

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Newenden Parish Council over Zoom on 4 May at 7.00 pm

Present:

Mr D Wright (Chairman for first three items)
Mrs J Eldridge (chairman for the remainder of the meeting)
Mr D Rose
Mrs H Masters
Mrs L Larkin

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

There were at times five members of the public present.

Apologies for absence

1. None.

Declarations of Interest

2. None.

Election of chairman

3. The chairman Councillor Derek Wright, said that he would be stepping down as chairman and would therefore, not seek re-election. Councillor Wright then announced that he was also resigning as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect. Councillor Eldridge thanked Councillor Wright for his work over the past two years which had allowed the Council to achieve a great deal.

4. Councillor Eldridge then called for nominations for chairman. Councillor Masters nominated Councillor Rose and this was seconded by Councillor Eldridge. There being no other nominations Councillor Rose was elected as chairman. Unfortunately, Councillor Rose's internet connection was very poor and he asked the vice chairman to act as chairman for the rest of the meeting.

Election of Vice chairman

5. Councillor Larkin nominated Councillor Eldridge to continue as vice chairman. This was seconded by Councillor Masters. There being no other nominations Councillor Eldridge was elected as vice chairman.

Minutes of the meeting on 4 March

6. The minutes of the meeting on 4 March having been circulated were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 4 March

7. None.

Financial Statement to 31 March

8. The clerk reported that expenditure for the year to 31 March was now complete and few payments had been made in the new financial year. The statement was agreed.

9. The clerk also reported that the first half precept had been paid but not the £2,000 contribution that Ashford Borough Council had agreed to contribute for grass cutting in the Parish. The clerk was asked to remind Ashford that this was outstanding.

10. The clerk then reported that about nine mooring fees had been paid together with the Rother Fishery Association rent of £800.00.

Invoices for Payment

11. The following invoices were approved for payment:

PC Account

Kent Association of Local Councils	Annual subscription	£164.00
Mr J A Leeves	Clerk's allowance	£27.96

Management Account

Romney Marshes Internal Drainage Board	Drainage rate	£7.89
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Allocation of Responsibilities between Councillors

12. Councillor Larkin said that she would be responsible for policing matters. Councillor Masters would deal with Highways and Councillor Eldridge would continue to cover planning and would also take over responsibility for banking and paying invoices by on line banking. The chairman would deal with community liaison.

13. Councillor Larkin said that she would deal with parking in the Selmes field. The field would open for parking in June at weekends, Bank holidays and special occasions. It would close towards the end of September. The field would be open for parking between 9.00 am and 6.00 pm. Councillor Larkin said that she would not open the gates to let out late stayers after they were closed at 6.00 pm.

14. Councillor Rose said that a meeting would soon be held with the Selmes Trust to discuss parking arrangements.

15. Mrs Hannavay-Cousen mentioned the need for a Parish Council representative on the village hall committee. Councillor Rose said that this would be considered by the Parish Council in due course.

Any other business

Telephone booth

16. Mr Wright reported that the Council would be adopting the telephone box.

Bus shelter

17. The bus shelter which was under construction, would be dismantled with the materials being put into storage after criticism of both its location and design. Councillor Larkin explained that it would be redesigned and the community consulted before an application for planning permission was re-submitted to Ashford Borough Council. She admitted that there had been costs incurred but it was important for the shelter to meet the requirements of the community.

Street Furniture: Hanging Baskets and Commercial Signs

18. The clerk drew Councillors attention to a recent notice from Kent Highways about hanging flower baskets and commercial signs attached to street furniture. Kent Highways would not approve any commercial signs or hanging baskets attached to street furniture or indeed any such signs in roadside hedgerows. Businesses in Newenden should be aware of these prohibitions when considering the positioning of signs advertising their businesses.

Date of next Meeting

19. Councillor Rose said that this would be decided in due course.

Chairman.....

Date.....