

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 10 December at 7.30 pm in St Peter's church

Present

Mr D Wright (chairman)
Mrs H Masters
Mrs J Eldridge

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

There were seven members of the public present.

Apologies for absence

1. PCSO Kate Richards sent apologies by e-mail. There were no other apologies.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Minutes of the Meeting on 12 November

3. The minutes of the meeting on 12 November having been circulated were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 12 November

4. Councillor Eldridge reported that following a talk from Nikki Gammon over £200.00 had been raised to re-wild the Selmes field.

Financial statement to 10 December

5. The financial statement to the 10 December having been circulated was agreed.

Invoices for payment

6. The following invoices were approved for payment:

The Wealden Group	Road safety sign
£72.00	

The chairman said that Mr Edmonds had now e-mailed with the proposed charges for Parish Council use of St Peter's church. These were for heating and lighting provided during meetings. It was proposed to charge £30.00 per meeting held in October to April and £15.00 per meeting in May to September. On this basis there was £135.00 outstanding for meetings up to and including this one. It was agreed to pay this amount and to pay future charges as proposed.

Precept for 2020-21

7. The clerk had circulated a spreadsheet showing the forecast expenditure for the remainder of this financial year and the actual expenditure for many previous years. He had also calculated the amounts that the precept would increase if a 3% or 5% increase were to be applied to this year's precept. Broadly for every 1% increase in the precept there would be an overall increase in the total paid by residents of £50.00. Ashford Borough Council had reduced the amount of Council Tax support grant by £2.00, but had maintained the Concurrent Functions grant at £280.00 and there was therefore effectively no change to these amounts.

8. It was noted that the precept had not been increased for several years and Councillors thought that it should be increased by a small amount on this occasion. It was agreed that the precept should be increased by 3% and that consequently the overall amount payable by residents would increase to £5,124.00.

Casual Vacancies

9. The chairman said that the Council had two vacancies which Ashford Borough Council had confirmed could be filled by co-option. There were three candidates for these vacancies: Mr John Turnbull, Mr Dennis Rose and Mrs Sue Bourne. The chairman then invited each applicant to set out their experience for the positions. All the applicants then gave a description of their experience.

10. The chairman then explained the voting procedure. In the first round of voting for vacancy A there were two votes each for Mr Turnbull and Mr Rose and none for Mrs Bourne. Mrs Bourne was eliminated. The second round of voting produced the same result and the chairman gave a casting vote for Mr Turnbull who was co-opted. In vacancy B There were two votes for Mr Rose and none for Mrs Bourne. Mr Rose was therefore co-opted.

Highways

11. Mr Seal complained that the drains were blocked on Newenden hill from Upway down to the White Hart. The drains were also blocked at the start of the A28 on Frogs hill going towards Hinxton channel. The chairman said that he would get in touch with Kent Highways about the problems.

Planning

Construction of Residence on Site of Old Village Hall

12. The chairman said that work on the construction of the house on the site of the old village hall which had been halted by Ashford Borough Council Planning Enforcement had briefly recommenced but then halted again. The owner would be submitting a new planning application detailing the modifications to the existing plan that he wanted to make. Until this application was received for comment work would be in abeyance and there was nothing further that could be done.

Large Construction Equipment in Lossenham Lane

13. Mr Turnbull said that he had seen some exceptionally large construction equipment and portacabins being transported along Lossenham Lane, but did not know where they were destined. The chairman said that he would make some enquiries.

Any other Business

New Village Hall

14. Mr Seal reported that the Newenden Trust had just appointed a contractor to undertake the ground works prior to construction and they would start work on 6 January. This would entail making a new entrance onto Rye road and a concrete base on which the hall would be built. The contractor had been selected because of their environmental credentials and he went on to explain that great care would be taken to protect trees close to the ground works. There would be a small amount of soil removed from the ground works which would be taken to the Selmes field and used to fill in a depression.

Dates of next meetings

15. The next meeting would be on 25 February. Councillors agreed the dates of meetings in 2020 which would be published on the website.

Chairman.....
Date.....