

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 11TH February 2013 at 7.30pm
IN THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MANOR ROAD**

Present

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

Parish Clerk: Mrs S. Denne.

Also present: Cllr Webb and Public.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Davies had other commitments
2. **Declaration of Interests** – None
3. **Declarations of Lobbying** -None
4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th January 2013 were agreed.
5. **Guest Speaker Rebekah Bibby** – Kent High Weald Project's- Rebekah gave an informative talk on how KHWP, Town and Country Housing and volunteers are turning an area, near Grange Gardens, into a wildlife area and play area for children. An area of woodland has been cordoned off with a dead hedge barrier to allow the wildlife to thrive undisturbed. Footpaths have been renovated or created to allow easier access to the rest of the area. A minibeast area had been created for children along with an earthed up bank for them to use as a stage. Native wildflower bulbs and hedges are also to be planted. Funding for the project was given from Public Rights of Way, £5,000 and Town and Country Housing, £10,000.
6. **Guest Speaker James Pearson -KCC Arts and Libraries- The Future of Library Services** – James explained that due to public Sector savings, they were looking at the County's 99 libraries. He said that they were looking at how best to make maximum use of the libraries. Whether this meant sharing the building with other organisations or relocating the library to a more cost effective premises. He went on to say that they were looking for an open and honest conversation with all residents in the county. They were also looking at running libraries with volunteers, such as Sherwood TN2 centre. Cllr Blackburn asked if Rusthall Library's hours would be cut. James informed her that this would not reduce the expenditure, so no. Cllr Edwards asked if the Rusthall library could be relocated, James said it could be but was open to discussion. Cllr Benoy asked how much the Rusthall Library cost to run. James informed the Parish Council that all the information was on the website. However, he thought, Rusthall cost £10,000 a year but that did not include staff wages. Cllr Codd asked 'how could we do better' James replied that the library could join up with other services, thus sharing costs. Cllr Elwood asked for examples of other services being shared with libraries. These were given as: Tenterden shares with the Post Office, Marden, the local history group, Hartley and the Parish Council. Other examples given were CAB, Job Advice drop in sessions and The Gateway. James informed the meeting that volunteers would be given training by KCC and the books and IT would also be supplied by them. Cllr Benoy asked how the £10,000 for Rusthall compared with the other libraries. About average was the reply.

7. **Session for Borough Councillors** – Cllr Webb informed the meeting that he had set up a petition for local businesses to sign against the change in business rates. A letter had also been sent to the Home Secretary. He also informed the meeting that he was still fighting for full compensation for all social housing residents who had been relocated due to redevelopment. Cllr Webb reminded the Parish Council that time was running out to apply for 106 money. He informed the meeting that proposals to combine the Eastern and Western Planning Committees were still at the discussion stage. Cllr Clark asked Cllr Webb if he had any up to date information on the proposed double intake of some local Primary Schools. Cllr Webb informed him that it was still being discussed.

8. **Public Open session** – A member of the public thanked Cllr Lawrence for clearing St Paul's Street of snow.
A member of the public raised concerns about double decker buses and older style buses being used on the Rusthall bus route. Cllr Simmons requested that any complaints could be directed to her and that she would bring them up at the next Joint Transportation Board meeting.

9. **Planning Committee** – The report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee (Councillor Edwards) set out the Parish Council's statutory responses to two applications which had been received since the last meeting. Firstly he informed the committee that he knew the applicant of 12/03536/HOUSE/KLM, Bowen Road.

The Planning Committee then recommended approval by Officer delegated powers for both 12/03536/HOUSE/KLM, Bowen Road and o12/03234/FUL/GM2, Manor Road.

10. **Asset Disposal Register** – Cllr Blackburn informed the parish /council that the Borough Council had earmarked five areas within Rusthall that they wish to either auction off or hand over to Rusthall Parish Council. The Parish Council need to express an interest before the 28th February 2013 and then are given a longer time period to make a final decision. After much discussion Cllr Codd proposed that the parish Council should express an interest as long as there were no costs involved at present. Cllr Geer seconded the motion. All Councillors were in agreement. Further information was also required, with regards any purchasing costs, maintenance and drainage.

11. **Fire Station** – Following the survey report, the Fire Station Working Group needs to set a date for a meeting. The Parish Council has until the middle of May before committing to the purchase.

12. **Increase in Clerk's Hours** - It was agreed that the clerk's hours be increased from 18 hours to 20 hours a week, from the 1st April 2013. This was due to the extra work load generated by the acquisition of the allotments.

13. Cheques/Payments

	ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT		
<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
URC	100108	30.00	Hall hire 11/02/2013
FESTIVE DECORATIONS	100109	1440.00	Christmas Lights
GD SURVEYORS LTD	100110	2178.00	Fire Station Survey
TOTAL PAYMENTS		3648.00	

16. Consideration of any urgent business

- a) A letter from a resident of Longmeads, thanking the Parish Council for gritting the Village, was printed in the Courier.
- b) Cllr Blackburn informed the Parish Council that the handing over of the MUGA was imminent. Taylor Wimpey had offered £500 to St Paul's primary school, to fix the locks and the broken tennis net within the MUGA. She also informed the Parish Council that she was to have a meeting with the head teacher to discuss the renting of the MUGA and how the Parish Clerk would be involved.
- c) An allotment meeting for all tenants will be held on the 14th February to discuss the Parish Councils position and to view the tenancy agreement.
- d) Cllr Blackburn informed the Parish Council that she and Cllr Codd had had a meeting with Kent Children's Fund Network. KCFN have the contract from KCC Integrated Youth Services for the areas of Rusthall, Broadwater, Capel and Pembury. They aim to work with other providers both daytime and evening. They maybe able to provide 5 sessions of 2.5 hours a week, depending on other provision in Rusthall. They would require a location but have a vehicle which can be used to take young people to visit other youth clubs etc. They are also able to give advice and support in requesting grants. (Social Enterprise funding, Social Action Fund, Prince's Trust etc) They are currently recruiting Youth Support Workers and Sessional Workers and plan to have sessions in Rusthall by the end of February. They will be meeting with Rusthall Community and Youth Project, St Paul's School and secondary schools in due course.
- e) Rusthall Medical Centre has invited residents to complete a survey. They have redecorated the waiting room, improved the doors and laid a new carpet.
- f) Cllr Blackburn requested that the Village Meeting be moved from the 22nd to 29th April, due to her having a prior commitment. This was agreed.
- g) Cllr Clark commented on the state of the Common after gas pipe works had dug it up. Cllr Blackburn informed him that she had spoken to the Warden, who assured her that it would soon be rectified, once the weather improved.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm