



Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at The Rackliff Centre on  
Monday 10 June 2024 at 7.30pm

PARTICIPANTS

**Members Present:**

Cllrs Liz Ellicott, Alex Britcher-Allan, Barry Edwards, Paul Gripper, Mark O’Callaghan and Doug Smith.

**Officers Present:**

Claire Reed, Clerk

**Others Present:**

One member of the public.

RECORDING OF THE MEETING

056/24 No one present filmed, photographed or recorded this meeting.

APOLOGIES

057/24 Apologies were received from Cllrs Chris Ducklin (family emergency), Angela Funnell (holiday) and Dave Funnell (holiday). Apologies were also received from Borough Cllrs Jayne Sharratt and Matthew Sankey.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

058/24 There were none.

DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

059/24 There were none.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

060/24 It was **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 May 2024, copies of which had been previously distributed to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM THESE MINUTES (NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE)

061/24 **Plan of the All Ability Garden.** Minute 042/24 refers. It was **noted** that the plan had been completed and an article with an accompanying photo will be published in the next issue of Rusthall Life. The plan will also be displayed at the Village Fair.

062/24 **White Hart.** Minute 008/24 refers. It was **noted** that TWBC planning had looked into the complaint regarding alleged educational facilities at the former White Hart and had concluded that there was no breach of planning.

063/24 **Talking Benches.** These are still under discussion.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

064/24 **Dead Badger.** It was **noted** that a resident has reported a dead badger on Lower Green Road twice online and via the phone however the badger is yet to be removed.

065/24 **20mph signs.** The 20mph signs on Lower Green Road are wearing away.

066/24 **Anti-social behaviour.** It was **noted** that there had been incidents of anti-social behaviour in the village including a break in at the cricket club which has been reported to the police.

067/24 **Cricket Pitch.** It was **noted** that Southborough Junior Cricket Club are playing on the cricket pitch each Sunday.

#### REPORTS FROM COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

068/24 **Borough Cllr Alex Britcher-Allan briefed council on:**

- The disabled bay outside St Paul's Church Centre has been re-painted.
- Cllr Britcher-Allan has been elected to the Planning and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- The developers of the Governor Road development have sought permission to remove the condition requiring the building of social housing. It was noted that many Social Housing bodies are not taking on new properties so it is no longer viable for the developers to build this type of housing.
- The Borough (and parishes) are currently in the Pre-Election Period.

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

069/24 **Pond Wardens.** It was unanimously **resolved** to appoint Paul Froome as an additional pond warden.

#### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

070/24 It was **noted** that Christmas lights have been ordered for the High Street. Following difficulties last year, it was decided to order lights earlier this year in June – however there were still difficulties. It was **agreed** that the lights for Christmas 2025 should be considered in April 2025. The Deputy Clerk was thanked for her tenacity in securing suitable lighting for this year.

#### FINANCE UPDATE

071/24 Council **noted** the summary of receipts and payments in May 2024:

##### **Receipts UTB in May 2024**

Allotments	£180.00
Rackliff Hire	£142.00
TWBC – elections May 2024	£250.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£572.00</b>

##### **Payments in May 2024**

UTB	£13,305.70
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£13,305.70</b>

### **Cash Balances at Bank on 31 May 2024**

UTB	£71,303.88
Cambridge Building Society	£86,416.42
Hampshire Trust Bank	£60,904.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>£218,624.92</b>

- 072/24 **Accounts for Payment.** Council **resolved** to approve the payments for May 2024 as presented at the meeting and detailed in Appendix 1.
- 073/24 **Signatories.** It was **resolved** to keep the current signatories, being Cllrs Liz Ellicott, Mark O’Callaghan and Barry Edwards (Cllr Edwards is not a signatory for the Cambridge Building Society account) for the Council’s accounts. It was further **resolved** to add the Clerk and RFO, Mrs Claire Reed, as a signatory on the Cambridge Building Society and Hampshire Trust Bank Accounts. The Clerk will be added to the Unity Trust Bank account as an administrator. **Action: Clerk**
- 074/24 **Grant Request.** It was unanimously **resolved** to approve a grant of £499.88 to St Paul’s Primary School to purchase paint for a multisensory playground painting. **Action: Clerk**
- 075/24 **Replacement laptop for the Clerk.** It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the expenditure of up to £1,500 (budgeted) to purchase a new laptop for the Clerk. **Action: Clerk**
- 076/24 **GDPR-info.** It was **resolved** accept the quotation of £350 for data protection support services.
- 077/24 **Additional Mailboxes.** It was **resolved** to approve the expenditure of £17.25 a month for three additional mailboxes for the non-voting members of the Allotment Committee. This is to enhance data protection. **Action: Clerk**
- 078/24 **Standing Orders and direct debits.** It was **resolved** to set up standing orders for all of the Council’s regular contractors and for staff salaries. It was further **resolved** to ensure all utilities are paid via direct debit to reduce costs. **Action: Clerk**

### HIGHWAYS UPDATE

- 079/24 Cllr Liz Ellicott reported that the Highways Steering Group met a week ago and had agreed to continue to push for a lower speed limit of 30mph on the A264 Langton Road. An E-petition has been submitted to Kent County Council (KCC) for approval; KCC has 10 days to respond. It was **noted** there has been no response to the letter sent to County Councillor Neil Baker, Cabinet member for Transport and Highways at KCC. The group is continuing to collect anecdotal evidence to support the campaign. Cllr Alex Britcher-Allan has requested a copy of the equality impact assessment from TWBC as there is currently no access from the village to the new all access path across the common or to the church. The need to involve the County Councillor and MP in the campaign was highlighted.

### DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

- 080/24 There was no update.

### RUSTHALL VOLUNTEERS UPDATE

- 081/24 There was no update.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

082/24 Cllr Paul Gripper reported:

- **New Mayor for TWBC.** He had recently attended the Mayor Making Ceremony for Councillor Nancy Warne at TWBC.
- **Training.** He will be attending the NALC course 'Unleashing the power of local councils to tackle the climate emergency' in the coming weeks and will report back.

## CLERK'S REPORT

083/24 The Clerk, Claire Reed, reported:

- **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs).** The Clerk has requested a new blank DPI form from the monitoring officer so that Councillors may update their DPIs as necessary.
- **Gov.uk domain.** The government is encouraging all local authorities to move over to a gov.uk domain. This is also strongly recommended in the Practitioners' Guide which sets out proper practices for local authority governance and finance. The Clerk is investigating the associated costs and process and will report back to council.
- **Email Communications.** The Clerk reminded members that all council business should be conducted via parish council emails and not via personal accounts.
- **Memorial Bench.** The council has received a request to site a new memorial bench in the parish for the late Mark Reece. It has been suggested that the executors may wish to fund a talking bench in his memory.

## DIARY DATES

084/24

- 08 July 2024 at 7.30pm - **Full Council Meeting** in The Rackliff Centre

## ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

085/24 The following was noted by the council:

- **Cycle Racks.** Permission has been granted by the Commons Conservators for the new racks to be installed at the end of Common View. The racks are classed as permitted development by the Planning Authority as it is a village amenity. The cost of 3 Sheffield racks is approximately £130 +VAT and the concrete base in the region of £1,300. The possibility of a planter to accompany the racks is being considered. It was suggested that wording could be added to the planter to acknowledge the Conservators and the Parish Council.
- **Overgrown trees.** It was **noted** that the trees are overhanging the 20mph and Rusthall village signs on Longmeads.
- **Hanging baskets.** The baskets are now up on the High Street.
- **Community Café.** The café will take place a week earlier than normal, on 22 June 2024, due to the Village Fete.
- **Village Fete.** The village fete will take place on 29 June 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm

Claire Reed, Clerk

..... Chairman

Dated .....