

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

Present:

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

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Mr S Crowley attended for part of the meeting.

Apologies for absence

1. None.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Minutes of the meeting on 5 July.

3. The minutes of the meeting on 5 July having been circulated were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting on 5 July

Newenden Trust

4. The Newenden Trust had not yet held a meeting and there was nothing to report.

Village hall

5. The chairman said that it was apparent that the children's nursery had vacated the village hall and left it in a clean and tidy condition. There were still some outstanding matters to clear up with the nursery which would be pursued by the Newenden Trust.

6. The committee looking into the new village hall were progressing in their work and would be looking at the preliminary planning issues.

Village Maintenance Contract

7. The chairman said that this was not progressing following the statement by the County Council that they did not undertake any urban work in the parish and therefore would not be making any financial contribution to a village maintenance contract as there were no functions for the village to take over from them. The chairman said that he would be talking to Councillor Hill about this.

Broadband

8. Councillor Bond said that there had been no further developments. The problem was with the County boundary with East Sussex (the nearest enabled equipment was in Northiam) and this was proving difficult to sort out.

Cranbrook School catchment area

9. Councillor Richardson said there had been no developments.

Financial Statement to 13 September

10. The Financial Statement to 13 September was circulated. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen asked whether the loss on the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations was reflected in the statement. The clerk said that the amount (a loss of about £197.00) would be taken into account in the current account balance but that he would add a line specifically describing it in expenditure. The clerk commented that the allowance for repairs to the children's playground was probably inadequate and needed increasing. The chairman agreed and said that he had asked a contractor to look at the items identified for repair in the safety inspection report. The financial statement was approved.

Invoices for payment

11. The following invoices were approved for payment:

Came & Co	Council & village hall insurance	£2,578.14
Mr J A Leeves	Clerk's allowance and postage	£32.70
Playsafety Ltd	Safety inspection children's playground	£92.40

Insurance

12. The clerk said that the proposed demolition of the old village hall and the building of a new one as an annex to the cricket pavilion raised insurance issues about which he had spoken to Came and Co. On demolition of the old village hall the insurance on it would be cancelled and the balance of premium returned to the Council. A new policy was required for the new village hall. It was inadvisable for the cricket pavilion to be covered by two insurance policies because should a claim arise, there could be an argument over liability between the two insurers. It was better that the whole pavilion was covered under one policy. The committee looking at the new village hall had been informed of this advice. The chairman added that responsibility for insurance of the new village hall would rest with the Newenden Trust. The Parish Council would be able to continue to make them a discretionary grant to cover the cost of the annual insurance premium.

Financial issues associated with the new village hall

13. The clerk said that there were two further financial issues which he had mentioned to the chairman concerning the demolition and sale of the site of the existing village hall and a minor practical consequential affecting the Parish Council. The position over taxation on the sale of the site of the old village hall needed to be clarified. HMRC would seek Land Stamp Duty tax from the purchaser of the site, but the situation on capital gains tax if any, on the sale proceeds needed to be

clarified. The chairman said that luckily the Newenden Trust had a qualified accountant who could advise.

14. The new village hall committee would need to look into the method of sale of the site. Solicitors would also have to be appointed to handle the conveyancing and the clerk suggested that the County Council Legal Department who were always looking for business, might help on a concessionary basis.

15. The clerk mentioned that the Parish Council had a noticeboard at the entrance to the old village hall. It would not be practical to put up a noticeboard on the cricket pavilion where it would not be seen and a new Parish Council noticeboard would be needed probably located somewhere along the edge of Lossenham lane where notices on it could be read by residents.

KCC Bus Shelter Grants

16. The clerk reported that he had received an e-mail from KCC about their grants to Parish Councils for the provision of bus shelters. The grants were available on a matched funding basis up to £2,000. The clerk had also recently received e-mails from some makers of bus shelters. These were fairly basic shelters made of painted aluminium and perspex. They varied in cost from around £2,400 to £3,000. On a matched funding basis the Parish could afford the cost.

17. Councillors thought that in principle it was a good idea to provide a bus shelter. There were however a number of practical considerations. The shelter would have to be located close to the White Hart inn car park as there was insufficient room on the opposite side of the A268 Rye road. The shelter would require hard standing, permission from KCC highways and probably planning permission. Councillors also thought that the appearance of an aluminium and perspex shelter was not in keeping with the village.

18. Mr Crowley who had joined the meeting knew of somebody who had constructed wooden shelters at minimal cost on a golf course. He said that he would ask him to provide details of a wooden bus shelter.

Creation of Small Wetland Area on Selmes Field

19. Mr Crowley explained that it would be good to create a small wetland area in part of the Selmes field. This would be formed by scraping out a shallow depression (18 to 24 inches deep) and allowing it to fill with water. To allow the depression to retain water it could be lined with a substance called Bentonite which was impervious. Although it was advantageous to have a large area Mr Crowley accepted that the size of the wetland area would need to be limited. Grants for the work were available from Rother and Romney Marsh organisations and the High Weald Area of Natural Beauty. Councillors thought that the creation of a wetland area was a good idea and asked Mr Crowley to produce a rough draft setting out what was envisaged. As the Selmes Trust owned the field this would have to be discussed by the trustees which included the vicar.

Roundabout at the A28/A268 Junction Tenterden Road

20. The chairman had previously produced some photographs on which a roundabout at the junction of the A268 and A28 had been superimposed to show how it could be designed. The chairman said

that he had sent this to Councillor Hill and Kent Highways were having a meeting about it. He was not however, very hopeful that anything positive were come out of the meeting. Councillors agreed that a roundabout would improve the junction and reduce the number of accidents. It was thought that a diary of accidents at the junction should be maintained so that evidence of the problems could be produced in pressing Highways to make improvements.

Community Land Trust

21. The chairman said that a meeting between the Community Land Trust and Sue and Peter Bourne would take place tomorrow which would discuss plans for their land at the end of Lossenham Lane. Sue and Peter Bourne were keen to do something for the village and he was hopeful that proposals for some affordable housing would come forward for preliminary planning advice from Ashford Borough Council. Councillor Richardson said that he hoped that any scheme would also include the adjacent site of the old garages owned by the Borough Council.

22. The chairman said that Angus Middleton was still involved with the proposals. On the other hand he had heard nothing from Mr Miles Hall the owner of Battery Bank which site was not being considered for affordable housing. The chairman said he would contact Mr Hall to see what if anything he was proposing to do.

Any other Business

Kent & Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust

23. The clerk said he had been contacted by Kent and Medway NHS Social Care Partnership Trust asking to come to the parish to give a presentation about the work they did in the community for mental health. Councillors felt there would be little demand for the presentation and suggested that they held it in Rolvenden and invited Newenden residents to attend.

Romney Marsh Partnership

24. The clerk said that he had also been contacted by the Romney Marsh Partnership who provided funding and assistance to small businesses in the Romney Marsh area who wanted to give a presentation about their work. Councillors thought that there was a very small business community in the village apart from those who worked from home and that there would not be sufficient interest for a presentation to be worthwhile. The largest business Bourne's had already been put in touch with the Marsh Millions Scheme and the few other small businesses were less likely to be able to benefit from the available help.

Complaint about Community Speed Watch

25. The clerk had received an e-mail complaint about Community Speed Watch that expressed concern that the volunteers who operated the equipment were hiding behind roadside vegetation in order to catch motorists exceeding the speed limit. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen said that the location of speed watch equipment was laid down by the police and there were only three specific locations where they were permitted to set up the equipment. Those operating the equipment were also required to wear hi-visibility jackets. Short of standing in the road the operators of the

equipment had to stand at the roadside, but nevertheless were in a visible location. The clerk said he would respond to the complainant along these lines.

Meeting with the Selmes Trust

26. The clerk said that there was about £6,300 in the management account and a meeting with the Selmes Trust was now required to discuss any division of the funds and the building of moorings on the river Rother. Councillor Edmonds said that the new vicar had only just started to familiarise himself with the parish. She would be meeting him soon and would raise the need for a meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

27. The next meeting would be on 8 November.

Chairman.....

Date.....