

**Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 27th February
at 7.30 pm in Upway, Rye Road, Newenden**

Present :

Councillors

Mr. A. Nilson (Chairman)
Mrs. R. Edmonds
Mr. D. Richardson
Mrs. E. Hannavy-Cousen
Mrs. C. Baker

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr. J. Leeves (Clerk) who was unable to attend because of the severe winter weather.

2. Declarations of Interest

None in respect of the meeting. However, the Councillors returned completed Disclosable Pecuniary Interest Forms that the Clerk had distributed at the last meeting.

3. Minutes of the Meeting on 12 December

The minutes of the meeting of 12 December having been circulated were agreed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 12 December

Dog Fouling

Councillor Hannavy-Cousen had been emailing the Dogwarden, who was on annual leave. He would telephone her on 28th February. Nothing further was planned. Councillor Edmonds had been away and had been unable to do anything about the notices, but would do shortly.

5. Financial Statement for 27 February

This was to await the Clerk's return at the next meeting.

Accounts for payment

The following account was approved for payment:

Cranbrook & Sissinghurst PC Maintenance of speed watch equipment
£63.38.

6. Update on New Village Hall

The Chairman reported that Mr. R. Bewick had replaced the Planning Officer Mr. Bax who had broken his ankle, and the decision on the application had been deferred to 11 April. Various small issues had been raised, and there was concern that they might deter a buyer. The planners now need a bat survey, which may lead to a more costly emergence bat survey after May. The architect was being very patient over the delays by Ashford and competent in dealing with them.

7. Update on CLT

Councillor Hannavy-Cousen reported that the Community Land Trust Committee had a meeting last week, at which it was sadly decided, because of all the upset and division caused in such a small village by misleading rumours, that it would for the moment be wrong to proceed with the formation of a CLT. The decision would be revisited in a year's time if new members of the committee could be found.

8. Update on Village Maintenance Contract

The Chairman reported that Ashford would be prepared to give £1600 this year, and the Parish Council could donate a further £800 from funds to support a Village Handyman. Michelle Byrne of Ashford is happy for the scheme to go ahead, and the Chairman may also approach Mr. M. Bennet for further funds from his Members' Grant. In future

years we would need to raise more funds from the precept, amounting to 25p per property per week. Councillor Richardson will help the Chairman to word the tender advertisement.

9. Highways

Councillor Edmonds reported on her correspondence with Highways on blocked drains and water flow down the A28, and on potholes in Lossenham Lane. The problems had either been sorted or were due to be dealt with shortly.

10. Planning

The plans for the new offices at John Bourne & Co. and Gardenscape had had to be changed due to the proximity of the river.

11. Any Other Business

There will be a Village Day of Action on Saturday, 14th April.

12. The Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be 8 May. This will be the Parish Council AGM. The Annual Parish Meeting will be on 20 March.

Chairman.....

Date.....

