

Minutes of **Ryarsh Parish Council** Meeting held in the Davison Room, Ryarsh Village Hall on  
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023** at 8.00pm

**Councillors Present:**

Cllr J Sutton (Chairman)  
Cllr A Betts  
Cllr C Bowyer  
Cllr S Payne

**Apologies:**

Cllr E Dennis  
Cllr C Martin  
Cllr M McKinlay

**Also in attendance:**

1 member of public, H Munro (Locum Clerk)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Dennis, Martin and McKinlay, County Councillor Hohler and Borough Councillors Banks and Boxall and Lynne Mackie, the Clerk. There were no Declarations of Interest.

**2. MINUTES**

To receive and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on **9<sup>th</sup> October 2023** for signature  
It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 be approved and signed as an accurate record by Cllr Sutton.

**3. EXTERNAL REPORTS:**

(a) County Councillor Hohler

Cllr Hohler has provided the following report:

- KCC continue to work hard on resolving budget issues. The budget survey shows the overspend from children's services is 45%, adult social care is 25% and highways is 22%. Progress is being made.
- Highways: Amey has been delivering the pothole blitz programme with 5 sub-contractors as well as 2 Pothole Pros across Kent and has completed works on the ground across all Districts at a cost of £3.9m
- KCC's winter service started on Friday 20th October meaning we are closely monitoring weather and road conditions so we are ready to deploy our winter service fleet at any time.
- The service is well planned to cover our roads but does not cover motorways and trunk roads which are salted by Highways England.

(b) Borough Councillor Banks and Boxall

Cllrs Banks and Boxall provide the following report:

- Planning portal - still has lots of work to do and is still not working correctly. When asked when the Borough Council foresee it being fixed the officer did not know. They are meeting with the supplier to fix the issues but are making slow progress. Cllrs Banks and Boxall to keep the Parish Council updated.

- Angel Centre in Tonbridge is in need of refurbishment, in a meeting of the Finance committee this week they will discuss the options including refurbishment and/or a rebuild. We are waiting for more detail before taking a view.
- Anti-Social behaviour - there has been a number of issues reported especially over Halloween and Bonfire night including break ins and damage to local business premises. A meeting with the police has been set up and Cllrs Banks and Boxall will report back.
- Tree project - please remember to share names of anyone interested with Cllr Banks.
- CEO Julie Beilby retirement - Julie is retiring in 3 months. An ECM of the Full council will be called to discuss next steps and appointment.

(c) Police

No update had been received.

(d) Village Hall

It was reported that the main hall was to be rented from 8pm for a Zumba class which would impact on Parish Council meetings. It was agreed to write to the VH Committee as a class with loud music was not conducive to a public meeting. They would be asked to recommend alternative evenings or times for the classes.

(e) Other

The new Tommy figure had been installed in Roughetts Road. The resident would be thanked for achieving this. It was suggested that another figure be installed in Ryarsh Park. This would be added to the next agenda for discussion.

**4. PLANNING**

(a) Plans Received for Comment

i. There were none.

(b) Approvals

ii. There were none.

(c) Refusals

i. There were none.

(d) Any other Planning Matters

i. **Land West of Roughetts Road** – Request for an Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion to determine the information to be provided in an Environmental Statement to accompany a planning application for the proposed extraction of aggregate (sand) – KCC/SCO/TM/0140/2023 – [www.landwestofroughettsroad.co.uk](http://www.landwestofroughettsroad.co.uk)

No further update had been received,

ii. **Yard at Ryarsh Place Farm**, Ryarsh, West Malling, Kent ME19 5LP  
Although on the Agenda, an application has not been listed yet.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

(a) To receive update about HIP

The KCC officer has actioned further signage.

(b) To receive update about Registration of Village Hall Lease with the Land Registry

The papers are with the solicitors who are dealing with the Land Registry.

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- (c) Parish Council Projects – Picnic Bench (Ryarsh Park), Notice Board  
The Clerk to order on her return.
- (d) KALC Community Awards. It was agreed that the Parish Council would adopt the scheme again. This would be added to the next agenda for discussion.
6. **OPEN SESSION – Public Question Time**  
There were no questions.
7. **PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS – to receive updates and reports**  
(a) Annual Play Area Inspection 25.11.23  
Nothing to report.
8. **MONTHLY CHECK LIST**  
**To receive reports about:**
- (a) Play Area and Recreation Ground  
The spreadsheet has been completed and will be sent to the Clerk.
- (b) Highways, Footpaths and Footways  
The sign had been repaired at end of Roughetts Road. A large pot hole near the old vicarage has been reported. Overgrown hedges had been reported which has now been cut.
- (c) Street lights  
The lights have all been checked apart from the ones on the A20. These will be done by the next meeting.
- (d) Parish property: Defibrillator, Ryarsh Resource Room  
The defibrillator was working. There had been a successful meeting about how to use defibrillator run by a local cardiac nurse.
9. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**  
(a) To receive bank statements, consider and approve financial statements for signature and to monitor budget  
These would be circulated at the next meeting.
- (b) To consider and approve invoice payments  
The following accounts for payment were approved. The payments will be authorised by Cllrs Martin & Betts.

Payee	Description	Total
	<b>Payment Approved at Meeting</b>	
PSR Lighting	Streetlight Maintenance October 2023	£116.40
Linda Barton	Remembrance Wreath	£30.00
KALC	AGM 18.11.23	£6.00
Clerk	Salary October 2023	£923.14
HMRC	October 2023 PAYE and NI	£92.17
Clerk	Expenses September 2023	£9.10
Clerk	Reimbursement to be confirmed by Lynne	£211.00
D&M Nankivell	Christmas Tree	£200.00

Mrs Barton was thanked for doing the Remembrance Wreath.

- (c) To consider any other financial matters  
There were no other matters.

**10. MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**

There were none.

The Meeting concluded at 8.25pm

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting is **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023** at 8pm

Signed .....  .....

Dated ..... 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 .....