

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

Present:

Councillor Mrs R Edmonds (chairman)
Councillor D Richardson
Councillor C Baker
Councillor E Hannavy-Cousen

Rolvenden Parish Council

Councillor Mrs D Curtain
Councillor Mr G Tiltman

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

There were three members of the public present.

Apologies for absence

1. None.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Minutes of the Meeting on 10 July

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

Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 10 July

Privacy Policy

4. The clerk said he would speak to the former chairman Mr A Nilson and find out how far he had got with this and the website in general.

Parking

5. The chairman reported that the temporary arrangements over the August bank holiday and the subsequent weekends had worked well. There had in fact been little use of the facilities and now with the approach of autumn, requirements for parking would reduce and it was not expected to be a problem. The Selmes field would be opened for the next two weekends in case additional parking was needed. In the longer term parking facilities at the new village hall would resolve any difficulties. Notices had been put up about parking and removed when not required.

Village maintenance contract

6. The chairman commented that Mr Siggery had not been for some time and the grass in the children's playground was growing rather long. The clerk said he would ask Mr Nilson what the latest position was on the village maintenance contract.

Industrial activities at Bourne's

7. Councillor Richardson reported that Councillors had held a meeting with Bourne's on 26 July. Mr Bourne had said that the brick crushing activity had ceased. The company was applying for an environmental licence to undertake it which would require a structure to be built around the plant and for emissions to be dealt with. The clerk added that the Council had written to Rother District Council about the brick crushing plant.

8. Mr Bourne had said that no loading was permitted to take place before 7.00am. Mr Bourne had also said that he had not been aware of the concerns of residents and asked that they raise them direct with the company in future as part of better communication with the village.

Children Jumping from Newenden bridge and cars overtaking before reaching the bridge

9. The chairman reported that she had written to Kent County Councillor Mr Mike Hill about the dangers of children jumping from Newenden bridge and cars overtaking as they approach the traffic lights at the bridge.

Financial Statement to 11 September

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

Invoices for payment

11. The following invoices were approved for payment:

Came & Co	Council village hall insurance	£2,797.33
Mr J A Leeves	Clerk's allowance & postage	£31.16
Management account		
Mr D Macrae	Mowing Selmes field	£120.00

Other outstanding administrative matters

12. The chairman said that in consequence of the resignation of the previous chairman Councillors needed to confirm the allocation of responsibilities between themselves. Councillors agreed that the existing allocations were satisfactory. However, Councillor Baker would take on responsibility for the Newenden twitter account and Councillor Hannavy-Cousen would take charge of the deeds of the village hall. The Council's archives (two crates) also needed to be collected from Mr Nilson.

Update on New Village Hall

13. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen reported that the prospective buyer of the existing village hall had withdrawn without making an offer. The outlook for the sale did not look very good with the prospect of the existing site not raising as much as had originally been anticipated. It had been hoped that the site would be purchased by a private individual, but if the price had to be reduced significantly it was possible that it would be purchased by a developer. The village hall committee were considering holding further fund raising events.

14. Prospective buyers had been deterred by the footpath along the side of the plot and the unwillingness of neighbours to permit temporarily scaffolding on their land during the course of construction. On the footpath it would be helpful if the Parish Council would support a request to the County Council for a temporary diversion. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council would support such a request.

14. The clerk reminded Councillors that when the existing hall was demolished the Parish Council would need a notice board as it was a statutory requirement to display a notice of meetings. Mr Seal said that when the time came Mr Wheeler would be prepared to make a notice board for the Council which would reduce the cost.

Rolvenden Community Bus

15. The Vice chairman of Rolvenden Parish Council Mrs Denise Curtain explained the community bus service which they had just started. The service was a pilot to see if it could be run successfully. It was being operated on a not for profit basis entirely by volunteers. The bus had been provided on a three year lease by Ashford Borough Council and Rolvenden was required to make payments to Ashford to contribute to the leasing costs. Rolvenden was responsible for paying for the cost of fuel and parking and provided drivers again on a voluntary basis. Finding drivers who had to undergo training to drive a public service bus was one of the greatest difficulties.

16. Mr Tiltman explained that the bus was available for group bookings of associated people who wanted to attend events for example theatre visits or shopping trips to places such as Eastbourne or Canterbury. There were plans to run a service to Tenterden market which could be used by individual fare paying passengers. The cost to run the bus was about £2.00 per mile and on this basis a return fare from Rolvenden to Tenterden would be £5.00. Bus passes would not be valid and one way fares from Rolvenden to Tenterden would not be available.

17. The bus could come to Newenden to pick up passengers for Tenterden. If Newenden wished to participate in the scheme then the Parish Council would have to contribute about £150.00 for a year's participation. Councillors decided to participate in the scheme and would publicise the scheme in the Parish News. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen said she would quickly prepare an article and the chairman said she would distribute Parish News and tickets advertising the bus.

Highways

18. The chairman said that there appeared to be a burst water main on Newenden hill and she had contacted South East water who would arrange to repair it.

Councillor Richardson said that he had removed a private advertising sign from the roadside at the junction of the A268 and the A28 and showed a photograph of the sign. The clerk said he was right to do so as it distracted motorists at a dangerous junction. For this reason the Highways Authority did not approve of private advertising signs attached or close to road traffic signs as this one had been and suggested that he sent the photograph to Kent Highways who would contact the advertisers.

19. The chairman said that there had been an instance of fly tipping on the approach to the sewerage farm on the corner of Lossenham lane and she had contacted Southern Water about it who had agreed to re-instate the post to prevent vehicles from going down the track.

Planning

20. Councillor Richardson said that there had been no planning issues since the last meeting.

Any other business

Police/PCSO Engagement

21. The chairman and Councillor Hannavy-Cousen said that there was a lack of police engagement with the village and certainly no formal presence. Councillor Baker said that she had not had any contact with the PCSO whom she assumed was based in Ashford. The chairman said that there was an event being hosted by Ashford Borough Council at which the Ashford police chief was speaking and she proposed to attend and complain about lack of police engagement with Newenden.

Fireworks

22. Councillors and residents thought that holding a bonfire and a firework display was a good idea for the community, but unfortunately good fireworks were costly and in the past such events had made a loss. Further thought would be given to what sort of event might be held on 3 November.

23. The clerk reminded Councillors that if there was going to be a bonfire and or firework display then he needed to know in advance so as to inform the Council's insurers.

Proposals for improvement of the Selmes Trust field

24. Mr Seal had made some proposals for the improvement of the Selmes Trust field. These would be discussed at a meeting to be arranged with the Selmes Trust trustees.

Ake Nilson

25. Councillors discussed a presentation to the former chairman Councillor Ake Nilson to mark his long service to the Council.

Date of next meeting

26. The next meeting would be on 6 November.

Chairman.....

Date.....

Addendum

After the meeting it was agreed with the Newenden Trust that there should be a firework display on 3 November. The Parish Council would initially fund the purchase of the fireworks and underwrite any loss incurred by the event if the revenues raised did not cover their cost.