

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 15 December at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present

Mr A Nilson (chairman)  
Mrs R Edmonds  
Mr D Richardson  
Miss C Bond  
Mrs E Hannavy-Cousen

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Members of the public

One member of the public was present.  
Mr P Bourne and Nicola Holland attended for the planning item on Gardenscape.

**Apologies for absence**

1. None.

**Declarations of interest**

2. None.

**Minutes of the meeting on 3 November**

3. The minutes of the meeting on 3 November were agreed as a correct record.

**Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 3 November**

Broadband situation

4. Councillor Bond reported that she had written to British Telecommunications seeking more information and was awaiting their reply.

**Financial statement to 15 December**

5. The financial statement having been circulated was approved.

6. Councillor Edmonds asked when the monies in the Selmes Trust management account would be divided up between the Parish Council and the Trust as provided in the management agreement. The chairman explained that a meeting with the Selmes Trust to do this had been deferred pending the appointment of a new vicar. However, the appointment had been continually delayed and there was still no sign of a new vicar being appointed. Consequently it was agreed that a meeting to discuss division of the funds should be held early in the new year rather than await the eventual appointment of a new vicar.

## **Accounts for payment**

7. The following accounts were agreed for payment:

### Parish Council

Mr A Nilson	Replacement Christmas lights	£148.37
Mr S Siggery	Mowing children's playground	£96.00

### Selmes Management Account

Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc	Public liability insurance Selmes land	£264.62
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## **Grant Application for Community First Responder Scheme**

8. Councillor Bond declared a personal interest as she was a relative of the applicant and withdrew from the meeting.

9. The chairman explained the purpose of the Community First Responder Scheme and how it worked in practice. The grant was required to enable the purchase of equipment for the first responder. The chairman reported that Rolvenden Parish Council had agreed to make a grant of £200.00. Taking account of the smaller size of Newenden Councillors agreed to make a grant of £75.00.

10. The chairman reminded Councillors that the Council had a policy of not making grants to community good causes but in this case had made an exception. The grant was made without prejudice to this policy in the future.

## **Precept for 2016-17**

11. The chairman said that Ashford Borough Council had now provided figures for the Council Tax Base, Support and Concurrent Functions grants and he had inserted these into the spreadsheet model together with an assumption of an inflation rate of 2% in costs in future years. The model showed that an increase of slightly less than 2% in the precept for 2016-17 would maintain a balanced budget in 2016-17 and for several years after that with income broadly equating expenditure. He added that the Borough Council had indicated that the Concurrent Functions grant for £280.00 would remain the same for the immediate future.

12. Councillors agreed that the precept should be increased by approximately 2% for 2016-17. This would be an increase of £50.00 on the current year. The precept charge to the parish would be £5,080 to which would be added a Council tax support grant of £80.00.

## **Village maintenance contract**

13. The chairman said that the cricket club had agreed to include maintenance of the cricket pitch in the proposed village maintenance contract. Holding a tender for the work would involve a great deal of detailed work and he therefore proposed that a sub-committee of the Parish Council comprising himself and one other Councillor, should undertake the work. The contract would start in September

2016 when the current contractual arrangements with Kent County Council ended. Councillor Richardson said that he would help with setting up and administering the tendering process.

## **Planning**

### Affordable housing

14. The chairman reminded Councillors that there would be a meeting at his house with Mr Angus Middleton to discuss affordable housing on 19 December at 11.00 am.

15. It was agreed that the chairman would contact Tessa O'Sullivan of Action with Communities in Rural Kent and ask her for a meeting to discuss the identification of possible sites for affordable housing.

### Planning Application: 15/00725/AS White Cottage, Lossenham Lane

16. Ashford Borough Council had advised that the applicant had appealed to the Planning Inspectorate against the Council's refusal to grant planning consent to demolish White cottage and replace it with a new property. The Planning Inspectorate had invited any further comments by 8 January 2016. The chairman reminded Councillors that the Parish Council had also opposed the application because the proposed replacement dwelling was out of keeping with the other properties in Lossenham lane. Councillors agreed to consider by exchange of e-mails whether or not they wished to make any further comments.

### Proposed Planning Application for Gardenscape

17. Mr Bourne and his daughter explained that Gardenscape wished to build replacement offices and had obtained an interest free loan from the Marsh Millions scheme to finance the development. Pictures and drawings of the proposed offices were circulated and Mr Bourne explained that an application for planning consent would be made in the New Year. The development would involve the cutting down of elderly leylandi trees and their replacement by a close panelled fence. However, the development would not be very visible from the village. The chairman thanked Mr Bourne for telling the Council about the Gardenscape proposals.

## **Highways**

18. There was nothing to report.

## **Any other business**

### Footpaths

19. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen said that she remained concerned about the lack of a footpath to Rolvenden in the Hexton channel area. The chairman said that as this was in Rolvenden parish he would raise it with their Parish Council.

### Local Parish Plan Template

20. Councillor Richardson said that a first draft of the Ashford Borough Local Plan for the period up to 2030 would focus on urban areas. He would work instead on a plan for rural areas which would form

part of a joint presentation with other rural parishes that would focus on common features for all the rural parishes. When drafted he would circulate a template by e-mail.

**Date of next meeting**

21. The next meeting would be on 23 February. The clerk said that he would circulate a list of proposed dates for the remainder of 2016.

Chairman.....

Date.....

DRAFT