



Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Ruckinge Parish Council held on Thursday 14th September 2023 at 7.50pm in Ruckinge Village Hall.

Present: Councillors; S Hewison (Chairman), D Archer and T Bennett, and P Sillibourne via video link.

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

Also present: Cllr L Harman (ABC) and 2 residents.

330. Apologies for Absence:

Councillors: T Cliffe-Harrison and M Pepper. Cllr D Robey (KCC) and P New (Neighbourhood Watch).

331. Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

332. Kent Couty Councillor's Report:

- The budget position at KCC remains the overriding issue, with no easy answers, but obviously this has an effect on everything that KCC does. This is related to big strategic issues like the Structure of Local Government, how it is financed, Devolution and how Adult Social Care is financed, on which dialogue with Government is ongoing.
- I have quite a bit of correspondence on Bus Services. KCC subsidises some services, but budget pressures mean that we cannot do as much of this as we would like. I am in discussion with KCC Transport, about whether there is anything else that we can do with some money that the Government made available under the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Scheme, although this comes with a number of strings attached, that make this much harder than it should be in my view. I have recently been moved from Deputy Cabinet Member -Economic Development to Deputy Cabinet Member – Highways & Transportation at KCC, and this should be a bit of a help with all of this.

333. Neighbourhood Watch:

Report attached.

334. Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:

Councillor Harman reported that Ashford Borough Councillor had commenced the review of the Local Plan by making a Call for Sites for the next Local Plan to 2041. This will be open until 20th November the call this time is different in that it is not only for housing or commercial land but including recreational, Bio Diversity Net Gain and Nutrient Neutrality. The new plan will be updated to reflect current sustainability requirements.

Ashford Borough Council have recently completed the purchase of the former Kent Woolgrowers site in Tannery Lane. This will be redeveloped in due course. The Borough Council are currently considering moving from the Civic Centre to International House, which it owns, as the Civic Centre is in need of major refurbishment.

Create Music Village returns to the town centre in October rounding off with a series of events on Saturday 28th October.

335. Minutes:

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th July 2023 were submitted for approval.

336. Public participation:

The entrance to the car park at Bromley Green was raised as an issue as it is breaking up again.

337. Ruckinge Village Hall:

An offer of a set of second hand chairs free of charge has been made from the village hall in St Peters, Cllr Archer to visit to ascertain condition and arrange collection if suitable.

The current level of bookings are covering the running costs, however an advert is to be placed in the Parish Magazine to try and boost the numbers.

338. Chairman's report:

The Chairman reminded councillors of the meeting dates for the next three months as they had been changed due to outside commitments.

339. Planning:

There were no planning applications to be considered.

340. Finance:

Schedule of payments:

Clerk's salary July	£408.44
Clerk's expenses	£8.10
HMRC	£102.00
Harmer & Sons	£204.00
Clerk's salary August	£372.58
HMRC	£96.20
Harmer & Sons	£204.00.

Resolved to authorise the payments in the schedule.

341. Bromley Green Road – drainage issues:

It is anticipated that some work will be undertaken shortly as the contractor has asked for permission to place a container in the car park.

342. Bromley Green Hall / Carters Field:

Plans are being made to insulate the hall and to install a new heating system.

343. Items for future meetings:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:00pm.