

Minutes of a meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 10 July at 7.30 pm in the village hall

Present:

Councillors

Mr A Nilson (chairman)

Mrs R Edmonds

Mr D Richardson

Mr B Livesey

Mrs J Eldridge

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Apologies for absence

1. None.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Minutes of the meetings of 15 May and 6 June

3. Councillors thought that the description in the minutes of 15 May of the current position of the village hall committee was too negative and asked for deletion of some wording. Subject to this amendment the minutes of the meetings on 15 May and 6 June having been circulated were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meetings on 15 May and 6 June

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

Finance

5. The financial statement to 10 July was approved.

Cheques for signature

6. The following account was approved for payment:

C P Ceramics Mugs for Queen's Diamond Jubilee £249.83

It was noted that Councillor Richardson had a pecuniary interest in this matter and he withdrew from the meeting.

7. The clerk reported that he had sent the accounts for the management agreement with the Selmes Trust to the vicar, but had not received any response. These showed a payment due to the Trust of £126.16 a cheque for which he had intended should be signed tonight. Councillor Edmonds said that

she would check with the vicar if he had any comments and a cheque could then be signed and sent later.

8. Councillors signed a request to the bank to transfer the Parish Council's share of the surplus (£196.00) for 2011-12 under the management agreement with the Selmes Trust from the management to the Parish Council's current account.

Report of meeting with the Rother Fishery Association

9. The chairman reported on the recent meeting with the secretary of the Rother Fishery Association Mr Stephen Crowley to discuss a new long term agreement for the rent of fishing rights on the river Rother. Under the agreement the annual rent started at £820.00 with an annual increase in accordance with movement in the consumer price index. The meeting had been very productive with Mr Crowley agreeing to provide tuition to children in the village. There had been a suggestion that the village might like to form a fishing club and if they did so and paid an annual subscription of £3.25 per member to the Rother Fishery Association they would be able to fish all of the other waters for which the Association had rights.

10. The clerk had sent a revised agreement to Mr Crowley who had just responded. Mr Crowley had agreed to the agreement but had asked if there could be a break clause. The chairman said that such a clause was acceptable. The agreement would need to be signed by a member of the Selmes Trust and witnessed. It was agreed that Mr Crowley should be invited to the next Township meeting to explain his ideas.

Code of Conduct and disclosure of interests

11. The chairman reported on the new Code of Conduct and requirements for the disclosure of interests resulting from the abolition of the Standards Board for England and Wales. He explained that regulations on 1 July required adoption of the Code and disclosure of pecuniary interests within 28 days although in practice it was accepted that Parish Councils probably had about a couple of months to comply.

12. Having initially been sidetracked by the draft of the Code from NALC he had now been in touch with Mr Rivers, chair of the Ashford branch of KALC, and established that it was the version of the Code being adopted by Ashford Borough Council which was appropriate for Parish and Town Councils in the Borough. The advice was that Parish Councils should wait and see if the Borough Council adopted the model at their meeting on 19 July. If they did then Parish Councils could follow and adopt the same model. Councillors agreed to await the outcome of the Borough Council's meeting on 19 July and if the Code was adopted would call an extraordinary meeting on 7 August to follow suit.

Update on Parish Plan

13. Councillor Richardson said that he had not yet been able to call a meeting to discuss and assemble the results of the questionnaire. He would do so within the next month.

Planning

Planning Application for moorings

14. The chairman reported that a retired architect Mr Peter Robinson had drafted a design and access statement for the new moorings as well as drawing up plans for them. Copies of the statement had been circulated before the meeting. The cost of submitting the application would be £85.00. Councillors decided in principle to go ahead with submitting the application and thought that if granted, construction would begin next year.

15. Councillor Livesey suggested that reference should be made in the statement to disabled access. Councillors also discussed the issue of parking referred to in the statement. This was potentially a difficult issue and Councillors thought that it should be put to the next Township meeting so that the views of residents on possible alternatives were obtained.

3 Church cottages

16. The clerk reported that he had submitted the Council's return on the planning application for 3 Church Cottages. This had been to support the application. Councillor Livesey had declared a pecuniary interest and had not taken part in the Council's consideration of the application.

White Hart

17. The clerk reported that planning permission had been given for the dormer windows in the White Hart.

Holiday Letting

18. Councillor Livesey advised that he had applied to Ashford Borough Council for planning consent for a holiday let.

Highways

19. Councillor Edmonds said that Jennie Wickenden had said she would visit the parish to look at drainage, but had not yet done so. The clerk mentioned that she also needed to look at road markings in the area of the junction of the A268 with the A28 which had been erased as a result of road works and subsequent patching. Although Highway Services had strimmed around the reflector posts on the corner of the junction they had not cleaned them. Councillors asked the clerk to write to the residents of Brook House and Three Wents about overgrown vegetation that was impeding the footpath.

Any other business

Fencing and Gates

20. The chairman referred to the fact that there was still some fencing and gates in storage which residents had not been able to install at the last days of action. Mr Seal had suggested that a contractor should be employed to undertake the work. Councillor Livesey commented that installation of gates was not a straightforward job and required specialised equipment and commented that the KCC plan of footpaths also needed to be re-erected. It was agreed that Mr Seal should be asked to write a specification of what was required which the Council would then review. The Council would then try to obtain some quotes for the specified work.

Mowing of Main Selmes field

21. Vegetation on the Selmes field had grown quickly and was now very tall. Mrs Butler had obtained a quotation of £330.00 for cutting it. Councillors thought that this was rather high and made various suggestions for alternatives including asking the Environment Agency who mowed the river bank if they would also be prepared to mow the field.

Police Report

22. Councillor Livesey said that he had been given a police report by PCSO Oliver Welch. Two crimes had been reported in Newenden since 1 April: a burglary and theft from a car. A white transit van with Irish number plates whose occupants were selling power tools had been seen around the district. This was suspicious and any sightings should be reported.

Ashford Diamond Jubilee Civil Awards

23. Councillors discussed nominations for Ashford Diamond Jubilee Civil Awards and whether or not the village should be consulted about the Parish Council's proposed nominee. Councillors thought that they could talk to residents informally about the proposed nominee. The chairman agreed to draft a nomination statement. Nominations had to be submitted by 15 August. It was thought that the Parish Council would nominate this year and next year nominations would be invited from the village.

Date of next meeting

24. The next full meeting of the Council would be on 2 October to be followed by a Township meeting. Before this, if the Borough Council decided at their meeting on 19 July to adopt the new Code of Conduct, an extraordinary meeting would be held on 7 August at 7.30 pm so that the Council could also adopt the Code and give Councillors the new forms for declaring their interests.

Chairman.....

Date.....