



## Rolvenden Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Rolvenden Parish Council held in Rolvenden Village Hall, Rolvenden on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present: Mrs D Curtain (Chairman), Mrs L Walker (Vice-Chairman), Mrs L Barwise, Cllr Mrs D Bray, Cllr S Bryant, J Kelly and Cllr K Walder.

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

Also present: 11 members of the public

920. **Apologies for absence:**

E Braham and Cllr N Cackett.

**Resolved by majority to extend the deadline for the signature of Mr Barham's Declaration of Acceptance of Office until the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, signature to be witnessed by the Vice-Chairman**

921. **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 S Bryant, Trustee of War Memorial Trust

Cllr Mrs L Walker, Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Mrs D Curtain War Memorial Trust

Cllr Mrs D Bray Planning consultation Land East of Nursery Cottages

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

922. **Public Participation Session:**

A resident raised the issue of the withdrawal of the 6.35am bus service to Ashford and that the last service back was 2.30pm.

The Chairman responded that the Parish Council had strongly objected to the proposals to no effect. It was agreed that County Councillor M Hill would be invited to a future meeting of the Council to answer residents concerns.

Concerns were raised about the proposals for the former Vicarage, as this being an agenda item this will be dealt with at that time.

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

Cllr Walder reported that she was aware of the impact on residents of Monypenny about the proposals that had been shared with residents and that she had tried to delay the meeting. The consultation is real and all residents are encouraged to complete this as it will be used when a plan is drawn up.

924. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

925. **Planning:**

**Councillor Bray left the meeting**

**Consultation under Tree Preservation Orders OTH/2023/1373 – Land to East of Nursery Cottages, Thornden Lane, Rolvenden – Proposal: H1 Reduce height of hedge to two metres and width to one metre and maintain as such on an annual basis.**

**Resolved: The Parish Council and the Tree Warden agree with the proposals.**

**Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area OTH/2023/1399 – Rolvenden Cricket Ground, Regent Street, Rolvenden – Proposal: T1 Horse Chestnut right hand side of boundary – cut back over play area and crown lift by removing 2 lower limbs; T2 & T3 Horse Chestnut – crown lift to approximately 2.5m and cut back over play area; T4 Horse Chestnut – crown lift and crown tidy; T5 Horse Chestnut – fell to ground level due to bleeding canker; T6 Oak behind chestnuts – remove damaged limb; T7 Turkey Oak on rear boundary – fell to ground level due to multiple Ganoderma brackets around the base; G1 Oaks rear boundary – crown lift and deadwood; T8 Hawthorn – remove leader over fence line.**

**Resolved: The Parish Council supports the Tree Wardens comments which are:**

**From an inspection on August 9<sup>th</sup> by R.P.C's Tree Warden, Sylvia Kellett assisted by David Seymour, Tree Surgeon.**

**Horse Chestnut trees are prone to leaf blotch fungus (*Guignardia aesculi*), although unsightly this does not usually lead to its demise.**

**However the more recent surge of bleeding canker (*Pseudomonas ohridella*) in**

**Horse Chestnuts is a serious threat and best guarded against by carrying out minimal tree work, so that as few open wounds as possible are exposed to disease entry.**

**To promote good hygiene, any wounds to be treated to further protection of the tree.**

**T1 good healthy condition, hardly any leaf blotch, not overshadowing play area unduly. For health and safety reasons remove 3 lowest branches on SE/S side, and tidy broken branch, and treat.**

**T2 remove growth over play area by 2m from the tips, and treat.**

**T3 remove dead low bough for health and safety, treat. Reduce outgrowing**

**bough on E by half to balance, and treat.**

**T4 remove dead low bough and treat.**

**T5 no sign of bleeding canker, it is a poorer tree due to overshadowing.**

**T6 remove 2 damaged limbs.**

**T7 American Red Oak, fell due to disease.**

**G1 crown lift Oaks by 3m from end of branches to give a clearance of 6m, and remove dead wood.**

**T8 Hawthorn, remove leader over court fence, also major deadwood and cut ivy at base.**

**Note: the Horse Chestnut by the S corner of the Tennis courts is quite diseased and could be considered for felling and replacement with a more suitable native species.**

**The Tree Warden and Mr Seymour are happy to carry out an annual survey of the health of the trees when in leaf, to check for any disease progress.**

**Councillor Bray returned to the meeting.**

**Re-development of the Vicarage Site:**

Early stage proposals have been received for the site and adjoining Monypenny.

Cllr Walder outlined the background to the proposals, a review of all of the assisted living locations throughout the Borough has been undertaken which has highlighted that the flats do not meet the modern standards legally required. The opportunity has arisen to purchase the former Vicarage for £1.5 million which was taken as Monypenny needs substantial repairs as it is nearing the end of its useful life.

Moving forward a Rolvenden connection is definite and accommodation has been factored to meet all on the Housing Needs Survey. The current residents will be compensated financially with removals paid for and a minibus will be provided.

At this stage the documents produced and the meeting with residents is only the start of the consultation process, no plans have been drawn up and a lot more detail is required including the phasing of the works.

Cllr Walder and Cllr Walker will meet all the residents individually to ensure the consultation papers are filled in and returned.

Concerns were expressed as to how the process has been handled to date as the Parish Councillors were unaware of the proposals having been told when the purchase of the vicarage was agreed that the site was for social housing no mention was made about Monypenny.

Not only will the residents of Monypenny be consulted the Parish Council and villagers will be able to comment on plans once they have been submitted.

926. **Finance:**

Schedule of payments:

Tompsett Landscaping	£1,988.02 (VAT £331.34)
Staff costs	£1,062.38
Litter picking	£120.00
KALC	£60.00 (VAT £10.00)

In addition Approval was sought to enable Mrs May to order replacement pads for the defibrillator as the spares had to be installed following use, £132.49 + VAT.

Cllr Mrs 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/2023/10**
- 3. To receive and acknowledge the financial movements for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023.**

927. **Section 106 Funding:**

A request has been received from the football club for re-imburement for improvement works carried out to the clubhouse in the sum of £5,614.00 subject to Council approval this sum can be claimed from the 106 funds held by the Borough Council.

**Resolved to submit a claim to Ashford Borough Council for the works to the football pavilion and cricket pavilion in the sums invoiced.**

928. **Parish Council website:**

Notification has been received from Hugofox, the Parish Council's website host advising that they will be charging for the facility moving forward. For the level of service currently provided the fee will be £19.99 per month. Enquiries have been made of an alternative host to ascertain how much they would charge. It would seem that the industry norm is around the £20 a month figure, however it has been pointed out that due to the structure of the Hugofox site nothing can be transferred to a new provider. This being the case any new provider will be able to create a skeleton site for the Parish Council to load all the necessary files which is time consuming and will increase the net cost.

Immediately prior to the meeting a quote was received from an alternative provider in the sum of £449 to set up the site and £19 per month hosting fee.

The Parish Council is asked if it wishes to retain the existing website provider.

**Resolved: to retain Hugofox as the host for the Parish Council website.**

929. **Grant request:**

A letter has been received from the St John Ambulance seeking support from local communities for a new Box Body Ambulance.

The vehicle will be based in Ashford and will support our volunteers that serve the many local communities across Kent. Our ambulance fleet consists of 250 vehicles which need

replacing every 8 years. And our fleet is ageing, with many uneconomical, diesel-powered vehicles; at risk of simply not being reliable enough to protect our communities or provide the best experience possible for patients. New 'box-body' vehicles, developed in consultation with transport specialists and health care professionals; are lighter, easier to drive, more spacious, more comfortable for patients and crew, and more environmentally friendly.

We respond to tens of thousands of incidents every year. First-aid emergencies can strike any of us – anytime, anywhere, when we are least prepared. We need your help to be sure we've got enough ambulances to be able to help keep people safe.

During 2023 we have already delivered First Aid support to a multitude of local events (our Ashford Unit alone covering 60 events already this year and giving hundreds of hours in volunteering time) including the The Brett Lydd 20 Mile & Half Marathon, Ashford Classic Motorcycle Show & Autojumble, the Coronation Weekend, Hops Festival, Stour Music Festival, the Kennington Summer Fayre and many more events. Our voluntary support has ranged from providing First Aid cover for events held locally by communities, supporting the NHS and Ambulance services where needed.

The Parish Council is asked if it wishes to make a donation.

**Resolved: to respond that the Parish Council is unable to assist this financial year.**

**930. Other Items for Information:**

The newly refurbished fingerpost looks superb, thanks to the volunteers who undertook the work.

Residents of Sparkeswood Avenue have been upset by the actions of Ashford Borough Council in the cutting down of a tree which looked healthy without prior notification to the residents. Cllr Walder has already taken this issue up with the Borough Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:30pm.