

**Minutes of the Environment Committee held at The Rackliff Centre on  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 at 7.30 pm**

**Members Present:**

Cllr A Britcher-Allan (ABA), Cllr Liz Ellicott (LE), Cllr P Gripper (PG)

**Non-voting members;** Jenny Blackburn; Jayne Sharratt & Phillip Wheeler

**Officer Present:** Deputy Clerk Linda Neusten

**Guest:** Cllr Amanda Wells from Benchley & Matfield Parish Council.

**Members of the Public:** None

**1. Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting**

No

**2. To receive and approve apologies for absence**

None

**3. Election of Chairman:**

Cllr Alex Bircher-Allan nominated by Cllr Liz Ellicott and seconded by Cllr Paul Gripper. Vote was unanimous.

**4. Election of Vice Chairman:**

Cllr Liz Ellicott was nominated by Cllr Paul Gripper and seconded by Cllr Alex Britcher-Allan. Vote was unanimous

**5. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

None

**6. Declarations of Lobbying**

No

**7. Open session for questions from the public:**

Cllr Amanda Wells from Benchley and Matfield Parish Council who created an Environment and lower emissions policy in 2021; Came to learn how we plan to proceed with setting up our Thermal Camera loan policy including publicity and possible hire to neighbouring parish councils. Cllr Wells reported Sevenoaks District Council have a good website.

[https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20001/housing/154/improve\\_your\\_home\\_energy\\_efficiency](https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20001/housing/154/improve_your_home_energy_efficiency)

This is to be discussed fully under Item 8.

**8. i. Minutes 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Approved by all and signed by the chair.

**ii. Matters outstanding from last minutes**

Item 11: Community Emergency Plan – Item 14 of this meeting

Item 13: Green Frog Farm – need to maintain an eye on what is happening re potential Sale

## 9. Rackliff Centre boiler

Cllr Ellicott reported Matt Miller, advisor to KCC, has advised not to go down either the Solar Panel or Heat Pump route and that the most economical solution would be to have electric radiators installed.

The Boiler at Rackliff Centre is only 11 years old and working well. The Committee decided it was not necessary to spend money at the moment and so would defer replacement for the time being.

## 10. Thermal Imaging Camera:

Now available and looking to start using it as soon as possible.

**Action Point:** Phillip Wheeler to register the camera for insurance purposes.

**Action Point:** Deputy Clerk to check if Parish Insurance Policy covers camera and if not have it added.

**10.2: Resident feedback** - 31 names so far. Aim to increase publicity

**Action Point:** Deputy Clerk to contact names on the list and arrange appointments when ready to start.

**Action Point:** Jayne Sharrett to write an article for January edition of Rusthall Life. Deadline for text 05.12.2022.

For every resident request the camera will be accompanied by a Cllr and home owner will have to be present to take their own notes.

**10.3: Training** -Phillip Wheeler demonstrated camera is very straightforward to use and is very accurate. Camera needs a clear line of sight (open curtains) and it works best with heating on.

**Action Point:** Committee members- over next 2 weeks Cllrs will work in pairs and survey own homes to familiarise themselves with the camera and create a 'How To Guide' to include safety issues.

**Action Point:** Jayne Sharrett will take a series of photographs for use in publicity and on website..

**10.4: Sharing:** The camera will not be shared beyond the parish for the time being. This will be reviewed in Spring 2023.

## 11. Warmer Homes Scheme:

Jayne Sharrett reported she had made use of Government Scheme to have a survey of her own home. Jayne was informed verbally to expect a list of works that would be scheduled over coming years. Survey took place in Summer 2022 however no report received.

**Action Point:** Jayne Sharrett will follow up and report back.

## 12. Recycling stations around the village.

Committee decided not to pursue this however a 'Do's and Don'ts' for recycling could be included in a future edition of Rusthall Life and on Parish Council website.

## 13. Update on litter picking event;

Cllr Paul Gripper reported there was "a tremendous effort in clear up after village firework night on 29<sup>th</sup> October". Dates for next two litter picks; Sat 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and Sat 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Litter Picks will then be held the first Saturday of every alternate month.

**Action Point:** Cllr Alex Britcher-Allan to report broken bin on Common View to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

## 13. Community Emergency Response Pack update.

Members of a Working party confirmed: Cllr Paul Gripper; Jenny Sharrett and Phillip Wheeler.

**Action Point:** 14.11.202 Working party to meet and discuss completion of Emergency Response proforma and report back to next meeting.

**14. Items for information**

- i. Warm Spaces – options around the village?
- ii. Bike rack update – useful talks with Conservators and a possible site on Common View.  
To be discussed at next meeting.
- iii. Electric Chargers  
**Action Point:** Cllr Alex Britcher-Allan to chase KCC for an update.

**15. Next Full Environment Committee Meeting :- 2023 date TBC**

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chairman:.....

Dated .....