

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 14TH January 2013 at 7.30pm
IN THE UNITED REFORM 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 J Davies, Cllr Webb, Cllr P. Wauchope, Press and Public.

1. **Apologies for absence** – None
2. **Declaration of Interests** – Cllr Edwards declared an interest in item 8 as he is a trustee and committee member. Cllr Elwood declared an interest in item 12 as he knew one of the tenderers.
3. **Declarations of Lobbying** -None
4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 10th December 2012 were agreed, except for a minor amendment.
5. **Session for Borough Councillors** – *Cllr Davies* – wished everyone a Happy New Year. He informed the Parish Council that £6.2 million pounds had been allocated for road improvements. He also informed the meeting that consultation was still on going with regards the possible two form entry within Primary Schools. He said that residents living near Langton Green Primary and Bishops Down County Primary were concerned with the possible increase in traffic.
Cllr Webb – wished everyone a Happy New Year. He informed the Parish Council that the developers of the old hospital are required to give £525,000 for recreational purposes and Rusthall and Hawkenbury had been earmarked to receive the money. He stressed that any organisation within the village that required funding should put in a request. He also informed the meeting that 20% of the labour force, used to develop the site had to be local and this would be monitored by an independent body.
Cllr Webb also informed the meeting that due to his enquiries in November, demanding why Cranwell Road flat residents were seemingly not being offered the correct relocation grant, he had received a letter informing him that this would be rectified. He said that people that had already moved out would also receive the correct amount. Cllr Codd congratulated Cllr Webb.
6. **Public Open session** – A member of the public raised concerns about the possible felling of some oak trees, with TPO's on them. A neighbour of his has put in a request to have them felled as his insurance company thinks that they may have caused subsidence to his extension. He was advised by Cllr Edwards to speak to Cllr Webb, who would call it in to the Western Area Planning Committee.

7. **Planning Committee**– The report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee (Councillor Edwards) set out the Parish Council’s statutory responses to four applications which had been received since the last meeting.

The Planning Committee took a neutral decision and approval by Committee for Application Number: 12/03187/FUL/NR2, Ashley Park. They also recommended that the member of the public, present, should contact Cllr Webb and request that the application should be called in to the Western Area Planning Committee.

The three other applications were given recommended approval by Officer delegated powers.

However with regards to, Application Number: 12/03202/HOUSE/KLM, Grange Road, the Committee stated that they were concerned about the possible disturbance of the foundation of the existing dwelling and safety aspect of the retaining walls at either side of the property with regards to the absence of adequate fencing.

8. **Discuss proposal to have a Newsletter meeting** – It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged to discuss, with other village organisations, the proposal for a village newsletter.
9. **Rusthall Community and Youth Project** - Cllr Edwards confirmed to the meeting that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council had withdrawn the Rusthall Community and Youth Projects grant of £5000 for the next financial year. Kevin Hetherington, who is Head of Community Development, instructed RCYP to approach the Parish Council for their core funding. Cllr Edwards then talked about some of the activities the RCYP had provided in the past, such as wind surfing in France and tracing the graves of Rusthall men who were soldiers and died in France during the First World War. Showing pictures of the graves in the Parish Church on Remembrance Day. He said “We don’t do it because we have to; we do it because we want to” but without funding there would be no RCYP. Cllr Edwards then went on to explain that the boxing club paid rent for the use of the building and paid for hiring the mini bus. The only organisation that did not pay for using the mini bus was St Pauls School as they allowed the bus to be parked on school grounds. He said the mini bus was used about 120 times a year.

Cllr Codd thought that £5400 was a lot for the Parish to pay and that thought TWBC was acting in a high-handed manner in cutting the grant entirely and expecting the Parish to pick up the whole amount. Cllr Elwood said that he did not think that the residents would see a reduction in their council tax due to the grant being withdrawn.

Cllr Codd had asked how many children pay subs. Cllr Edwards informed her that it was about 7 out of 24 children.

At this point Cllr Edwards left the room in order that the other councillors could discuss the application further.

The remaining councillors felt that there should be fewer trips and they should also be more local. It was also said that more children should be recruited and maybe a subscription of £1 a week for all children would be realistic. It was also felt that greater transparency of the accounts was required.

Cllr Clark suggested granting £2700 and the club raising the rest through other means.

Cllr Codd suggested granting £3500 to cover the core costs.

Cllr Elwood suggested granting £5400 as the club needed to be kept running.

Cllr Blackburn suggested granting £3400

Cllr Simmons proposed granting £3400 with the proviso that RCYP would produce more informative accounts and consider reducing the number of outings and the distances travelled. Also consider charging all children a subscription

Cllr Clark seconded the motion.

The proposal was agreed, with one abstention.

- 10. Setting of the precept** – The Parish Councillors were given a copy of the draft Parish Council budget. Cllr Elwood proposed to accept it and Cllr Codd seconded it. It was agreed by the Parish Council with one abstention.
- 11. Bike Marking Event** – The local police will be at the old Rusthall fire station car park on the 26th January 2013, between 1100hrs and 1400hrs, offering free security marking of push bikes and any other personal items people may wish marked.
- 12. Fire Hydrant Survey** – Cllr Blackburn said that she was keen for the Parish Council and residents to carry out a visual survey on the condition of the fire hydrants within the Parish, in order to help the Kent Fire and Rescue. Cllr Codd asked if by doing this would it reduce the council tax paid by residents, Cllr Blackburn replied that she thought not. Cllr Lawrence suggested that The Rusthall Village Association may like to help.
- 13. Rusthall Signage** – Cllr Blackburn informed the Parish Council that she had been informed that making the new signs graffiti proof was not a good idea, the paint never dries completely. Cllr Elwood asked if the money for the signs would be coming out of this year's budget. The Clerk replied yes. Cllr Lawrence asked if the old signs may be donated to the fete or such, for auction. The Clerk said that she would look into it. Cllr Codd requested that the signs not be attached to other posts. The Clerk said she would inform the contractor.
- 14. Proposal to cancel August Parish Council Meeting** – This was agreed

15. Cheques/Payments

	ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT		
<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
URC	100101	30.00	Hall hire 14/01/2013
Environmental Hygiene Ltd	100102	13.19	Thaw Ice
S Denne	100103	53.55	Travel
S Denne	100104	150.00	Working from home allowance Oct- Dec 2012
S Denne	100105	739.27	Salary
Orange	DD	20.75	Mobile
HMRC	100106	58.70	NIC and Tax
TOTAL PAYMENTS		1065.46	

16. Consideration of any urgent business

- a) Cllr Blackburn informed the Parish Council that the Mayor was holding a charity event, indoor bowling, in aid of The Hospice on the 27th January; if anyone would like to attend.
- b) Cllr Blackburn also asked if one of the councillors would like to join her at the Lord Lieutenant of Kent service in Maidstone on the 12 March. This is held annually to thank all the volunteers within Kent.
- c) Cllr Blackburn proposed that the Parish Council should join in with the 'Bag it and Flag it' campaign, this was agreed.
- d) Cllr Blackburn informed the meeting that the work had started on Harmony Street with regards to the parking issue.
- e) Cllr Blackburn informed the meeting that one of the safety speed signs had been ordered.
- f) Cllr Blackburn informed the Parish Councillors that a meeting would be taking place on the 28th January with KCC and Taylor Wimpey with the hope of the keys of the MUGA being handed over.
- g) Cllr Clark raised concerns over the alleged dog poisoning on the common, reported in the press. Cllr Blackburn said that she had spoken to the Commons Warden, who had seen no evidence of poisoning and that he was reluctant to put up posters. The situation was being monitored.
- h) Cllr Lawrence informed the Parish Council that he would be able to help clear snow during the week as well as weekends for the present time, as were other councillors.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm