000 for this project and it was proposed this cost be also shared with Speldhurst Parish Council (SPC) who are yet to make a decision. On this basis Cllr Mrs Codd proposed that funds be made available for this purchase of about £750 (one third after VAT). This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Simmons and was **agreed** by Council.
11. **The Precept 2014 – 2015** – Cllr Elwood referred Cllrs to the budget forms which had been previously circulated and discussed. He proposed a precept of £60,000 and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Codd. This was **agreed** by a vote of 8-1. Cllr Jane Geer was against the proposal.
12. **Lower Green Road** – Discussions had taken place with SPC and it has been agreed to approach KCC Highways to move the 30mph sign back a much safer distance. A proposal was being discussed whether a traffic count should be funded and this would

cost about £500. This would hopefully be shared with SPC who were yet to make a decision on this.

13. **Open session for questions from the public:** There was much discussion on traffic wardens in the village and Cllr Mrs Blackburn said that at recent meeting she had attended with the clerk they were informed that seven tickets had been issued in a month. She would clarify whether traffic wardens do fine automatically for infringements. Cllr Webb said that enforcement far exceeds the amount of fines by a large amount.

14. **Cheques/Payments**

**Accounts for payment – December 2013**

Payee Name	Cheque ref	Amount paid	
S. Denne	300030	820.91	Dec Salary
HMRC	300031	71.11	Tax & NI
URC	300032	30.00	Hire of hall
Mrs Blackburn	300033	32.50	Printer
KALC	300034	144.00	Finance Seminar x 2
S. Denne	300035	12.50	Postage
S. Denne	300036	50.39	Hi Viz Jackets
Orange	DD	24.79	Mobile
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,186.20</b>	

It was **agreed** to pay the invoices listed above

15. **Consideration of any urgent business**

- a) Cllr Mrs Blackburn said she had been in contact with Environmental Services about further leaf sweeping in the village
- b) Cllr Mrs Blackburn had been given poppy seeds to plant for next year's celebrations of World War One
- c) She mentioned St Paul's Christmas appeal
- d) The concrete base surround to the war memorial had been completed and appeared successful
- e) She mentioned Carol singing at St Paul's on Dec 14<sup>th</sup>
- f) Cllr Benoy said that the Rotary Club was part funding a concrete table tennis table for the play area at Southwood Road. Further funding may be required (RPC has earmarked £1,000) and he may approach Cllr Davis for a further £500 if needed.

The meeting closed at 8.54pm