



Rolvenden Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Rolvenden Parish Council held in Rolvenden Village Hall, Rolvenden on 7th December 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mrs D Curtain (Chairman), Cllr E Barham, Mrs L Barwise and Cllr K Walder.

In attendance Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk

The Chairman opened the meeting by announcing that with immediate effect that she was resigning as Chairman and as a Parish Councillor, then left.

As the Vice-Chairman was not present Cllr L Barwise was nominated to Chair the meeting.

970. **Apologies for absence:**

Cllrs D Bray, S Bryant, N Cackett, J Kelly and Cllr Mrs L Walker (Vice-Chairman)

971. **Declarations of interest:**

- a. **Disclosable Interests:** Under the Localism Act 2011 to be made relating to items on the agenda.

None.

- b. **Other Significant Interests:** Under the code of conduct adopted in May 2021 by the Parish Council, to be made relating to items on this agenda.

Cllr E Barham trustee of Basil Russel Trust, trustee of the Windmill Trust, Royal British Legion,

- c. **Other Interests:** not required to be disclosed under (a) and (b) but voluntary announcements made only for transparency reasons.

Cllr K Walder as a member of the Ashford Borough Council Planning Committee would not take part in the Planning item of the agenda.

972. **Public Participation:**

There were no public submissions.

973. **Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:**

The level of vandalism that is occurring in the parish is concerning, as Borough Councillor I am attending a meeting of the CSU tomorrow which is being expanded to cover the rural area as well as the town centre.

Budget setting at the Borough begins next week which will take some time as there are savings to be made. Last week at the extraordinary meeting of the Council agreement was reached to move the Civic centre to International House.

As part of the Rural Levelling up fund there are two funds coming, EV charging points and the King's Tree fund more details will be released in due course.

974. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th November 2023 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

975. **Planning:**

Planning application PA/2023/2200 32 Sparkeswood Avenue, Rolvenden – Proposed front porch extension.

As the Parish Council was not quorate due to interests the item was not discussed.

976. **Finance:**

Schedule of payments:

Staff costs	£1,450.37
Litter picking	£120.00

Resolved:

1. To authorise the payment of the items in the schedule of payments
2. To receive and note Report RPC/2023/15
3. To receive and acknowledge the financial movements for the period 1st April 2023 to 30th November 2023.

977. **Budget 2024 / 2025:**

Report RPC/23/16 concludes the budget-making process for the financial year 2024 / 2025 and makes recommendations to enable the Parish Council to set its Precept for 2024 / 2025 and to notify the tax collecting authority, Ashford Borough Council, in accordance with statutory legislation before 5th January 2024.

Resolved:

1. To receive and note Report RPC/23/16
2. To determine the Parish Council's budget for 2024 / 2025 as set out below
3. To confirm the Precept for 2024 / 2025 in accordance with the provisions in Sections 39,41 and 50 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992
4. To authorise the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer of the Parish Council to sign the Precept demand on Ashford Borough Council.

Audit	£600.00
Bank Charges	£72.00
Defibrillator	£450.00
Donations	£100.00
Grounds maintenance	£14,425.00
Insurance	£950.00
Meetings	£200.00
Postage	£20.00
Staff costs	£16,000.00
Stationery	£200.00
Subscriptions	£1,050.00
Training	£400.00

Xmas tree	£200.00
Village Hall Insurance	£900.00
Village Hall Ground rent	£85.00
Website	£120.00
Total Revenue expenditure	£35,772.00
Contingency	£1,000.00
Total budget	£36,772.00
Funded by	
Precept	£34,212.00
Churchyard maintenance contribution	£2,320.00
War Memorial maintenance contribution	£240.00
Total	£36,772.00

978. Request for release of S106 funds:

A request has been received from the football club for the release of S106 funds to pay for the repair of the roof at the football pavilion in the sum of £5,100 +VAT.

The Parish Council is asked to give approval for an application to be submitted to the Borough Council for the release of funds.

Resolved: To authorise the Clerk to submit a request to the Borough Council for the release of s106 funds.

979. Village Gateway for the Layne:

Confirmation of the available land is awaited from Kent Highways.

980. Play Area Annual Inspection:

Quotations are still awaited for the repairs as they can only be carried out by RPII qualified installers.

981. Monypenny / Vicarage redevelopment:

The visit to Danemore and Farrow Court went well with the residents preferring the smaller Danemore. Officers from the Borough Council were there to listen to the feedback. New plans will be drawn up in the new year.

982. Kent Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024 – 2034 Consultation:

Kent County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), has an overview role for local flood, which is flooding that arises from surface runoff, ordinary watercourses, and groundwater. As LLFA, KCC have a duty to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy) that sets out how local flood risks will be managed in the county.

The current Local Strategy (2017 – 2023) needs to be replaced and KCC have drafted a new Local Strategy. KCC are proposing that the next strategy will cover a 10-year period with a review after the first 5 years.

The draft Local Strategy builds upon lessons learnt from the previous strategy. Through it, KCC aim to improve the safety and wellbeing of Kent's residents and the economy of Kent with appropriate flood risk management. KCC will do this by working with communities and partners, adapting to climate change, and utilising natural processes to provide multiple benefits, where possible.

The consultation details can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/localfloodrisk with a response deadline of 30th January 2024.

Resolved: for individual councillors to respond if they wish.

983. **Biodiversity:**
Report RPC/23/17 brings to the attention of the Parish Council a new policy regarding biodiversity.

Resolved:

1. **To receive and note Report RPC/23/17**
2. **To receive and adopt the biodiversity policy**
3. **To review the biodiversity policy early in 2024.**

984. **Other items for information:**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:25pm