

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 8 November at 7.30 pm in the village hall

Present:

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

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Apologies for absence

1. None.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Minutes of the meeting on 13 September

3. The chairman said that the minutes should refer to Angus Middleton not Robertson and he had amended them. Otherwise the minutes having been circulated were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 13 September

Newenden Trust

4. The Newenden Trust would meet on 10 November and were holding a Christmas Fair on 4 December.

Village Maintenance Contract

5. The chairman said that he had not received any response from Kent County Councillor Mike Hill about the possibility of getting a contribution from the County Council towards the cost of a village maintenance contract. The problem was shortage of money and the fact that the County Council did not provide any services to Newenden of the type that would be covered by a village maintenance contract. A tender for works would be held at some future point but in the meantime the Parish Council would continue to use Stephen Siggery.

Broadband

6. Councillor Baker said that she continued to await a response from her contact at Ashford Borough Council.

Cranbrook school

7. Councillor Richardson said that there had been no further developments although Cranbrook had expanded their catchment area to other villages some of which Councillors thought were further away from the school than Newenden.

Bus shelter

8. The chairman said that he had heard nothing further from Mr Crowley and would speak to him.

Wetland area

9. The chairman reported that the Environment Agency had given permission to excavate a shallow scrape of up to 1,000 square metres. Mr Bourne had offered to do the excavation once his equipment was no longer needed during the Winter. The chairman said that the residents of Lossenham Lane needed to be informed about the work.

Proposals for a Roundabout at the junction of the Rye and Tenterden roads

10. The chairman said that he had heard nothing further from Kent County Councillor Mike Hill.

Selmes Trust matters

11. The chairman reported that he had had a meeting with the new vicar and the PCC would be meeting on 21 November to discuss the proposed allocation of funds.

12. Mr Siggery was asking for the return of some bags which were filled with hedge trimmings and needed to be emptied. There would be a bonfire on 4 December on which the hedge trimmings would be burnt and the bags then returned to Mr Siggery.

13. The chairman referred to the problem of a sunken fibreglass boat belonging to Mr Goad. The boat had sunk over two years ago and needed to be removed from the river bed which would not be easy because it would be extremely heavy as it would have filled with mud. It was agreed that the boat needed to be removed from the river, but Councillors did not know what could then be done with it. The chairman agreed to investigate disposal of the boat and would speak to Mr Seal about this.

Financial Statement to 8 November

14. The financial statement to 8 November having been circulated was agreed.

Accounts for payment

15. The following account was approved for payment:

Cranbrook & Sissinghurst PC	Maintenance speed watch equipment	£66.50
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Audited Annual Return

16. The clerk reported that the external auditor had commented on the Annual Return for 2016. The Council had been one day late in starting to display a public notice about the availability of the accounts for 2015-16. The Council had also placed figures in the wrong boxes on the Annual Return.

The figures were however correct, it was just their classification on the Annual Return that was wrong. Neither of these errors was significant.

Speeding down Lossenham Lane

17. A complaint had been received from a resident of Lossenham Lane about speeding down the lane in the early hours of the morning between 5.00 and 6.00 am. The resident knew who was the driver of the car. Lossenham Lane was not one of the authorised locations for speed watch and so speeds could not be monitored. It was thought that a letter should be sent to the driver advising that the police could be informed.

Highways

18. Councillor Edmonds commented that there was nothing to report. Councillor Richardson said that the pothole reporting scheme worked effectively although Highways would not fix potholes less than 50mm deep and more than the size of a car tyre in diameter.

Planning

19. Councillor Richardson reported that Ashford Borough Council had given planning permission for White cottage.

Village hall

20. The chairman reported that plans for the new village hall were being drawn up and for the house that would replace the existing village hall after it was demolished. Once these were complete in three or four weeks time, pre-planning advice would be obtained from Ashford Borough Council. Having obtained advice the Parish Council would then apply for planning permission.

Community Land Trust

21. The chairman said that preparations for a Community Land Trust were making good progress. There had been a meeting with Ashford Borough Council who had been quite positive about the proposal and had not rejected it. A meeting was being held on 21 November with the English Rural Housing Association to see if they wished to be involved with the development.

22. The chairman said that he had spoken to Mr Miles Hall about the Community Land Trust and what he proposed to do with Battery Bank. Mr Hall said he had no plans for Battery Bank and might either sell or retain the land.

Any other business

Cycle path

23. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen said that she would like to see a cycle path along the river from Rye all the way up to Bodiam. The chairman suggested that she speak to the High Weald organisation.

Crocuses

24. Councillor Edmonds said that the Rotary Club of Tenterden were offering parishes some crocus bulbs. Councillors thought that these could be planted under the trees in the Selmes field and agreed to accept their offer.

Date of next meeting

25. The next meeting will be on 13 December when the precept for 2017-18 would be discussed.

Chairman.....

Date.....