

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 12 June in the village hall
Newenden at 8.30 pm

Present

Councillors

Mr M Berry (chairman)
Mrs R Edmonds
Mr A Neilson
Mrs J Eldridge

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Apologies for absence

08.63 Apologies were received from Councillor C Turnbull

Declarations of Interest

08.64 None.

Minutes of the meeting of 13 May

08.65 It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on 13 May having been circulated be approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed Councillor Eldridge seconded Councillor Edmonds

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 13 May

Noise from the riding of motorbikes on the village playing field

08.66 The clerk reported that he had sent the letter agreed by Councillors to the vicar as chairman of the Selmes Trust owners of the village playing field, about noise from the riding of motorcycles and motorised toys. The vicar had not yet replied. Councillor Edmonds explained that the vicar had suffered a recent family bereavement that had taken him overseas and he had only just returned. In these circumstances she felt that the letter was perhaps rather too forthright.

08.67 The clerk reminded Councillors that he had been in contact with Ashford Borough Council about the problem. They had advised that the noise might be considered to be a statutory nuisance and as such could be dealt with by one of their environment protection officers. The other possibility was to treat it as a form of anti-social behaviour and for the local PCSO and the Community Safety officer to take action. It had been felt that the latter course might achieve quicker results and consequently the clerk had sent copies of his letter to Ashford Borough Council and PCSO C Brett.

08.68 The clerk also reported that he and the chairman had looked at the Charity Commission website to see if the Trust Deed for the Selmes Trust had been published. It was not available for downloading from the site and so he had spoken to Mr Cloote whose wife until recently had been a trustee. Mr Cloote unfortunately did not have a copy. Mr Cloote had commented that the problem of noise had been raised in the past and that he thought that in some instances permission to use the field had been given many years ago. The chairman said that he thought that only one of the families using the field had in fact been given written permission the others only had verbal authorisation.

08.69 Returning to the issue of the Trust deed the clerk said that he felt the Parish Council should have a copy in its possession because public recreational facilities were normally provided by the Council and it therefore had a legitimate interest in their provision. He therefore proposed that the Council obtain a copy of the trust deed from the Charity Commission for which there would be a small charge of £1.80. Councillors agreed that they should obtain a copy.

Litter Collector.

08.70 Following the recommendations of the Internal Auditor, the clerk reported that he had sent George Goad a written contract of employment. This had an annex dealing with job description and a second dealing with safety. The litter collector was only to collect packaging, tins and bottles and empty the litter bin in the children's playground on public land ie roadside verges in the parish. Any other material he found should be reported to the chairman.

08.71 The clerk also reported that he had spoken to Zurich Municipal Insurance who confirmed that the litter collector was covered by employer's liability. The insurers had however, requested to know the salary of all employees and the number of those employed by the Council as their records were out of date. The clerk confirmed he had provided this information in writing to the insurers who had told him that the changes were so minimal as to not incur any increase in premium.

08.72 Finally, the clerk had spoken to the Child Employment Officer at Kent County Council and provided her with information about the employment of George Goad. A permit was required for this employment, but the nature of the work was such that it would be issued without any difficulty. The clerk was obtaining a copy of the permit application form which would have to be signed by George's parents.

Correspondence

08.73 The clerk reported that Ashford Borough Council had sent a document relating to a new policy for housing allocation. As this did not refer to Newenden Councillors felt that it would not be of interest.

08.74 Kent County Council had advised of a change to the offices dealing with rights of way.

Finance

Financial and Petty cash Statements 12 June

08.75 These were much the same as that for the May 13 meeting as there had been no expenditure apart from clerk's salary. The clerk explained that the Council needed to keep a large balance in the current account to meet the cost of renewing the Council's insurance and to make a grant to the village hall committee for their insurance premium. Councillors approved the statements.

Other financial matters

08.76 None. The clerk reported that he had submitted the annual return to 31 March 2008 to the external auditor but had heard nothing.

Payments

08.77 None.

Reports

Planning

08.78 The following applications were considered:

08/00797/AS

Overhead lines at Frogshill, Hastings Road, Rolvenden, Kent

08/0885/AS

Overhead lines running from Frogs Hill cottage to the Old Rectory at Newenden Hill, Rye Road, Newenden, Kent

08/00885/AS

Overhead lines at Frogs Hill cottage to the Old Rectory at Newenden Hill, Rye Road, Newenden, Kent

08/00883/AS

Overhead lines at Newenden Main running from the Old Rectory to Manor House East, Lossenham Lane, Newenden, Kent

08/00902/AS

Overhead lines at Lossenham running from Priory Stones to Lossenham Cottages, Lossenham Lane, Newenden, Kent

08/00903/AS

Overhead lines running East from Old Timbers along Lossenham Lane, Newenden Kent

All of these applications related to re-conductoring of the existing high and low voltage overhead lines

08.79 Councillors felt that they could not comment on these applications and asked the clerk to indicate this on all the comments forms and return them to Ashford Borough Council.

Highways

08.80 Councillor Edmonds reported that Kent Highways appeared to have finished repairing potholes, but had not undertaken repairs to those on the roads around Newenden.

08.81 Councillor Neilson reported that he had noticed that the owner of Maron in Rye road had started to have his roadside hedge cut, presumably following receipt of the clerk's letter requesting him to do so. Councillor Edmonds then commented that the roadside verges needed cutting again. The clerk confirmed that he too had noticed this problem and Councillor Edmonds said she would raise it with Kent Highways Department.

Any other Business

Dog Waste

08.82 The chairman reported that he had recently met the dog warden from Ashford Borough Council and she had advised him of the legal situation in respect of dog waste. It was an offence for owners not to clean up after their dog where the deposit was on public land. However, dog waste deposits on privately owned land did not contravene the law.

Telephone box

08.83 Councillor Eldridge commented that the telephone box was in something of a dilapidated state. The paint was very faded and one of the panes was smashed. The clerk said that he too had noticed this and felt that it ought to be reported to British Telecommunications. However, he warned that BT was consulting about the removal of some telephone boxes because they were virtually unused and therefore uneconomic to maintain they might do so in respect of this telephone box. Councillors felt that the clerk should contact BT and attempt to get the box refurbished.

Christmas Tree

08.84 The chairman reported that the clerk had spoken to Bedgebury Pinetum and been advised that they were able to supply a large Christmas tree for planting at the side of the village playing field. He had not been able to get an indication of cost. The best time for planting was in the Autumn. The clerk was asked to seek permission

from the Selmes Trust to plant the tree in the corner on the edge of the playing field close to the village sign.

Date of next meeting

08.85 The next meeting of the Parish Council is on 13 August at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

Chairman.....

Date.....