

**Minutes of the Environment Committee held at The Rackliff Centre on
Monday 24th July 2023 at 7.30 pm**

Members Present:

Cllr A Britcher-Allan (ABA); Cllr P Gripper (PG); Cllr M O’Callaghan (MOC) Cllr A Funnell (AF); Cllr C Ducklin (CD).

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

Officer Present: Deputy Clerk Linda Neusten

Members of the Public: Two present.

- 1. Election of Committee Chair:** It was RESOLVED by unanimous vote that Cllr Alex Britcher Allan would continue in the role of Chair for the coming year.
- 2. Election of Deputy Chair:** Cllr Paul Gripper was nominated as Vice Chair and his appointment was RESOLVED by a unanimous vote.
- 3. Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting.** No-one.
- 4. To receive and approve apologies for absence:** There were none.
- 5. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests:** No prejudicial or personal interests were declared.
- 6. Declarations of Lobbying :** None were declared.
- 7. Open session for questions from the public:**
 - i. Tree removed on site behind The Red Lion Public House: There was a request for an update about the promised investigation regarding its removal of one tree and the future of nearby trees at which bat boxes are present.
 - ii. Re Mary Caley trees: Another resident reported the pavement was damaged by the cherry-picker when trees were felled. It was also noted that the remaining larch trees are to be taken down next year, new trees that will attract pollinators are due to be planted in November 2023 and the damaged sign has been replaced.
- 8. Minutes of the last meeting held Minutes 24th April 2023**
 - i. These were approved by the committee as accurate and signed by the Chair.
 - ii. Matters outstanding from last minutes
 - a. Electric Charging Point - An update regarding the issue of the dropped kerb was requested. Cllr Britcher-Allan is still waiting to hear from KCC about chargers.
 - b. Village Emergency Response Plan – The Deputy Clerk is working on a draft which will be discussed by Full Council at a future meeting.
- 9. Thermal Imaging Camera:** The aim to promote the facility in the autumn using website and Rusthall Life.

10. Update on litter picking event;

Cllr Paul Gripper reported his disappointment at dwindling number of volunteers for litter picks and asked if they should continue.

A discussion took place to consider ways to promote public interest.

It was RESOLVED to carry on with litter picks, but only have 2 a year, one in April and one in September and follow the previous Rusthall Voluntary Association model. The Commons Conservators &/or Bonfire Committee will be approached to see if we can join forces with them.

11. Trees around perimeter of Mary Caley Recreation Ground: See response in Item 7.

12. Items for information:

- i. Phil Wheeler announced he is standing down from this committee.
- ii. Cycle Rack : TWBC cycle route to be confirmed and added to the next agenda for discussion and update.
- iii. A general guide for residents listing ways they could make simple changes to their daily activities and home life to reduce their energy costs.
- iv. Seek Grant for Solar Panels on Rackliff Centre. Add to future agenda for discussion.
- v. "Go Greener Event" across Rusthall, Langton Green & Speldhurst, to be organised by a resident. Dates TBC.

13. Next Full Environment Committee Meeting: - 23th October 2023

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Chairman:

Dated: