

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 13 December at 7.30pm in the village hall

Present:

Mr A Nilson (chairman)

Mrs R Edmonds

Mr D Richardson

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

PCSO Mr D Smith

Apologies for absence

1. Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs C Baker and Mrs Hannavy-Cousen.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Minutes of the Meeting on 8 November

3. The minutes of the meeting on 8 November were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 8 November

Village maintenance contract

4. The chairman reported that Ashford Borough Council had doubled their offer of a financial contribution for Newenden to takeover the current maintenance functions that they carried out to £1,200 per year. Unfortunately, without a contribution from the County Council this was still insufficient. There was a need for about £4,000 per year and even with contributions from the PCC and the cricket club funding was short by about £1,500. Councillors discussed the possibility of supplementing funding by offering to run a paid for maintenance service to residents or making up for lack of funding by undertaking voluntary work on days of action.

Bus shelter

5. The chairman said that he had heard nothing further from Mr Crowley about the bus shelter.

Wetland area

6. The chairman reported that subject to weather, Mr Bourne had agreed to scrape a shallow area in the Selmes field in the New Year. This would then fill with water.

Crocuses

7. Councillor Edmonds said that Tenterden Rotary club had now delivered to her 80 crocuses to plant. The Rotary club were doing this as part of a drive for the eradication of Polio in Third World

countries. The crocuses would be planted around the tree commemorating Mr Cloote, in memory of his widow, Helen, who had recently died.

Village hall

8. The chairman reported that Mr Robinson had finished plans for the new village hall and the next stage would be to obtain pre-planning advice from Ashford Borough Council. A township meeting would be held in early February to discuss the plans.

Community Land Trust

9. The chairman said that there had been a one day meeting with a consultant about establishing a Community Land Trust. The consultant had indicated that residents were working on the right lines to form a Trust. The housing association will be working with the CLT. A presentation would be made at the forthcoming Township meeting.

Financial Statement to 13 December

10. The clerk said that there was little expenditure remaining in the year. Councillors agreed the financial statement.

Invoices for payment

11. The following invoices were approved for payment:

Mr S Siggery	Maintaining children's playground Aug to Oct	£219.00
Selmes Management		
Ecclesiastical Insurance Office	Public liability insurance Selmes fields	£265.83

12. Councillors asked for more information about the invoice for £36.50 from Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish Council for the repair of the speedwatch equipment.

Precept for 2017-18

13. The chairman had circulated a spreadsheet showing the effect of various precept increases based on assumptions of spending. The clerk had also circulated a spreadsheet showing historical spending. Councillors noted that the forecast outturn of expenditure for the current year was very modest and sufficiently covered by the precept. There were no plans for an increase in expenditure in 2017-2018.

14. On this basis it was agreed that there would be no increase in the precept for 2017-18. This would mean that the Council would have a precept of £5,020.00 plus from Ashford Borough Council a Council Tax Support Grant of £90.00 and a Concurrent Functions Grant of £280.00.

Police Matters

15. PCSO Dan Smith introduced himself as the new Support Officer for Newenden. He covered a number of Parishes with a colleague on alternate shifts and hoped that he would continue in the post for some time. Emergency calls should be made to 101. Email 56800@kent.pnn.police.uk. PCSO

Smith said that he hoped to be able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 28 March to meet residents.

Planning

16. Nothing to report.

Highways

17. The chairman said that County Councillor Mike Hill and Jennie Watson from Kent Highways had indicated that there was no funding for a roundabout at the junction of the A268 and A28 so would not consider it. The reflector posts on the approach to the junction would be cleaned and better giveaway markings introduced. Depending on financing from Mike Hill's allowance, the 40 mph signs might also be replaced with larger more prominent signs.

Any other business

18. Mr Crowley had made some bat boxes which were being given away.

Date of next meeting

19. The next meeting would be on 21 February and the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 28 March. The clerk would circulate a list of proposed meeting dates for the remainder of 2017. It was likely that there would be a Township meeting on 7 February.

Chairman.....

Date.....