

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council held on Zoom on 4 March at 7.00pm

Present:

Mr D Wright
Mrs J Eldridge
Mrs H Masters
Mr D Rose

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

There were 8 members of the public present.

Apologies for absence

1. Apologies were received from Borough Councillor Mrs K Walder.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Minutes of the meeting on 7 January

3. The minutes of the meeting on 7 January having been circulated, were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 7 January

4. None that would not be covered later in the meeting.

Financial statement to 4 March

5. The financial statement to 4 March having been circulated was agreed.

The following Invoices were approved for payment

Parish Council account

Jewson	Materials construction bus shelter	£312.39
Homeleigh T & B Supplies	Materials for bus shelter	£26.40

Management account

Ecclesiastical Insurance	Public Liability Insurance	£311.90
Mr D McCrae	Moving boat	£180.00

Co-option of Councillor

6. The chairman said that there was a vacancy on the Council as a result of the resignation of Councillor Turnbull. This had been advertised and Ashford Electoral Services had advised that the Council were permitted to fill the vacancy by co-option. He invited Mrs Laura Larkin to give a short resume on why she should be co-opted on to the Council.

7. Mrs Larkin described her residency in Newenden and explained why she wanted to become a Councillor. Councillors all voted for Mrs Larkin to be co-opted onto the Council. The chairman said that he would send her the declaration of office and disclosure of pecuniary interest forms which she should complete and return to Ashford Electoral Services.

Bus shelter update

8. The chairman said that the wet weather had delayed completion of construction of the bus shelter which was now expected to be finished in about five to six weeks. He had considered what material to use for the roof and although glass fibre was more durable he had decided that felt roofing was quicker to install and much cheaper. The overall cost of the bus shelter would be around £800.00. It would be built by the Parish Council and the clerk added that he would make sure that it was brought under the Parish Council's insurance cover. There was some discussion about the cost of the shelter, but the clerk said that commercial manufacturers charged anywhere from £1,500 to £2,500 for a shelter with a wooden shelter costing upwards of £3,000.

Parking at Copt Hall and in general in the Parish

9. The chairman reported that there had been a good response to the consultation newsletter to residents in Lossenham lane about parking. The use of double yellow lines to prohibit parking in the Summer had not been supported and preliminary enquiries of Ashford Borough Council about a residents parking scheme had shown that this would be prohibitively expensive. There was concern that the parking problem would recur this Summer as a result of Covid restrictions on foreign holidays. The chairman said that because the opening hours of the car park in the Selmes field had been reduced he had asked the landlord of the White Hart to remove the sign pointing to the car park on his land. The landlord had refused to do so.

10. Mrs Hannavay-Cousen explained that when operational the new village hall car park was reserved for parking by those using the hall and was not open to the general public. However, members of the Rother Fishing Association and cricket club members could park in the car park. The park could not be used by the general public at the moment because it was a building site and needed to be kept secure. The parking arrangements with Bourne's would end when the hall went into general use.

11. Mrs Broughton expressed concern about the amount of farm traffic using Lossenham lane. There were two farms at the end of the lane. One farm, Lossenham Priory, was a true arable farm with farm machinery mostly working on the farm. The other, Lossenham farm, was not a true farm with the buildings being used for the storage of agricultural machinery that was then used for a contracting business. The owner of the farm did not live there and the equipment was used on another farm he owned at Beckley. The owner had had a recent application for a Lawful Development Certificate for fishing turned down by Ashford Borough Council. She was concerned

that parked vehicles would be damaged by wide agricultural machinery and access would be prevented.

Newenden Bridge

12. The chairman said that Kent Highways had advised that Newenden bridge was an English Heritage scheduled monument and repair work could not be begin until they had received consent from English Heritage. He expected that repair work would entail road closures, temporary traffic lights and restrictions on traffic.

13. In the meantime some repair work using inappropriate brickwork had been done by unknown persons. He expected that when the County Council undertook repair work that this would be removed.

Any other business

14. Mrs Bourne asked whether the management agreement between the Selmes Trust and the Parish Council extended to the management of the sports field (cricket field) as the map attached to the agreement included all of the land owned by the Selmes Trust including the sports field. Councillor Rose and the clerk explained that in practice the Parish Council had no magement function in relation to the sports field.

Date of Annual Parish Meeting

15. The Annual Parish meeting would take place on 8 April over Zoom.

Chairman.....

Date.....