



3 March 2017

Dear Newenden Resident,

This is your invitation to two important meetings taking place at the end of March in the village. There is a great deal to discuss, which is why we have separated out the Village Hall-related matters into its own meeting.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 28 March beginning at 7.30 pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served from 7.00 pm.

The Parish Council can report on a year of continuing good progress for the village. The village has enjoyed working together on improving Newenden and your Parish Council continues to work with the District and County Councils, generally receiving good support from them.

Thanks to generous volunteer support, the Parish Council expenditure can be kept down. As a result, we have been able to maintain the precept (that part of the Council tax that relates specifically to Newenden) at the previous level, and we aim to avoid any increases for the next few years.

The Annual Parish Meeting is also the AGM for the Newenden Trust, and we will hear a presentation for the formation of a Community Land Trust. These organisations will play an increasingly important role for the future development of the village, and are looking for additional volunteer support. Please consider joining their work – ideally, let me know in advance of the meeting, or register your interest then.

We will have a **Township Meeting** specifically to review and discuss the proposals made by our ad-hoc committee for a new Village Hall, and for a dwelling house to be built on the site of the current Hall. This meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 30 March at 7.30pm.

This meeting will also review the activity of finances of the Village Hall charity, which is now managed by the Newenden Trust, over the past financial year.

Your Parish Council welcomes your views, queries and ideas at all times and we are grateful for your continued and helpful input. But the annual Parish Meeting – the Village AGM if you like – remains the most important date in the village calendar.

I look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

Yours sincerely

Åke Nilson, Chairman

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# **Annual Parish Meeting**

**Newenden Village Hall, Tuesday 28 March 2017 at 7.30pm**

## **Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 5 April 2016
3. Kent County Councillor Michael Hill, OBE
4. Ashford Borough Councillor Mr Mike Bennett
5. Police report
6. Report from Newenden Parish Council  
(including updates on the precept, Ashford local plan, village maintenance & more)
7. Parish Council financial statement 1 April 2016 to 27 March 2017  
(including Selmes Trust management accounts for same period)
8. Report of the Newenden Trust
9. Report of the Community Land Trust (in formation)
10. Report and accounts of the Samuel Bishop Foundation
11. Report of the Friends of St Peter's
12. Report of Newenden Cricket Club
13. Public adjournment for any other business

## **Minutes of the Newenden Annual Parish meeting on 5 April 2016 in the village hall at 7.30pm**

Present:

Mr A Nilson (chairman)

Mrs R Edmonds

Miss C Bond

Mr D Richardson

There were 31 members of the public present.

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

### **Apologies for absence**

1. The following apologised for their absence:

Kent County Councillor Mike Hill

Ellen Hannavy-Cousen

Mark Cathcart

Derek Button

Pauline Morton-Jack

Peter Robinson

Denise Curtain

### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 24 March 2015**

2. The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting on 24 March 2015 had been circulated and were agreed as a correct record.

### **Report from Kent County Council**

3. The chairman said that Kent County Councillor Mr Mike Hill, had sent a report of the work of the County Council in the previous year as he was unable to attend the meeting. The chairman then read the report. The County Council's budget had been reduced by 20% but services had been maintained through increases in efficiency and by commissioning them from external providers. The Council had concentrated on the provision in particular of adult social care and children's services. In the coming year the general Council Tax would be increased by 1.998% with an additional 2% increase for adult social care.

4. On highways the County Council were working to improve traffic bottlenecks on the M20 at junction 10A. Highways England had begun a consultation on a new lower Thames tunnel crossing East of Gravesend to relieve congestion on the M25 in the Dartford area.

5. The chairman said that he would be having a meeting with Councillor Hill shortly.

### **Report from Ashford Borough Councillor Mr Mike Bennett**

6. The chairman said that Councillor Bennett was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting.

## **Police Report**

7. PCSO Hoodless introduced himself as the new PCSO for the district. There had been two thefts from motor vehicles reported in the parish during the year. There had also been some thefts from Bourne's yard. In the latter case police had provided crime prevention advice and he suggested that in order to prevent future thefts from motor vehicles belongings should be taken out of the car when unattended.

8. The police had undertaken a speed check operation in the village in addition to those carried out by community speed watch. The police were planning further speed check operations in the future and he asked if these could be given publicity in the parish magazine.

## **Report from Newenden Parish Council**

9. The chairman of the Parish Council Mr A Nilson reported that the Council had had an active year. The Parish Council had proposed a small increase in the precept for 2016-17. This amounted to 95p on a band D property which overall amounted to an increase to £49.22. The budget was very small and in consequence the village was heavily dependent on volunteers to get things done.

10. On highways a meeting had been held with the highways steward at which the problem of potholes and road drainage had been discussed. Some potholes had been repaired although the County Council were not prepared to undertake repairs unless the hole was deeper than 50 mm below the surface of the road. Highways had undertaken to carry out inspections of the A28 in the parish at monthly intervals the most recent being on 9 March, when no safety defects were found.

11. Jetting of drains on Newenden hill had been done but work remained on most of those in Lossenham lane. The Council was trying to get an improvement in the signage for Beech road which was currently not visible when approaching the entrance down Newenden hill. During the year the Council had arranged for the supply of a bag of salt to be used in the Winter and the repair of the footbridge behind the White Hart inn.

12. The Council had provided advice to Ashford Borough Council on planning applications throughout the year and had attended meetings of the parish forum. It had also liaised with the police and undertaken enquiries about the provision of superfast broadband in the village. He would raise the question of the provision of broadband with Councillor Hill shortly. The Parish Council had decided to make a small donation towards the Community First Responder Scheme which provided medical help in an emergency before this could be provided by paramedics or the ambulance service.

13. During the year Ashford Borough Council had undertaken a Parish Governance Review but had decided not to make any changes to Parish boundaries that affected Newenden.

14. The chairman reminded residents that about two years ago the Parish Council had conducted a housing needs survey that had identified a requirement a very small need (three houses) for affordable housing the provision of which would involve a housing association. A developer Mr Miles Hall had purchased Battery Bank in speculative anticipation that it would be a site for building affordable accommodation. There were however other sites in the parish that might be more suitable for such accommodation and Mr Hall had therefore been advised that Battery Bank was not ideal and would not be considered as a suitable site.

15. The Parish Council had had a meeting with a housing association, English Rural Housing to discuss options. One possibility was the establishment of a community land trust where the village would purchase land and manage it for building houses.

16. The Parish Council was looking at the possibility of a village maintenance contract covering work such as mowing and to undertake work done by the County and Borough Councils. The Council was exploring whether the County and Borough Councils would provide funding to cover the cost of taking on these activities.

17. The chairman thanked those who had volunteered during the year to undertake various tasks around the village. For litter picking Brian Livesey and Tom McKinlay, the river warden Alan Seal, the Flood Warden Brian Livesey and participants in days of action.

### **Parish Council Financial Statements**

18. A financial statement to the 31 March 2016 was circulated. The clerk to the Parish Council commented that the Council had only spent on routine items during the year and had not had much expense on maintenance of the children's playground or had any unusual items of expenditure. A substantial balance had built up in the Selmes Management account and the chairman explained that this was earmarked for the building of boat moorings on the river Rother.

### **Report of the Newenden Trust**

19. The chairman explained that the Newenden Trust had been formed and would undertake through specific committees, various tasks around the village such as management of the village hall and the Newenden Heritage footpath. He explained that it needed to have an annual income of £5,000 to register as a charity which was important as it opened the possibility of obtaining funding grants. There were currently three trustees and some further trustees were needed. As the Trust had only just come into being there were no accounts at present.

### **Village Hall matters**

20. The chairman reported that the village hall land had been registered with the Land Registry in the name of the charity that owned the hall. The village hall committee while still in existence, had effectively been dormant for some time and would be abolished with a committee of the Newenden Trust taking over its management functions.

21. The nursery, the main user of the village hall, had been given notice effective at the end of the school year in July. This was because the village hall was becoming increasingly decrepit, and besides the safety issues for young children to which the condition of the hall gave rise, decisions also needed to be taken about its future which would be much simpler without the nursery as a user. The Newenden Trust would appoint a committee to look at the future options for the village hall and report back to the village at a township meeting later in the year. Alan Seal, Richard Gould and Martin Norris agreed to form the committee to look at the options for the hall.

### **Report and Accounts of the Samuel Bishop Foundation**

22. Jillian Eldridge reported that the Samuel Bishop Foundation had had an income of £670 in the previous year. There were 19 children in the village eligible for grants (11 seniors and 8 juniors). The seniors were each given a grant of £50 and the juniors £30. The Foundation had decided to do some fund raising events and would be holding an art exhibition in the Church.

### **Report of the Friends of St Peter's**

23. Mr Seal reported on various fund raising events that the Friends of St Peter's would be running.

### **Report of the Newenden Cricket Club**

24. Mr Bourne appealed for support for the club and invited players to participate.

### **Public adjournment**

### **Community Land Trust**

25. The chairman asked the meeting whether the village thought that it would be appropriate to participate in a Community Land Trust Scheme. Approximately 60% of the meeting felt that this would be a good idea.

### **Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations**

26. The chairman said that events were planned around the country to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday the main one being the lighting of beacons. There were insurance implications to the lighting of a beacon and he wondered whether the village should hold a party on the cricket ground in June instead.

### **Day of action**

27. Councillor Richardson reminded residents that there would be a day of action on 16 April starting at 10 am.

### **Community Speed Watch**

28. Mr Livesey invited residents to participate in the community speed watch scheme.

Chairman.....

Date.....

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Newenden Parish Council      1 April 2016 to 27 March 2017

£

### Income

Balance brought forward 31 March 2016	3,022.23
Add receipts	<u>5,510.59</u>
Total Funds	8,532.82
Less payments to March 2017	<u>5,083.00</u>
Balance carried forward	3,449.82

### Expenditure

Parish clerk salary	1,359.84
Parish clerk admin allowance	52.00
Postage	13.34
Insurance	2,578.14
Audit fees	54.80
Grass cutting children's playground	411.00
Inspection children's playground	92.40
Subscriptions	177.47
Miscellaneous	<u>344.01</u>
	5,083.00

### Balances at Bank

Current Account	3,449.82
Reserve Account	<u>2,833.95</u>
Total	6,283.77

### Management for Selmes Trust

#### Income

Rents etc	1,461.23
Balance B/F	<u>5,048.72</u>
Total	6,509.95

#### Expenditure

Maintenance & Insurance	408.17
PC Share of previous year surplus	<u>0.00</u>
Total	408.17

Balance in Management Account      6,101.78



## Township meeting

Newenden Village Hall, Thursday 30 March 2017 at 7.30pm

### Agenda

1. Village Hall financial and activity report 2016/17
2. Plans for new Village Hall and dwelling on the present site

The ad-hoc committee established last year will present for discussion its draft plans for a new Village Hall, to be built as an extension of the Cricket Pavilion; and for a dwelling house to be built on the site of the present Village Hall.

Updates will be provided on the current state of advice from the planning authority, from Highways and from the Charity Commission.

3. Any other business

