

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 12th January 2015 at 7.30pm
IN THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MANOR ROAD**

Present

Councillors: Mrs Blackburn (Chairman), C.Elwood (Vice Chairman), 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** –Cllrs Simmons and Geer, Cllr Davies
2. **Declaration of Interests** – None
3. **Declarations of Lobbying** -None
4. Minutes of the meetings held on the 8th December 2014 were **agreed**, and the Chairman signed them as a true record.
5. **Session for Borough Councillors** – Cllr Webb informed the members that he had spoken to KCC with regards getting Cranwell Road gritted during the winter. He was informed that as it was not a priority route that it was up to the Parish Council. He also reported that he had contacted the contractors, building the new development on Cranwell road, about litter. Builders had been seen to drop litter and when questioned were abusive to the member of the public. The contractors have since eradicated the problem. He also informed the meeting that he had had a complaint about lorries going down Broomhill Road. When he approached KCC Highways with regards installing a *No Lorry* sign, he was informed that it was not classed as a safety critical area. To be classed as a safety critical area, there has to have been a crash, injury or death within the last three years.
Nigel Freeman from the CSU thanked whoever had voted to keep the Community Wardens. He said that this had been partly successful but supervisors would be reduced from 12 to 6. He then went on to inform the meeting that Eloise, Rusthall's Community Warden would be leaving at the end of January. He wished her every success in her new career path and thanked her for all that she had achieved over the last year. The members and the residents also thanked Eloise.
6. **Committee Reports:**
 - Planning** – A Committee meeting was held on 15th December 2014 draft minutes have been circulated.
 - Finance** - A Committee meeting was held on 5th January 2015 and draft minutes have been circulated.
 - Allotment** - A Committee meeting was held on 16th December 2014 and draft minutes have been circulated.
7. **Precept** - After some discussion the members agreed to a precept of £65,000 for 2015/ 2016. This equates to an increase of £3.12 on a band D property. Cllr Edwards requested that in the future, more detailed information should be given to all members by the Finance Committee.

8. Chair s report – a) Cllr Blackburn thanked John Barber for his donation of a leaf blower.

b) KCC is considering turning the libraries into a charitable trust. However, there was no intention of closing any library. Michael Hill, Cabinet Member (KCC) for Community Services: Consultation on future delivery of Library, Registration and Archive services in Kent to run from 12 January – 8 April 2015. Details on the proposals and consultation questionnaire: www.kent.gov.uk/raconsultation 24 drop-in Roadshows across the county will be held for members of the public to speak with staff, dates available on above website. Specific question to be directed to Michael Hill on LRAconsultation@kent.gov.uk or 03000 413131.

c) Cllr Blackburn informed the meeting that a plain English guide to the planning system had been published.

d) Town & Country to sponsor ‘make your own lantern’. To be held at St Paul’s School Rusthall on the 18th January from 10 am to 3 pm. The Lantern parade to take place on the 7th February at 5.30 pm, in Tunbridge Wells.

e) Cllr Blackburn finished off by informing the members that Kent was subject to an Electoral Review. The Consultation runs from the 9th December 2014 to the 2nd March 2015. The Commission is minded to recommend 81 county councillors should be elected in future, three fewer than the current arrangement. Views now sought from electors, for details and interactive maps please check: www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk or www.lgbce.org.uk or send views to Review Officer (Kent), Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Layden House, Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5LG

9. To consider donations to – i Citizens Advice - It was agreed to donate £1000.

ii The Samaritans - It was agreed to donate £200

10. To discuss RCYP request for a Travel Survey - After some discussion, it was decided to defer this topic.

11. To Discuss and Arrange Risk Assessments – The Clerk informed the members that the Parish Council has a duty to carry out risk assessments for all land and property owned by them. Cllrs Codd, Lawrence, Edwards and Blackburn agreed to carry this out with the Clerk.

12. Lorry Signage – The Clerk to contact the Freight Transport Ass. and arrange a meeting with them, Speldhurst and Southborough. To discuss the possibility of amending sat navs.

13. Gatwick Airport – Cllr Benoy reported on the meeting held at the Town Hall. It was a well-attended meeting with 43 Borough Cllrs present as well as members of the public. This summer Heathrow had 3,400 night flights and Gatwick had 11,600. Also mentioned was that some planes appeared to be lower than the minimum 3000 ft. regulation. It was suggested that house prices could reduce by up to 15% for those people now living on the flight path. Gatwick Airport is owned by Global Infrastructure Partners, a New York based fund Management Company. It is said that they are considering selling Gatwick Airport in the near future. It has also been reported that they have not paid any corporate tax for three years. There is no financial plan or plans for the infrastructure for a second runway. At the end of the evening the Borough Councillors voted against the proposal for a second runway.

14. Clerk’s Report – The Clerk informed the meeting that two representatives from the Parish Council would be meeting Greg Clark, along with other local Parish Councils; to discuss Gatwick. She then went on to inform the members that the fire station was now being used by the Tunbridge Wells Winter Shelter Group for storage.

15. Cheques/Payments

| | ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT | JANUARY 2015 | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <u>Payee Name</u> | <u>Cheque Ref</u> | <u>Amount Paid</u> | <u>Transaction Detail</u> |
| EE | DD | 38.20 | Mobile |
| S DENNE | S/O | 820.91 | Salary Dec |
| KALC | 300151 | 1374.00 | Defib |
| SIMMONDS COURT | 300152 | 100.00 | Donation |
| DONALDSON WEST | 300153 | 960.00 | Fire Station Transfer |
| POYNTELL | 300154 | 21.00 | Keys |
| DONALDSON WEST | 300155 | 30.00 | Bank transfer fee |
| VIKING | 300156 | 62.93 | Stationery |
| HMRC | 300157 | 70.85 | Tax / NI Nov |
| URC | 300158 | 30.00 | Hall Hire |
| S DENNE | 300159 | 374.27 | Work from home; Pay adj, Stamps, Pay consolidation. |
| <u>Total Payments</u> | - | <u>3882.16</u> | - |

16. **Public Session** – There were no questions from the public.

17. Items for Information:

- a) The Red Lion Pub is now under new management.
- b) An advisory note from KCC was being sent to the Kia Renault garage, requesting that they stop obstructing the footpath.
- c) Cllr Benoy reported that due to a neighbour's complaint 32 bags of dog mess had been recovered from bushes in Rusthall Park. The situation was being monitored.
- d) Cllr Benoy thought that it would be a good idea to distribute salt in small containers, to parts of the village. *To be put on the Feb agenda.*
- e) A resident would like to have a hand rail put along the steep path that links Grange Road to Woodside Road. *Cllr Blackburn to research who the footpath belongs to.*

The Meeting closed at 20.50