



## Rolvenden Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Rolvenden Parish Council held in Rolvenden Village Hall, Rolvenden on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mrs D Curtain (Chairman), Cllr E Barham, Mrs L Barwise, Cllr Mrs D Bray, Cllr N Cackett, and Cllr J Kelly.

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

931. **Apologies for absence:**

Cllr S Bryant, Cllr K Walder and Cllr Mrs L Walker (Vice-Chairman)

932. **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 Mrs D Curtain War Memorial Trust

Cllr E Barham trustee of Basil Russel Trust, trustee of the Windmill Trust, Royal British Legion and minute 936 (planning application PA/2023/1436) as neighbour.

Cllr J Kelly minute 936 (planning application PA/2023/1436) as neighbour.

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

933. **Public Participation Session:**

There were no submissions.

934. **Ashford Borough Councillor's report:**

1. Update on Rolvenden Tigers

Firstly, I just want to say what heartbreaking news and to thank the organisers of this fantastic community resource for all they've done for children and young people in the village & to thank the emergency services. ABC's Leisure Services officer has alerted both the Football Foundation and the local Kent representative of the Football Association who are eager to help and hopefully a package of financial support will emerge once the extent of the losses has been determined.

2. I attach a media release regarding the recent 'Call for Sites' issued by ABC's Planning Policy department which sets out the process, key dates and a widening of the land use categories that can come forward. Newenden PC have asked me to do a presentation explaining the Local Plan and the update to it which is underway now. I'm very happy to do the same for Rolvenden and would suggest a few sessions for any residents who wish to understand this critical element of the planning system. This could include a session on the Rolvenden Local Plan. Planning law & policy can be pretty indigestible and complex so it would be very helpful to have RPC's view on whether this would be welcome and how best to structure this. Obviously, I am happy to talk to residents one to one as well.

3. Monypenny

One to one sessions with residents are being well-received and giving a far more nuanced and detailed picture. These sessions are obviously confidential. But one theme that recurs is that uninformed opinions and rumours are proving very distressing. The draft proposals are available to all Monypenny residents and can be talked through with Toni, the scheme warden, who is excellent, myself or members' of ABC's housing team. And I need to emphasise, once again, these are draft proposals for discussion and nothing is set in stone and nor will it be until this first consultation has taken place.

4. Thoburn Consultation Event

A big thank you to the residents, Councillors and to Tenterden Wildlife for all their work in making this such a successful and well-attended event. Residents took their time to provide their views after the presentation and a large number of opinions were captured on the day.

I will emerge from harvest late tomorrow night and the second batch is scheduled for around 5th October - I will have my mobile with me at all times - 07389110611 - if anyone wishes to contact me.

935. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

936. **Planning:**

**Planning application PA/2023/1436 – 25 Gatefield Cottages, Gatefield Road, Rolvenden** – Single storey side and rear extension

**The application was not considered as Ashford Borough Council approved the application despite the Parish Council requesting an extension to the consultation period.**

**Resolved: to register a complaint with the Borough Council regarding the failure to honour the extension request.**

**Planning application PA/2023/1427 – 3-5 Black and White Cottage, Maytham Road, Rolvenden** – Replacement of existing wood conservatory with new oak conservatory.

**Resolved: The Parish Council has no objection to the proposal.**

**Listed building consent PA/2023/1484 – 3-5 Black and White Cottage, Maytham Road, Rolvenden** – Replacement of existing wood conservatory with new oak conservatory.

**Resolved: The Parish Council has no objection to the proposal.**

**Planning application NOT/2023/1696 – St Mary the Virgin Church, Hastings Road, Rolvenden – T1 Mature Scots Pine – Remove damaged branches from the top of the tree.**

**Resolved: The Parish Council supports the application.**

**Planning application PA/2023/1544 – 25 High Street, Rolvenden – Loft conversion with front and rear roof lights and first-floor windows on the existing side elevations.**

**Resolved: The Parish Council supports the application.**

937. **Finance:**

Schedule of payments:

Tompsett Landscaping	£1,988.02 (VAT £331.34)
Staff costs	£1,386.67
Litter picking	£120.00
Play safety	£205.20 (VAT £34.20)

Councillors N Cackett and Mrs D Curtain verified the entries through the bank account.

**Resolved:**

- 1. To authorise the payment of the items in the schedule of payments**
- 2. To receive and note report RPC/2023/12**
- 3. To receive and acknowledge the financial movements for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.**

938. **Section 106 funding for sport:**

**Report RPC/23/11**, attached, brings to the Parish Council a summary of the sport element of the Section 106 funding received from the Halden Lane development, together with a request for the release of funds for the refurbishment of the Cricket Pavilion.

Subsequent to the preparation of the report the Tennis Club have advised that they will repay the RWMT Loan from their own resources, however the latest quote for the fencing is in the region of £9,000.

**Resolved:**

- 1. To receive and note report RPC/23/11**
- 2. To submit a claim to Ashford Borough Council in the sum of £31,220.77 subject to the conformation that planning consent, if required, is in place and that sufficient capacity is available in the drainage.**
- 3. Ashford Borough Council have sanctioned the release of the funds for the football pavilion works, it was agreed to pay these over before the receipt of the funds.**

939. **Village Gateway for the Layne:**

Some Layne residents have asked whether the Parish Council would consider supporting/installing village gateways at either side of the Rolvenden Layne 30mph limit. They are asking as they believe that these will help to create 'a sense of place' when drivers enter the village, and they will provide a physical measure/cue to drivers that they are required to slow down before entry. The success of the Ewe and Lamb has increased street parking and cars are still trying to speed through what is now a much narrower road. There appears to be research to suggest that gateways do augment other speed awareness measures and do help to bring speed down. If the Parish Council support this in principle it

would need to be added to the Highways Improvement Plan and budgets/funding identified and planned for in a future budget cycle.

Information from Kent Highways quotes that Village gateways will be white in colour and will require at least 1.5m of verge in which to install them as the smallest gate is about 1m wide and they need to be set back at least 0.5m from the edge of the carriageway for clearance.

Typical costs for the gateway element installation: Speed limit carriageway roundel from £100 each and white gates from approximately £1,200 each. The overall cost can increase significantly if additional costs are incurred, e.g Utility services in the verge may need to be relocated in order to install gates.

**Resolved: To add the gateways to the Highways Improvement Plan and review when a decision is made by Kent Highways.**

940. **Ashford Borough Local Plan 2041: Call for Sites:**

The Borough Council is embarking on a statutory review of its Local Plan. A Local Plan to 2041 will need to identify sufficient land to provide for new homes, Gypsy and Traveller sites, and jobs in the borough, as well as spaces for retail and leisure uses, community services, and visitor and tourism facilities. To reflect the council's ongoing commitment to create sustainable places that support the environment, health and well-being and that seek to mitigate and adapt to climate change potential sites for new green spaces, energy generation, opportunities for Biodiversity Net Gain, and wetlands for Nutrient Neutrality mitigation (if required) and or nature-based initiatives, are also being sought.

The exercise inviting landowners, developers, businesses, organisations and residents to submit any land that may be available to be considered for inclusion in the Local Plan. This exercise will be open until the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Following the close of the 'call for sites', all sites that have been submitted will be assessed for their suitability, availability and achievability, and be made publicly available on the Borough Council website in due course. It should be noted that a site submission does not mean that it will be allocated, or provide any indication of the outcome of any assessment process through the Local Plan or any subsequent planning application that may be submitted.

941. **Play Area Annual Inspections:**

The annual inspection of the play areas has recently been carried out by Playsafety Ltd part of RoSPA, copies attached. A number of minor issues have been identified and quotations are being sought for replacement parts and repairs.

The Basketball hoop at the Streyte is underused as it does not have a hard standing and the back board is damaged. The War Memorial Trust have asked for it to be relocated as it is too close to the boundary for cricket.

**Resolved: to obtain a quotation for a replacement basket ball hoop with hardstanding or a sports end.**

942. **Community Resilience Plan:**

Creating a Community Resilience Plan is good practice so that in the event of an emergency you can:

- Use local resources to help emergency services with their response.
- Help those in the community that are vulnerable.
- Help manage the response of the voluntary sector.

Communities that spend time planning for emergencies are able to deal with them better and recover faster.

Whilst Rolvenden responded well during the pandemic it would have been helpful to have a documented plan to work with. Kent Resilience Forum have produced a template, attached, which if used will enable all to work together.

During an incident, Ashford Borough Council will continue to lead on the response with the emergency services where relevant but a local community plan allows a local response in the first instance and play a vital role in helping residents.

The Parish Council is asked if it wishes to undertake the completion of a Community Resilience Plan, if so it is suggested that a committee is formed including residents.

**Resolved: Not to proceed with a Community Resilience Plan at this time.**

943. **Meeting dates:**

As there are a number of new councillors following the recent elections members are asked to review when Council meetings are held and the venue.

**Resolved: to retain the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month as the meeting date at the Village Hall.**

944. **Other Items for information:**

The Rolvenden History Group have requested the loan of the Lavell Postcard collection for a display early next year, this was agreed.

Cllr Barham requested that the Vicarage/Monypenny redevelopment be made an agenda item each month.

It was reported that the Oak tree within the Frensham Green development has died.

The gallery in the village hall is under used, should a lift be installed it would make the space available to a much larger audience.

It was noted that there are a number of hedges overhanging footways, vegetation letters have been delivered.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.