

Minutes of the Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 13 August in the village hall at 7.30 pm

Present

Councillors

Mr M Berry
Mr A Neilsen
Mrs J Eldridge
Mrs r Edmonds
Mr C Turnbull

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Members of the Public

None.

Apologies for absence

08.86 None.

Declarations of Interest

08.87 None.

Minutes of the meeting on 12 June.

08.88 It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on 12 June having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed Councillor Edmonds seconded Councillor Neilsen.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 12 June.

Noise from the riding of motor cycles on the village playing field

08.89 The clerk reported that he had not received a reply to his letter to the chairman of the Selmes Trust (the vicar) about the noise problem. He had however, received a telephone call from PCSO Chris Brett to whom he had copied the letter. PCSO Chris Brett considered the matter to be a civil dispute since it concerned activities on private land (the village playing field) and was therefore not a police matter. He also claimed not to have spoken to the children about riding motorcycles and motorised toys along Lossenham Lane to reach the playing field. The clerk had also sent a copy of his letter to the Community Safety Officer at Ashford Borough Council who had also not replied.

08.90 The chairman said that he had also spoken to PCSO Chris Brett who had told him that he had spoken to one of those given permission to ride his motorcycle on the playing field about riding it along Lossenham Lane a public road, to reach the playing field. Councillor Edmonds and other Councillors commented that people had not been riding motorcycles on the playing field recently and there had consequently been no further complaints. Councillor Neilsen said that he had spoken to the vicar about the problem. The vicar had been conciliatory and he thought that he had not replied because he wanted to consult with one of the churchwardens also a trustee of the Selmes Trust.

08.91 Councillors felt that the clerk should send a polite reminder to the vicar offering a meeting to discuss the issue.

Litter Collector: Employment Considerations

08.92 The clerk reported that the Youth Employment Officer of Kent County Council had issued a permit for the employment of George Goad as a litter collector. The Council had now met all of the requirements mentioned by the Internal Auditor in relation to the litter collector.

Selmes Trust Deed

08.93 The clerk reported that the Charity Commission had sent an e-mail copy of the deed establishing the Selmes Trust which he had forwarded to Councillors. There had been no charge for this. He suggested to Councillor Neilsen that he place a copy of the deed with the Parish Council archives.

08.94 Councillors discussed the deed which set out the responsibilities of the trustees (the vicar and churchwardens) and the purpose of the trust that included the provision of the playing field for the use of the village and the cricket club.

Planting of a Christmas Tree on the edge of the village playing field.

08.95 The clerk reported that he had not received a reply from the vicar to his request for permission to plant a Christmas tree on the edge of the village playing field. Councillors felt that a polite reminder should be sent pointing out that the tree should be planted by the end of September.

Playground Inspection

08.96 The chairman said that a resident had advised that he had seen somebody looking at the playground equipment recently and he assumed that this was the inspector from Playsafe Ltd. The clerk explained that Playsafe Ltd were supposed to have inspected the playground last month but due to an administrative error this had not been done. He had had to remind them and was pleased to hear that the inspection appeared to have taken place. He would forward the inspector's report as soon as it was received.

Correspondence

Kent Highways: New Computer Record of Works

08.97 Kent Highways had advised that they had installed a new computer database listing works throughout the County and the state of progress on them. He handed the details to Councillor Edmonds.

Kent Association of Local Councils

Speed Restriction Review

08.98 The clerk reported that KALC had circulated an information note on work being undertaken by Kent Highways to reviewing speed limits on A and B roads in the County. After undertaking a demonstration review the full scheme is being rolled out to three areas although Newenden was not included.

Finance: Financial Statement to 13 August

08.99 The financial statement to 13 August was approved and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Other Financial matters

08.100 The clerk reported that there were no other financial matters, but asked that Councillor Turnbull remind Mr Siggery to submit an invoice for cutting the grass in the children's playground. The renewal request for the insurance policy had not yet been received but when it was the clerk indicated he would be seeking a quotation from other insurers.

Payments

08.101 The following payment was authorised:

Mr J A Leeves Petty cash for payment of litter collector £100.00

Reports

Planning

08.102 The clerk reported that Ashford Borough Council had approved the series of planning applications for modifications to overhead electricity cables in the Parish. There had been no other planning applications.

Highways

Bus stop on Hastings Road

08.103 Councillors were concerned about the position of the bus stop on the road to Rolvenden that was almost on the junction with the road to Sandhurst. The sign was located in the hedge and there was no provision for passengers waiting for the bus to

stand out of the road or for the bus to pull off the road. This was dangerous and needed drawing to the attention of Highways.

Flashing Speed Signs

08.104 The clerk mentioned that he had recently travelled through several villages in Kent and had been struck by the number of flashing speed signs that had been installed. They were becoming quite prevalent and he did not see why Kent Highways were refusing to install one or more on the approaches to Newenden particularly close to the junction with the Tenderden road. Councillors explained that several accidents had occurred at the junction as a result of cars coming up Newenden hill at excessive speed and running into the back of stationery vehicles waiting to turn onto the Tenderden road. The accidents had been made worse because cars hit from behind had been pushed into the path of oncoming traffic. It was felt that the clerk should write to Highways drawing all this to their attention and asking for a sign or signs to be erected.

Any Other Business

08.105 Councillors made comments about the amount of litter particularly polystyrene containers that was being deposited at points all over the village by customers of the kebab van. The chairman commented that he had seen containers in the river. The area around the cricket pavilion was littered with containers and Councillor Turnbull said he would try to get them cleared up. The amount of litter was not the result of the litter collector being ineffective, but the sheer volume of containers from the kebab van. The area around the van was however, tidy because the owner used a private waste service BIFFA to take away litter that he had collected in the immediate vicinity of the van.

08.106 The clerk commented that he would like his contact details published in the Parish magazine so that residents would know where to contact him. Councillors said that the vicar's wife edited the Parish magazine and he should write to her.

Date of Next Meeting

08.107 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 2 October in the village hall at 7.30 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....