

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council held on 11 February at 7.30 pm in the village hall

Present:

Councillors

Mr A Nilson (chairman)

Mr D Richardson

Mr B Livesey

Mrs R Edmonds

Mrs J Eldridge

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

There was one member of the public present.

#### **Apologies**

1. None.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

2. None.

#### **Minutes of the meeting of 10 December 2013**

3. The minutes of the meeting on 10 December having been circulated were agreed as a correct record.

#### **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting on 10 December**

4. The clerk reported that Ashford Borough Council had confirmed the amount of the precept for the Parish for 2014-15 at a total of £5,610 including £460.00 concurrent functions grant.

5. Councillor Edmonds said that she had enquired about the whereabouts of the Christmas lights and been told that it was thought that they were being stored in the cricket pavilion.

6. The clerk reported that he had obtained a local Government publication with advertisements for community notice boards. It was apparent that some of these would be very costly and Councillors agreed that he should only obtain quotations from companies whose products appeared to be less expensive.

#### **Financial Statement**

7. The financial statement to 11 February was circulated and the clerk commented that there would now be very little expenditure to the end of the year on 31 March. The financial statement was approved.

## **Newenden Needs Housing**

8. The chairman reminded Councillors of the outcome of the recent meeting with the developer Mr Miles Hall and his planning consultant. Councillors had some reservations about the transparency of Mr Hall's proposals but agreed that the survey which he would pay for should go ahead. The survey would be drafted by Miss O'Sullivan of Action with Communities in Rural Kent. Councillors would ask to see the survey in draft and any covering letter and establish who was eligible to receive it. The chairman would contact Miss O'Sullivan to start the process.

## **Update on Community Speed watch**

9. Councillor Livesey reported that the new monitoring site outside of the Old Rectory was quieter. This was possibly because it monitored traffic leaving the 30 mph speed restriction zone and because people were driving more slowly in the extremely wet weather. The wet weather had resulted in some monitoring sessions having to be cancelled. He would e-mail out the latest results when they were received.

10. Councillor Livesey reported that a new PCSO had been appointed. PCSO Julia Ghost would be attending the Annual Parish meeting to give a report and he asked for the clerk to put an item at the beginning of the agenda.

## **Highways**

11. Councillor Edmonds reported that potholes were developing in various places in consequence of the extremely wet winter weather. The drain that had been installed to relieve flooding in front of Copthall was also now blocked. She had reported these problems to Highways and Ashford Borough Council.

## **Planning**

12. Councillor Eldridge said there were no planning issues to report.

## **Any other Business**

### Salt Bag

13. The bag of salt on the corner at the far end of Lossenham Lane had not been required so far this Winter. Councillors thought that it should be left where it was for the time being before being moved to the barn for safe storage.

### Councillor Eldridge

14. Councillor Eldridge explained that she had increasing outside commitments and had little time to deal with her planning portfolio. Councillor Richardson agreed to take this over. Councillor Eldridge said that planning advice would still be available from Mr Cathcart.

### Marsh Millions

15. The chairman explained that Borough Councillor Mike Bennett had advised that small businesses in Newenden were now eligible to apply to the Marsh Millions scheme for a small loan to support the business.

Memorial Tree for Mr Cloote

16. The chairman said that he had been approached at recent the funeral of Mr Cloote by a relative who wished to have a tree planted in the village in his memory. Councillors were happy in principle to plant a tree and considered various locations. It was thought that the top side of the cricket field might be a suitable location. The tree would be of a species that did not grow very large.

Lay by outside Copthall

17. Mr Turnbull commented about the problem of mud in the lay by outside of Copthall which had been deposited by water flowing off the field behind the Copthall estate. This needed to be reported to Ashford Borough Council who were the landlords of Copthall.

**Date of Next Meeting**

18. The next Parish Council meeting will be on 6 May (the AGM). The Annual Parish meeting will be on 18 March.

Chairman.....

Date.....