

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> December 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 Davis and public.

1. **Apologies for absence** –Cllr Webb
2. **Declaration of Interests** – None
3. **Declarations of Lobbying** -None
4. Minutes of the meetings held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were **agreed**, and the Chairman signed them as a true record.
5. **Session for Borough Councillors** – Cllr Davis informed the members that the finger post incorrectly pointing to Salomons had been removed. He went on to wish the meeting a Happy Christmas and New Year.
6. **Committee Reports:**
  - Planning** –Committee meeting was held on November 24<sup>th</sup>, draft minutes have been circulated.
7. **Chair s report** -
  - i. Completion on the purchase of the fire station will be the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014. PWLB have agreed loan for 20yrs at 3.15%. The Clerk to obtain three quotes to carry out renovation work on the fire station. Town and Country Group are to work with Parish Council on a business plan. They may hold ‘up skilling’ sessions at the fire station.
  - ii. TWBC have decided to retain the part of the wood that falls within Rusthall. It is to be a buffer zone between the town and the village. The future of the land adjacent to the Wickham Gardens allotments is still being considered by TWBC. Rusthall Parish Council submitted a business plan for it to become further allotment plots. TWBC will inform the Parish Council of their decision.
  - iii. The Street Cruiser is to be taken over by another voluntary organisation and for it to visit Rusthall it would require funding. It is thought that a three hour session would cost £70. To be put on a later agenda for the Cllrs to consider.
  - iv. The Commons Conservators have published a new procedure with regards travellers. The Commons Warden has reported that a ditch near Sunnyside Road will be cleared and the soakaway improved. Funding has been agreed.
  - v. TWBC will be giving up the lease on the closed public toilets in Rusthall. The owners of the building are the owners of the Oak public house.
  - vi.
8. **Review of: Standing Orders, Policies and Terms of Reference** - Cllrs agreed to the changes highlighted by the Clerk with minor amendments.

9. **Defibrillator** – i. **Update on product** – The Clerk updated the members on how the defibrillator was charged and why mains supply was required.  
 ii. **To discuss agree location** – It was agreed to defer this until further investigation had been carried out.  
 iii. **To discuss and agree purchase** – It was agreed to purchase one defibrillator. Cllr John Davis kindly donated £695.00 from his members grant towards the purchase.
10. **Simmonds Court** – It was agreed to give Simmonds Court £100.00 as a thank you from the Parish Council, for offering them a meeting room , free of charge on a regular basis for the last two years.
11. **Insurance** – It was agreed to accept the Insurance quote from Came and Co, which included building insurance for the fire station.
12. **Proposed Lorry signage** – Report by Cllr Clark. Further to a meeting held between Speldhurst and Rusthall Parish Councils on 17<sup>th</sup> November it was decided to try to manage the increasing number of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) using the small country lanes in and around the parishes. Due to the use of satellite navigation systems an increasing amount of large vehicles including HGVs are using these lanes as short cuts – often drivers with no local knowledge. An example of this was a Renault car transporter driven down Broomhill Road by a foreign driver who ‘thought he was on Langton Road’. This transporter caused a 0.5 mile tail back in both directions and a long delay. This is happening on an increasing frequency.  
 During the meeting it was agreed that a map showing proposed locations of traffic signs stating ‘No HGVs except for Access’ – in order to reduce the number of lorries using the lanes as short cuts.  
 The members discussed this and Cllr Davis reminded them that Bidborough PC would also have to be informed as some of the roads in question affected their Parish. Cllr Davis gave his support to the project. It was agreed that the Parish Councils concerned would have to pay for the signs. Further discussions to take place.
13. **Gatwick Airport** – Report by Cllr Clark. The Gatwick 2nd runway meeting was well supported by various Councils.  
 There were speakers from the Airports Commission, KCC Transport Planning and others. The ‘flight change’ (initially denied by Gatwick Airport but recently admitted) experienced in the summer was explained as a new route system in order to reduce CO2 emissions by having better lined up aircraft on final approach - this meant moving the flight path to the east (affecting Rusthall more). In fact a noise expert measured the noise level in Rusthall (by coincidence) at 68dB - noting that the official acceptable noise contour is 57dB.  
 It was noted that only recently KCC has rejected the 2nd runway at Gatwick - previously supporting it and rejecting Boris Island.  
 A manager from Hever Castle spoke and stated that the 300000 annual visitors are at risk due to aircraft noise as numerous outside activities such as plays have had to be cancelled as no one can hear the actors.

- 14. Clerk's Report** – The Clerk showed the members the up to date accounts and answered questions. She went on to inform the meeting that Cllr Davis had kindly offered £459 towards the bus shelter. She then went on to inform the meeting that there was to be a meeting at the Town Hall to discuss Gatwick airport, any Cllrs who wished to attend to let her know.

**15. Cheques/Payments**

	<b>ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT</b>	<b>December 2014</b>	
<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
EE	DD	32.40	Mobile
S DENNE	S/O	820.91	Salary Nov
TWBC	300137	100.00	Toy Appeal
KALC	300138	72.00	Finance Conf
KALC	300139	25.00	Media Course
KALC	300140	29.99	Book
FESTIVE DECS	300142	1728.00	Christmas Lights
URC	300143	40.00	Hall Hire
HMRC	300144	70.85	Tax / NI Nov
CLLR BLACKBURN	300145	72.45	Petrol
S DENNE	300146	7.65	Parking & Postage
CONTRACTOR (2)	300147	12.00	Grass cut
CONTRACTOR (3)	300148	70.00	New Gate Posts
CONTRACTOR (4)	300149	70.00	Notice Boards
<b><u>Total Payments</u></b>	-	<b><u>3151.25</u></b>	-

- 16. Public Session** –John Barber, chair of The Friends of the Common asked if the Parish Council could support the campaign, for a pedestrian crossing on the A264, any further than they already have. *Cllr Blackburn said that the Parish Council could write to Cllr Brazier.* Cllr Davis informed the meeting that he had tried and been unsuccessful, in the past, in getting a crossing. A member of the public requested to know how the fire station was being financed. He was informed about the PWLB loan and that a copy of the precept / accounts was or would be available on the Parish website. Cllr Blackburn informed the meeting that Cllr Davis would like to give his £20,000 members grant to be used in renovating the fire station. The members thanked Cllr Davis. Mr Sefton was in the finals of the over 80's table tennis tournament. Losing only to an ex England player.

## **17. Items for Information:**

- a) TWBC recycling rota now available on their website.
- b) Carol singing to take place in the village starting at St Paul's.
- c) Health Watch questionnaire on dentists is available to complete, on line.
- d) Cllr Elwood informed the members that there was an interest in hiring the MUGA for junior football. Cllr Blackburn confirmed that the PC would be happy to negotiate.
- e) Cllr Clark informed the members that he would need to replace his leaf blower before the PC could use it. Mr John Barber, kindly offered to donate a machine to the PC.
- f) Cllr Lawrence raised concerns about the condition of Still Green path. *Cllr Blackburn informed him that she would write to TWBC.*
- g) Cllr Benoy informed the members that he had received a complaint about rubbish being left, after football matches, at the Southwood Road football pitch. *Cllr Blackburn said that she would contact TWBC Parks and Leisure, requesting that they speak to the football clubs concerned.*
- h) Cllr Benoy reported that a light as not working on the Rusthall Rd.
- i) Cllr Benoy raised concerns over the Spa Garage parking their cars for sale on the footpath.
- j) Cllr Benoy informed the meeting that he had managed to raise £400.00 within the village for Movember.

**The Meeting closed at 20.55**