



Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Ruckinge Parish Council held on Thursday 11th May 2023 at 7.30pm in Bromley Green Hall.

Present, Councillors; T Bennett, T Cliffe-Harrison, M Pepper and P Sillibourne.

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

Also present: Cllr L Harman (ABC), P New (Neighbourhood Watch) and 2 residents.

277. **Apologies for absence:**

Cllr S Hewison, Cllr D Archer and D Robey (KCC)

278. **To elect the Chairman of the Parish Council for the Municipal Year 2023/24 and to receive the declaration of acceptance of office.**

There being only one nomination:

Resolved to elect Cllr S Hewison as Chairman for the Municipal year 2023/24.

279. **To elect the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the Municipal year 2023/24**

There being only one nomination:

Resolved: to elect Cllr T Cliffe-Harrison as Vice-Chairman for the Municipal year 2023/24.

280. **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

281. **Neighbourhood Watch:**

See attached.

282. **Public Participation:**

There were no public submissions.

283. **Kent County Councillor's Report:**

- KCC remains under a lot of budget pressure.
- This is especially the case with Highways, although we have secured £6m from government for fixing potholes,
- The results of the Local Elections last week have a lot of implications for Kent, which will become clearer over the coming months.
- I will chase up the replacement of the Village Gateway sign.

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

The Local Election results have meant that no political party has overall control, the same scenario as the neighbouring districts. There are a lot of discussions taking place at the present time as a leader will be appointed at the Borough Council meeting on 30th May.

285. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th April 2023 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Vice Chairman.

286. **Standing Orders:**

The current Standing Orders conform to the model Standing Orders supplied by the National Association of Local Council.

287. **Financial Regulations:**

The current Financial Regulations conform to the model Financial Regulations supplied by the National Association of Local Councils.

288. **General Power of Competence:**

Resolved: The Parish Council resolves from 11th May 2023, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012. To adopt the General Power of Competence.

289. **Chairman's Report:**

- Firstly, congratulations to Linda Harman on being duly re-elected to the Saxon Shore Ward.
- This is our first meeting without Councillor Tony Beaney who has retired:
 - Tony will always be welcome at Parish meetings, and we wish him and his family all the best, and with thanks for his endeavours over many years
 - Parish Clerk, could you check with Tony if he is still willing to participate in speed reduction activities.
- Thank you to the residents and councillors who have continued to support the Village Hall renovations.
 - We still await the transfer for the Covid Grant Funding from the previous Village Hall Committee.
 - A number of residents have contacted the Parish Council asking for an update on this.
 - Parish Clerk, would you contact John Bridge for a statement.

290. **Planning:**

Planning application PA/2022/2338 – Land adjacent to Noakes Farm Barn, Ruckinge – Change of use from agricultural land to campsite for up to 10 tents, ancillary to existing Bee Keeping facility operational from April – October. Erection of ancillary outbuilding comprising toilet/shower facilities, workshop, honey extraction/bottling area, and lecture room.

Councillor Sillibourne did not participate in the discussion or voting regarding this application.

Resolved: The Parish Council objects to the application on the following grounds as not complying with the Ashford Local Plan policies:

- **Policy SP1 – as the site is in an isolated location with a lack of nearby services necessitating the use of private cars.**
- **Policy EMP1 – no provision has been made in the application for parking.**

- **Policy EMP3 – the design does not respect the character of the landscape and the application does not demonstrate the type or amount of traffic the development would generate.**
- **Policy EMP5 – the design would appear to not be able to be integrated sensitively in respect of the landscape setting. The application does not demonstrate that the development will not generate a type or amount of traffic that would be inappropriate to the rural road network.**
- **Policy TRA3 – no parking facilities have been provided within the site, the highway being narrow does not provide an option.**

291. **Finance:**

Schedule of payments:

Clerk's salary	£408.44
HMRC	£102.00
Clerk's expenses	£8.10
Harmer & Sons	£204.00

292. **Ruckinge Village Hall:**

Since the Parish Council last met, renovations have continued:

- Further painting and decorating
- New main hall lighting has been added
- The bench has been created outside
- New flower beds
- Broadband installed

Several events have occurred;

- A children's party with an indoor bouncy castle
- A day long sensory event
- The scouts and guides have been in.
- The May 4th elections.

A number of residents have made contact to say how impressed they are with the vastly improved visuals from outside – and all those who have rented the building have made positive comments over the makeover inside, including David Hanbury, Treasurer for St Mary Magdalene Church who visited this week.

293. **Bromley Green Hall:**

A quiz night has been arranged for the 20th May.

294. **Carters Field:**

The new item of play equipment is scheduled for delivery and installation in the next few days, and the trees will be inspected to see if it is appropriate to trim them to open the area up for more light.

295. **Items for future meetings:**

A request for the Bromley Green drains to be added to the next agenda.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.