



Rolvenden Parish Council

In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 this meeting was held as a virtual meeting.

Minutes of the virtual meeting conducted at 7.30pm on 19th January 2021.

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

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

Also present: Ashford Borough Council ward member K Walder also the architects and land owner for the JHD presentation

506. **Apologies for absence:**

There were no apologies for absence.

507. **Declarations of Interest:**

1 **Declarations of Members' Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

Cllr E Barham declared an interest in minute 499, Highways matters regarding the footpath as land owner.

2 **Declarations of Members' Other Significant Interests:**

Cllr Mrs D Curtain, trustee of War Memorial Trust

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

Cllr Mrs I Newman, trustee of War Memorial Trust, trustee of the Non-Ecclesiastical Charities.

3 **Declarations of Members' Other Interests:**

Cllr G Tiltman, member of the Village Hall Management committee

Cllr L Walker Rolvenden Village Fete, Secretary Rolvenden Football Club

Cllr S Bryant, Chairman Rolvenden Football Club.

508. **Presentation by JHD Architects:**

Cllr Walder left the meeting for this item, being a member of the Borough Council Planning Committee.

A proposed development situated at Redwood, Tenterden Road. A full planning application will be submitted to the local planning authority in due course.

509. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2020 were submitted, approved as a true record to be signed by the Chairman at a time when restrictions on meeting in person are relaxed.

510. **Planning Matters:**
20/01746/AS & 20/01747/AS 40 High Street, Rolvenden – Proposed rear conservatory.

Resolved: The Parish Council has no objection.

511. **Highways Matters:**

1. Following the meeting on the 15th December the Parish Clerk has sought information from Ashford Borough Council regarding the possible use of Section 106 monies to fund a footpath from Sandhurst Lane to the Windmill.

The response received quotes the terms of the agreement which states “The informal/natural green space contribution for the provision of or improvements to informal/natural green space and associated facilities in the area and maintenance thereof”.

It has been indicated that a footpath in itself is not a problem it will be about where it is located, what its purpose is and will it link green space in the village.

Prior to the meeting Cllr Barham circulated to members a response from the Public Rights of Way Officer and an estimate for the installation of the footpath which would link two existing paths. The quotation was in the sum of £7,160 plus legal expenses.

Resolved by majority not to proceed with the construction of the footpath.

2. Whilst a number of possible projects have been put forward on the Highways Improvement Plan before any will be considered Kent Highways will require an automatic traffic survey undertaken to ascertain the flow, type and speed of traffic. This will need to be funded by the Parish Council at an estimated cost of £600. The Parish Council is asked to agree to the undertaking of the survey.

Resolved by majority to undertake the survey when traffic flows return to a more normal level when restrictions on movement due to the covid pandemic are lifted.

512. **Finance:**

Schedule of payments:

Staff costs £928.29

Litter picking £150.00

Information Commissioner £40.00

SLCC (cyber awareness training) £58.80 (VAT £9.80)

Rolvenden pre school £782.50

Rother Valley Press £397.00

Funds received in December

Churchyard maintenance £1,160.00

Care Bear Scheme £610.00

Cook book project £1,084.50

Councillors Mrs Curtain and Mrs Newman verified the bank transactions

Resolved:

- 1 To authorise the payment of the invoices presented at the meeting.**

- 2 To receive and note Report RPC/20/11**
- 3 To receive and acknowledge the financial movements for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st December 2020.**

513. Parish Council Governance:

It has become apparent over recent months that there has been a lot of interruptions and talking over during meetings which is not helped by poor broadband connections. This has resulted in meetings becoming dysfunctional and agenda business not being fully addressed.

It is therefore suggested that the Parish Council appoints consultants Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd to assess the Parish Council's arrangements and provide feedback and recommend any training that needs to be put in place.

Early in discussion it became clear that the dominating factor is the stolen funds, again there were interruptions and talking over and allegations of bullying.

Resolved by majority to appoint Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd subject to funding being provided by Ashford Borough Council.

514. Stolen funds:

The Parish Council is asked if it wishes to establish a new working group to investigate if there are any further avenues to explore to obtain repayment of the funds from Lloyds Bank. Actions for recovery to date have been undertaken by councillors who had assisted in the discovery and investigation of the fraud.

The Chairman reported that the Insurance route is now closed and that the forensic auditor has shared his reconstructed accounts with the Clerk to enable a claim to be submitted by the Solicitor to Lloyds Bank for the funds that were transferred to the former Clerk's personal account.

Resolved by majority not to establish a new working group.

515. Other items for information:

The Chairman reported that the new play equipment was being installed at The Streyte, there has been some damage to the surface of the field but this will be made good by the contractors.

With regards to the land transfer the Solicitor has advised due to the impasse to register the land as an Asset of Community Value as a matter of urgency, which has been applied for. However further advice is being sought as Churchfields may not be an eligible site, the application can be withdrawn prior to the next meeting of the Parish Council depending on the outcome of the further advice.

Cllr Bryant wished to give a vote of thanks to the residents who undertook a litter pick on Halden Lane.

Cllr Johnstone raised the issue of parking in Sparkeswood Avenue as there has been an incident recently where three ambulances were present and blocking the road.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.