

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 6 November in the village hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Mrs R Edmonds (chair)
Mr D Richardson
Mrs E Hannavy-Cousen
Mrs C Baker

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

PCSO's

Mrs K Richards
Ms J

There was one member of the public present.

Apologies for absence

1. None.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Minutes of the meeting on 11 September

3. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen thought that in future the designation of chairman should be changed to Chair as she considered that this was more in keeping with modern practice. After much discussion, it was agreed that in future minutes the word chair would be used. The minutes of the meeting on 11 September having been circulated were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 11 September

4. The Chair reported that she had received a response from Kent County Councillor Mike Hill to her letter about children jumping from Newenden bridge and motorists trying to beat the traffic lights to cross the bridge. Kent Highways would not be prepared to put double white lines on the road leading up to the bridge. They did not consider that the accident record justified preventative measures like this and had also said that the police would not support them. The County Council had no signs to warn people of the dangers of jumping off the bridge.

5. The remainder of the matters arising would be covered later in the meeting.

Financial statement

6. The financial statement for 6 November having been circulated was agreed. The clerk commented that most significant items of expenditure in the financial year had now been incurred. The second half of the precept had been received.

7. The clerk commented that a potential problem would eventually arise in respect of the large balance being maintained in the management account. This was currently just over £7,000 and there were no further receipts outstanding in this financial year. There was therefore more than adequate funds to lend the Newenden Trust the planning fee for the new village hall and to pay the second instalment of the fee to Hadai the architectural technician. Under the management agreement with the Selmes Trust the proceeds of the Management Account were to be split equally between the Parish Council and the Selmes Trust. As about £2,500 had already been lent to the Newenden Trust for the first instalment of architectural fees the sum to be divided between the Parish Council and the Selmes Trust would be around £10,000 resulting in the Parish Council receiving half ie about £5,000. This receipt would have to be explained to the auditors as it amounted to almost a year's precept.

8. Councillor Richardson said that the sum due to the Parish Council under the management agreement should all be donated to the village hall. Other Councillors thought this suggestion was a good idea. The clerk said that the auditors would regard a donation towards the cost of the new village hall as a satisfactory explanation of the large receipt.

Invoices for payment

9. The following invoices were approved for payment:

Mr S Siggery	Mowing children's playground	£196.00
Mr R Gould	Fireworks	£1,336.99

Cost of Fireworks

10. Mr Edmonds circulated an account showing expenditure on the firework display event on 3 November which 200 people had attended. Mr Gould had purchased the fireworks from Kimbolton Fireworks at a total cost of £1,336.99 for which he had just been reimbursed by the Parish Council. After some expenses the event had raised £849.25 a loss of £487.74 which the Parish Council had agreed to underwrite. The net revenue raised at the event would be returned to the Parish Council.

Police Report

11. PCSO Katherine Richards said that there had been few reports of crime in Newenden. There was a new online crime reporting system and she left a poster explaining how this worked and the address of the website for making reports. It was important to report crimes as without reports the police did not know where to concentrate their resources to deter it. On deterring crime, particularly theft, she recommended improving home and garden security.

12. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen said that although the village had a community speed watch group they had been disappointed that the police having promised to carry out speed checks had not done so. PCSO Richards said that she would speak to local police officers to see if they would undertake speed checks in the village.

13. Councillor Richardson mentioned that he had been visited by officials from the UK Border Force about the possibility of illegal immigration and importation of drugs through a small private airfield near the Hexton channel. He had seen nothing suspicious.

Update on new village hall

14. Councillor Richardson who was the new Chair of the Newenden Trust, reported that the existing hall was now under offer and solicitors were working on the legal formalities of the sale. The plans for the new hall were now virtually complete and were more or less ready to submit to Ashford Borough Council. The Newenden Trust would need to borrow the cost of the planning permission fee and a further instalment of the architectural technician's fee which would be around £2,500. The plans were for a larger hall than would actually be constructed and the size would be scaled back when the cost was known more precisely and the amount of finance available to fund it. Mr Norris had offered his garage for the storage of tables and chairs in the existing hall. The Newenden Trust was holding a meeting on 13 November at which the plans would be finalised and at this stage the loan of further costs would be needed.

15. The Chair asked if the prospective purchaser would be requesting temporary closure and diversion of the footpath that ran alongside the hall whilst the new house was being constructed. Councillor Richardson said that he probably would in which case the clerk said that he would need to be notified so that he could contact Kent County Council so that they could make the appropriate closure order.

Update on Plans and Proposals for the Selmes field

16. The Chair reported that there had been no reply from Ashford Borough Council as to whether planning permission would be needed to move the entrance to the Selmes field to the corner of the cricket field. Jonathan Bourne was proposing to move the position of the cricket nets to a position that would impact on Mr Seal's proposals for the Selmes field. As it was not clear exactly what Mr Bourne was proposing, it was decided that further consideration of the changes to the Selmes field until his plans, together with the need for planning permission, were known.

Update on Rolvenden Community bus

17. The Chair said that she had discussed the shopper bus with some residents in the village. There was not a great deal of support for the service mainly because of the time that would leave the village and for the time that the bus would be in Tenterden before returning. There was however, much more interest in using the bus for group bookings such as the forthcoming shopping trips to Bluewater on 3 December and Canterbury on 28 November. She would contact Rolvenden and indicate that Newenden wished to participate in the scheme on this basis.

RoSPA Play Safety Inspection Report

18. The clerk said that the Council had not checked the RoSPA safety inspection report for the children's playground that had been received in mid August. Most of the items requiring attention were regarded as low risk but the Council needed to ensure that remedial action was taken where necessary. Some of the points had already been rectified such as the perimeter fence, but others probably needed attention. The clerk said that he would forward the report to Councillors so that they could consider what action to take.

Highways

19. The Chair reported that she had not received any reply from Highways about the effectiveness of salt stored from previous years of which there was a substantial amount remaining. Consequently there was no need to order any more. The clerk said that Highways had just replied saying that there was no deterioration apart from the salt solidifying.

Planning

20. Councillor Richardson said that there had been no planning matters recently other than an application from Bourne's to amend an existing permission 18/00107/AS. Councillors decided to support the application.

Consultation on Ashford Local Plan

21. The Chair said that she had been through the local plan and there was nothing much in it that affected Newenden. There were no proposals for development due to it being within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty but infilling and edge of settlement development was to be permitted. There did not seem to be any reason to comment. The village envelope exercise would be starting shortly and comments were required by 7 January.

Any other business

Consultation on Rother District Local Plan

22. There was nothing in the Rother District local plan affecting Newenden.

Newenden archives

23. The Newenden archives were ready for collection from Mr Nilson and the two crates would be stored in the loft of the church.

KALC Awards Scheme

24. The nomination forms could be downloaded from KALC's website. They needed to be submitted by the end of January 2019.

KALC Committee meetings

25. The Chair said that the first meeting of the KALC committee in the new year was on 23 January.

Date of Next Meeting

26. The next meeting would be on 11 December to discuss setting the precept for 2019-20. The clerk said that he would prepare financial estimates although this partly depended on Ashford Borough Council providing information on the level of band D precepts. The clerk said that he would circulate suggested dates for the other meetings in 2019.

Chair.....

Date.....

