

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

Present

Councillors

Mr A Nilson (chairman)

Mrs R Edmonds

Mrs C Baker

Mr D Richardson

Mrs E Hannavy-Cousen

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

There were ten members of the public present.

Apologies for absence

1. None.

Declarations of interest

2. The chairman said that as he was providing consultancy services to Bourne's he would have to declare an interest on any issue discussed relating to them. There were no other declarations of interest.

Minutes of the meeting on 9 May

3. The minutes of the meeting on 9 May having been circulated were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 9 May

4. The chairman said that in addition to the matters already on the agenda there were three issues discussed at the previous meeting which were not due to be discussed later in the meeting.

Privacy policy

5. The chairman said that he was still working on the privacy policy which when complete he would put up on the revised website on which he was also still working.

Community Mni-bus

6. Councillor Edmonds reported that she had been in contact with Denise Curtain of Rolvenden Parish Council about participation in the community mini-bus scheme. The bus was arriving next week and Rolvenden would then be in touch about Newenden's participation in the scheme.

Parking

7. The chairman reported on the parking situation which had worsened in recent years, due to increased interest in village activities. A film crew had also visited Newenden and for safety reasons had temporarily closed Lossenham lane during filming which had inconvenienced residents. The film crew had however, contributed £500 towards the village which would be divided between the Selmes Trust and the cricket club. A meeting had been held of interested parties and as a result the bonfire field had been opened over the May bank holiday. This had not worked well as drivers had not followed the rules and a certain amount of litter had been left in the field. Bourne's car park had also been open but had not been used.

8. It was proposed that the cricket pitch should be used for parking in August when the cricket club did not have any home fixtures and the bonfire field could be opened when necessary for special events. It was not necessary to remove many cars from the road to alleviate the situation.

9. Mr Turnbull a resident of Copt hall on Lossenham lane, said that residents were being inconvenienced by the parking situation which could impede the emergency services if an incident occurred. A local farmer had also recently been prevented from accessing his field due to thoughtless parking in a gateway. In addition to customers for the cycle hire business, there were also fisherman, boat owners and canoeists coming to the village all of whom needed to park. In relation to boat owners the numbers of boats moored at Newenden by non-residents had increased in recent years exacerbating parking difficulties. Mr Wheeler added that the association to which many canoeists belonged was actively encouraging them to visit Newenden as launching and parking facilities were free. He pointed out their website paddle.points.com.

10. The chairman said that the County Council would not take any action over parking in the village. In the short term the cricket pitch could be used in August and in the longer term there would be parking facilities when the new village hall was built. He would contact the canoeist's association and ask for information relating to the village to be removed. He would also look at the possibility of erecting signs to direct drivers to the parking facilities and where appropriate state "no parking".

Financial statement to 10 July

11. The financial statement to 10 July having been circulated was agreed.

Invoices for payment

12. The following invoice was approved for payment:

Mr C Burns	Internal audit	£35.00
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Industrial practice concern

13. As this matter concerned Bourne's the chairman left the room and the vice chairman Councillor Edmonds chaired discussion of the issue.

14. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen reported that at the recent monthly surgery she had received complaints from residents about industrial type activities at Bourne's. The company was operating a brick crushing machine continuously from about eight am to five pm on week days. The plant produced a fine silicone dust cloud that rose and spread over the village causing breathing difficulties for a resident who suffered from asthma. The dust was being blown around and had coated cars, boats and residents windows. The plant was also very noisy and was disturbing residents.

15. Mr Turnbull confirmed that the noise was continuous and disturbing residents in Lossenham lane. He thought that the plant should have a water suppressant to prevent the dust and that they had moved the plant from another of their sites elsewhere in Kent. Mr Wheeler said that because Bourne's was located in Northiam it was the responsibility of Rother District Council to deal with the issue. He had been in touch with the Council who had said that they would inspect the premises tomorrow. The clerk explained that continuous noise and dust might be considered to be a statutory nuisance and if so the Council had the power to order Bourne's to stop the activity. Unfortunately there were no Councillors available to meet officers from Rother District Council when they visited Bourne's. It was agreed that Councillor Edmonds would contact Mr Wheeler the following evening to find out what if any action the Council had taken. Depending on the outcome the clerk might then write to the Council copying to Ashford Borough Council about the problem.

Update on new village hall

16. Councillor Richardson reported that some final adjustments had been made to the design of the new village hall before seeking planning permission. The cost of building was high and it was therefore proposed to construct a hall of about 80 square metres. Rather than have a single contractor which was favoured by the architectural technician because they were easier to control, it was proposed to have a number of subcontractors which would help to keep the cost down. It had been agreed to reduce the price of the existing village hall and keep it with the current estate agent for three months.

17. It was proposed to hold a fund raising event at which people would be able to make a donation towards the cost of building the new hall.

Update on village maintenance contract

18. The chairman reported that as usual Mr Siggery had cut the children's playground and the burial ground at the top and behind Battery bank. Councillor Edmonds commented that the path up to the burial ground had become overgrown.

Highways

19. Councillor Edmonds reported that on 8 June there had been an accident on the A268 between Hill House and Hillcrest which the police had attended. Photographs were circulated.

20. Kent Highways had marked a number of locations on the roads where repairs were required and had advised that it would be necessary to close Lossenham lane while some of these took place.

21. Mr Turnbull said that there had again been instances of children jumping off Newenden bridge into the river Rother. This was very dangerous and might result in injury or death. The Bodiam Boating station warn people using their campsite of the danger of jumping from the bridge and asked them not to do so. It was agreed to write to Councillor Hill to see what action could be taken to deter people from jumping from the bridge.

22. Mr Seal said that motorists overtaking on the short stretch of road leading up to the bridge in order to beat the traffic lights remained a problem. Again this would be raised with Councillor Hill.

Planning

23. Councillor Richardson reported that there had been no planning applications or issues since the last meeting.

Any other business

24. None.

Date of next meeting

25. The next meeting would be on 11 September.

Chairman.....

Date.....