



Rolvenden Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Rolvenden Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Lounge, Monypenny, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4NF.

Present: Cllr Mrs D Curtain, (Chairman) Cllr Mrs L Walker (Vice Chairman), Cllr S Bryant, Cllr A Johnstone, Cllr Mrs F May, Cllr Mrs I Newman, and Cllr G Tiltman

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

Also attending: Ashford Borough Councillor K Walder and 7 members of the public.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman announced that former Parish Councillor Brian Hindley passed away on the 20th January 2020. Brian was an active member of the Parish Council for a number of years and played an active role in the community and will be missed.

371. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Mrs T Turner (family commitment)

Cllr E Barham (no reason given)

372. Declarations of Interest:

1. Declarations of Members' Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

None

2. Declarations of Members' Other Significant Interests:

Cllr Mrs I Newman, trustee of the War Memorial Trust.

Cllr Mrs L Walker Rolvenden Village Fete

Cllr Mrs D Curtain, trustee of War Memorial Trust

3. Declarations of Members' Other Interests:

Cllr G Tiltman, member of the Village Hall Management committee

Cllr S Bryant Chairman Rolvenden Football Club

373. Public participation:

A resident asked who was paying for the street lighting in Halden Field given the lack of lighting through the rest of the village.

Enquiries will be made.

A resident reported that the roads have not been swept since before Christmas.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Borough Council to take forward.

The Chairman reminded councillors of the need for objectivity regarding all agenda items. Caution should be exercised when circulating emails prior to meetings, particularly in relation to planning applications. Such emails should contain only material facts and nothing that could be interpreted as pre-determination.

374. Minutes:

The minutes of the meetings held on 10th December 2019 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Bryant expressed concern that the decision to speak about the missing funds was not on the draft minutes. Although minutes of discussion held in closed session are not routinely published on this occasion the minute has been added to the final minutes before approval.

375. Planning:

Under Section 70 of the Town and Country Planning Act as amended by the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017, local planning authorities must have regard to a post Examination Neighbourhood Plan if an Examiner has recommended that a local planning authority should finalise the draft plan with modifications.

So all future planning applications that we consider must refer to specific Neighbourhood Plan policies when being assessed and where relevant indicate which Neighbourhood Plan policy a proposal is not in compliance with and why, and vice versa.

20/00055/AS – 7 Maytham Road, Rolvenden – Garage replacement

Resolved: The Parish Council supports the application.

20/00001/OLE/AS – World of Water, Hastings Road, Rolvenden – To install a new high voltage pole situated south west of existing pole 25420.

Resolved: The Parish Council has no objection.

376. Telephone kiosk:

Following the Parish Council meeting in December the Council's insurers have been contacted to ascertain if there are any implications that the Parish Council should be aware of with the installation of a sculpture/artwork in the telephone kiosk.

They have responded that if the sculpture is not the responsibility of the Parish Council then this will not cause an issue on our insurance. The owner of the sculpture will need to be aware that they will need their own insurance in place to cover the sculpture for public liability and material damage. They will also need to ensure that it is maintained and inspected, if this does not happen, and they do not have insurance, any claim that may arise regarding the sculpture may fall on the Council.

Councillor Walker reported that the artwork installation will remain the property of the designer who has their own public liability insurance. An invite has been made to attend the February meeting of the Parish Council to show the plans/designs for the installation.

377. Village Fete 2020:

The event will be held on the weekend of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day but on the Sunday as Tenterden will be holding an event on the Bank Holiday Friday. Arrangements are well under way with the Temporary Events Notice applied for and risk assessment completed.

378. Finance:

Payments authorised at the meeting

Cheque No.	Payee	Net amount	VAT	Payment
225 & 226	Staff costs			£834.91
227	Litter Picking			£180.00
228	Cornex Garage	£244.72	£48.95	£293.67
Direct debit	ID Mobile			£5.00
229	Tompsett Landscaping	£355.00	£71.00	£426.00
230	Maps4planners			£25.00
231	Information Commissioner			£40.00
232	Ashford Borough Council			£3,000.00
233	Rolvenden Rocket expenses			£389.82
234	Cardiac Science	£113.45	£22.69	£136.14

Report RPC/19/14 brings to the Parish Council a summary of the receipts and payments together with bank reconciliation and funds statement for the period ending 31st December 2019.

Councillor Bryant expressed dissatisfaction with a detailed breakdown of the staff costs not being provided. This information is Personal data and protected under Data Protection Regulations.

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note Report RPC/19/14**
- 2. To receive and acknowledge the financial movements for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st December 2019.**

Councillors Curtain and Newman confirmed verification of the entries to the bank account.

Update on the missing funds: The Parish Council's previous bankers were contacted immediately the fraud came to light, but have failed to respond to our complaint as a result a complaint was lodged with the Financial Ombudsman Service

against the bank. Further contact with the bank was rebutted as they would not look at the complaint pending the decision of the Financial Ombudsman Service, a decision has now been made that the Parish Council is not eligible to use the Service.

A claim has been made on the Parish Council's insurance in respect of the loss but it would not be considered until such time as a conviction had been secured. The transcript of the trial is currently awaited to enable a meeting with the loss adjuster to take place to take forward the claim.

The Parish Council is asked to consider the appointment of a Solicitor who specialises in Local Government matters to act on behalf of the Parish Council to expedite matters with the Bank and the Insurance Company. An initial quotation for this has been obtained in the sum of £750 for investigation and advice leading to a claim.

A provisional date has been set for the meeting with the loss adjuster but it is unsure if the transcript of the trial will be available in time.

Resolved: To appoint Messrs Wellers Hedleys to undertake the investigation and to provide advice on the way forward.

379. Rolvenden Rocket:

The Tenterden Hub are currently having a review. Nothing more has been heard from Ashford Borough Council regarding the end of the pilot period. 6 or 7 trips are in the process of being organised. A regular booking for a group from Rye has been received for a lunchtime trip and meal, the driver is also welcomed.

380. Halden Field:

It has been indicated that the number of properties sold has reached the trigger point for the first stage of the Section 106 monies. The Borough Council are in discussion with the developer to agree the sum due. A further update will be given at the February meeting.

381. Play area at the Streyte:

The design that was preferred by the children was quoted at a sum in the region of £29,000. As some time has passed since the quotation was provided it has been reviewed and a minor change made resulting in a revised cost of £23,824.73. The artwork for the play area was exhibited to members of the Council and members of the public present.

Resolved: to accept the quotation and proceed as soon as the funds are available.

382. Highways matters:

The Clerk recently had a meeting with Kent Highways regarding the Highways Improvement Plan, at this stage they are looking for further evidence to support the issues raised. With regard to the road markings requested for the school Kent Highways indicated the cost and that the markings only had a short life span and would not necessarily be included in the maintenance, also as the advisory speed limit had only been in place for a short time they were looking to see if this was effective before any further measures were considered. Councillor Curtain advised that speed watch had been undertaken in the vicinity of the school when the signs were active and this showed vehicles were not taking notice of the advisory speed, this will be fed back to Kent Highways.

Concern has been raised with regard to parking in Sparkeswood Avenue as vehicles are now parking on the grass and pavements due to lack of spaces. It was suggested that a request should be made to make the road 1 way exiting on to Maytham Road and not on to the A28 as visibility is better. It was also suggested that some form of grasscrete be installed to protect the grass yet allow parking.

383. Annual Parish Meeting:

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 30th April 2020 at 7.30pm in the village hall, this being the only available date for the meeting.

384. Items for information:

Councillor Tiltman reported that the window refurbishment at the Village Hall has now been completed.

In previous years there has been a welcome party for new residents organised by the Church, it was suggested that the Parish Council may wish to organise an event, this will be placed on the February Agenda for discussion.

385. Exclusion of the Public and Press:

Resolved: that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media to be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

386. Executors Miss P A Thoburn:

The Parish Council have received a letter from the Executors of Miss Thoburn advising of gifts of land to the Parish Council subject to agreement.

Resolved: To appoint Messrs Wellers Hedleys to act on behalf of the Parish Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.