

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 12 May 2015 at 7.30 pm in the village hall

Present:

Councillors

Mr A Nilson (chairman)
Mrs A Edmonds
Miss C Bond
Mrs E Hannavy-Cousen

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Apologies for absence

1. Apologies were received from Councillor Mr D Richardson.

Declarations of interest and Return of Election Expenses

2. The chairman explained the different types of interest that Councillors were required to disclose. Councillors each then completed a disclosable interest form which the clerk said he would then forward on to Ashford Borough Council. The clerk explained that the Borough Council would then display them on their website. Councillors completed their returns of election expenses.

3. Councillors had no declarations of interest in relation to items on the agenda.

Election of chairman and to receive his declaration of office

4. Councillor Edmonds proposed that Councillor Nilson should be re-elected as chairman. This was seconded by Councillor Hannavy-Cousen. There being no other nominations Councillor Nilson was elected as chairman.

Election of Vice Chairman

5. The chairman proposed that Councillor Edmonds again be elected as vice chairman. This was seconded by Councillor Hannavy-Cousen. There being no other nominations Councillor Edmonds was elected as vice chairman.

Declarations of Acceptance of Office

6. Councillors completed their declarations of acceptance of office which the clerk would forward to Ashford Borough Council.

Allocation of Business Responsibilities between Councillors

7. The following allocations of business responsibilities were made:

Councillor Richardson: Planning
Councillor Edmonds: Highways
Councillor Bond: Police liaison
Councillor Hannavy-Cousen: Liasion with village organisations

Minutes of the meeting on 24 February

8. Having been circulated the minutes of the meeting of 24 February were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 24 February

River Warden Risk Assessment

9. The chairman said that he had not yet been advised by Mr Livesey the flood warden that he had obtained copies of a risk assessment from Kent Resilience. This was necessary for insurance purposes and he would speak to Mr Livesey.

Dog Waste Bin

10. Mrs Eldridge had still been unable to contact the Ashford Borough Council dog warden Mr Leek about the provision of another dog waste bin. She would continue trying to contact him.

Road sign "Walkers in the road"

11. The chairman reported that County Councillor Mike Hill was trying to have the road sign "walkers in the road" moved closer to Newenden bridge.

Finance: Financial Statement

12. The financial statement to 12 May having been circulated was agreed.

13. The following invoices were approved for payment:

Kent Association of Local Councils	Annual subscription	£124.56
Mr J A Leeves	Clerk's allowance & postage	£33.78

Selmes Management

Romney Marshes Internal Drainage Board	Drainage rate	£7.19
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Training for new Councillors

14. Ashford Borough Council was proposing to hold a training session for new Councillors on the Code of Conduct on 27 May. Councillors decided that they did not wish to attend.

15. The Kent Association of Local Councils was holding a short induction course for new Councillors sponsored by Came and Co on 21 July at Eltham. The cost would be £25.00 per delegate. The clerk said he would book places with KALC if any Councillors wished to attend.

Highways

16. The clerk said that on his way to the meeting he had noticed a sign at the entrance to Lomas Lane about resurfacing of the A268 to the junction with the Tenterden road for nights during the next nine weeks.

Planning

17. Nothing to report.

Parking along Lossenham Lane

18. The chairman said that with the better Spring weather parking along Lossenham lane by canoeists and dog walkers had again become a problem. Councillor Edmonds agreed and said she had had a tractor driver ask her whether a car that was obstructing the lane outside her house was hers and could be moved. Cars were being left all day long and they were in some cases causing an obstruction. It was agreed that notices should be printed and placed on the windscreens of poorly parked cars and in the hedgerow along Lossenham Lane.

Any other business

Parish community Governance Review

19. The chairman referred to the consultation from Ashford Borough Council on parish arrangements in the Borough and the reply he had drafted and circulated to Councillors. Councillors did not have any further comments and agreed that the reply should be sent.

Bank Mandates

20 The chairman said that all Councillors should be able to sign cheques and asked the clerk to obtain a bank mandate form.

Donation of bench

21. The clerk mentioned that Mr Crowley had offered to donate a bench to the Council that was surplus to his needs and had suggested that this was placed on the river bank. Councillors thought that it might be better to place it in the closed churchyard and Councillor Edmonds said she would raise the suggestion at the next PCC meeting.

Pedestrian wooden bridge across the river Rother

22. Councillor Hannavay-Cousen said that she knew of somebody who would be able to construct a wooden pedestrian bridge across the river Rother which would be much less costly than one constructed by a bridge builder. Councillors agreed that she should look into the possibility further.

Date of next meeting

23. The next normal meeting would be on 30 June. However, the clerk said that a special meeting to approve the annual return to 31 March 2015 would be required and it was agreed that this would be on 2 June at 7.30 pm at Upway.

Chairman.....

Date.....

