



Rolvenden Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Rolvenden Parish Council held in Rolvenden Village Hall on 17th March 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mrs D Curtain (Chairman), Cllr A Johnstone, Cllr Mrs F May, Cllr Mrs I Newman, Cllr Mrs T Turner, and Cllr Mrs L Walker

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

Also present: 3 members of the public

694. **Apologies for absence:**

Cllr E Barham, Cllr S Bryant and Cllr G Tiltman

695. **Declarations of Interest:**

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

None.

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

Cllr Mrs D Curtain, trustee of War Memorial Trust.

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

Cllr Mrs L Walker, treasurer Village Fete committee

Cllr Mrs F May, Secretary Rolvenden Village Hall

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

None

696. **Public Participation:**

There were no public submissions.

697. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th February 2022 were submitted, agreed as a true record to be signed by the Chairman.

698. **Planning:**

22/00212/AS & 22/00213/AS Great Jobs Cross Farm, Hastings Road, Rolvenden –

Proposed single storey side extension to the north east elevation, replacing a window with a door to form an entrance porch with hall/boot room with access to the kitchen via the existing parking area.

Resolved: The Parish Council supports the application.

22/00275/AS – 37 Sparkeswood Avenue, Rolvenden – Variation of condition 2 on planning permission 18/00065/AS (proposed 3 bedroom detached dwelling adjacent to 37 Sparkeswood Avenue) to alter approved drawings to remove chimney from scheme.

Resolved: to not submit a comment.

22/00127/AS – 22 Regent Street, Rolvenden – Single storey rear link extension, single storey side extension and change of front windows to UPVC.

Resolved: The Parish Council has no issue with the rear link extension or the side extension, but it does object to the change of front windows to UPVC this property is in the conservation area and the neighbouring properties have wooden window frames such a change will not enhance the area.

22/00349/AS & 22/00248/AS – 4 Freizingham Lane Cottages, Freizingham Lane, Rolvenden – Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of ground floor extension.

Resolved: The Parish Council supports the application.

Appeal 21/00887/AS – Lower Woolwich, Mounts Lane, Rolvenden – Proposed access driveway to serve Lower Woolwich, including change of use of associated agricultural land.

Resolved: to submit further comments to withdraw support as the application is contrary to policies RNP 1 and 3 of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Complaint lodged regarding application 21/01977/AS – The complaint has been investigated by the Borough Council who have responded that the Officer's report included a mistake in that the Parish comments were incorrectly recorded. Having considered the planning merits and the Parish comments it has been decided that the decision would have been the same. The original garage has been converted to an annexe which is covered by permitted development rights.

699. **Assets of Community Value:**

Subsequent to the Parish Council meeting of 17th February Councillors Mrs Curtain and Mrs Walker met with the committee of the Rolvenden Club as the club is listed in the Neighbourhood Plan as a Community Building.

Following the meeting an application has been made to Ashford Borough Council to have the Club and car park listed as an Asset of Community Value. Should the Borough Council agree to the listing this does not commit the Parish Council in any way its effect is that should a listed asset come up for sale, there will be a protected period during which a community interest group (or Parish Council) may try to acquire it and save it for the community.

The Planning Application submitted by the club considered at the last Parish Council meeting has been withdrawn.

700. **Greater Ashford Borough Environment and Landscape Commission:**

The Parish Council is asked to consider its response to the consultation sent out by Ashford Borough Council in connection with the Greater Ashford Borough Environment and Landscape Commission work. This consultation with all of the Parishes within the Borough will help to shape proposals for planning reform for the future and feed into the next Local Plan. It should be noted that the Neighbourhood Plan is due for revision at the same time as the Local Plan. Details of the commission and the questions being put were circulated to members of the Council prior to the meeting.

After discussion it was agreed to submit a response.

701. **Finance:**

Schedule of Payments:

Staff costs	£1,305.63
Litter picking	£120.00
E Barham (reimbursement)	£156.11 (Litter pickers)
Village Hall Ground Rent	£170.00
F May (reimbursement)	£114.00 (defibrillator spares)

Councillors Mrs Curtain and Mrs Newman verified the entries through the bank account.

Resolved:

1. **To authorise the payments contained in the schedule.**
2. **To receive and note the financial movements for the period 1st April 2021 to 28th February 2022**

702. **Kent County Council's supported Bus Services:**

Kent County Council are currently consulting on the proposed reduction of their supported Bus Services and are seeking the views of residents. Of local interest is the Tenterden

Hopper Service which is being listed for cancellation. Full details can be found online at www.kent.gov.uk/bussavings

Resolved: to submit a response to the survey highlighting that the Hopper is the only service in the Layne, suggesting that a reduction in service would be better than full withdrawal as it will cause isolation for some residents.

703. **Pollen Bars:**

Kent Highways have now undertaken their site safety inspections and responded that some of the proposed sites would not be acceptable as the wildflowers would interfere with the sight lines. The area in front of Tanyard Flats was badly damaged by a tanker attempting to avoid the diversion. Aspire will undertake a site visit to see if there is a need to delay planting of this area for a year.

704. **Phone Boxes:**

With the phone box at the Layne nearing completion consideration needs to be given as to how donations can be made to an earmarked fund within the Parish Council's accounts for the future upkeep of the phone boxes and the future sound files.

The official opening of the Layne Phone box will be on 19th March at 11 o'clock by Cllr Callum Knowles, Mayor of Ashford. A Community Interest Company has been established to cover a number of artistic installations, SKEP Arts, who will collect any donations and periodically make a donation to an earmarked reserve in the Parish Council accounts for the upkeep of the phone boxes.

The renovation of the phone box at the Streyte will begin next month with the opening planned for May.

705. **Highways:**

Following the recent works undertaken by SGN the verges in Sparkeswood Avenue, Pix's Lane and Mounts Lane were very badly damaged due to increased traffic. This has been reported to Highways who advise that remedial works will be undertaken.

A meeting has been arranged with Kent Highways on 24th March to discuss the possibility of reducing the speed limit towards Tenterden.

706. **Stolen Funds:**

The Council's Solicitor advises that he has not heard from Lloyds Bank, which completely mystifies him. They have written to the Bristol administration office address and their head office in Gresham Street London. He has previously written to Lloyds on behalf of other clients in respect of legal matters, and responses have always come from Bristol, and have been sent in hard copy without email addresses.

After researching the position, he has established a number of individuals in their legal team, although when calling Lloyds in the last few days, they do not have telephone numbers internally to whom calls can be transferred. However, he has now emailed the correspondence to the Group General Counsel and Company Secretary at Lloyds Banking Group. The email address is not published, but after researching the position, he believes he has managed to discern it. He is going to follow this up, and does regret the delay which is absolutely perplexing.

707. **Land bequest:**

The Executors Solicitors have forwarded the Transfer documents direct to the Parish Council rather than the Council's solicitor recommending that the Parish Council seeks independent legal advice. The documents have been forwarded by email to the Council's solicitor.

708. **Platinum Jubilee Events:**

Cllr Mrs Walker reported that there is a full plan of events which have been posted on social media, and temporary events licences obtained. A newsletter will be distributed to all households in the next week. It is hoped that residents will all take part in making displays to commemorate the event.

709. **Boundary Commission Consultation:**

The Boundary Commission for England is inviting comments during its secondary public consultation on constituency boundaries. It is undertaking a review of all constituencies in England, to make the number of electors in each constituency roughly the same. The number of constituencies in England will also increase to 543.

In terms of Ashford the proposed change would see the existing parliamentary constituency of Ashford replaced with three new constituencies. Rolvenden will be placed within the Weald of Kent constituency which will include 12 of Ashford's wards.

After discussion it was decided not to submit any comment.

710. **Annual Parish Meeting:**

The Village Hall has been booked to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 28th April 2022. The Bumblebee Conservation Trust have been booked to give a presentation on the Pollen Bar Project in order that residents are given an idea of what to expect.

Councillor Mrs Turner agreed to arrange refreshments for the meeting.

711. **Annual Newsletter:**

It was agreed that a newsletter would be produced predominantly on line but printed copies available to those who want.

712. **Other items for information:**

Councillor Mrs Curtain reported that the Borough Council had completed the purchase of the Vicarage.

Discussion took place regarding the pond and possible renovation and potential sources of funding. It was agreed to bring this forward either in May or June when further research has been undertaken.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm