

Minutes of the Meeting of Newenden Parish Council held on 14 July in the village hall at 7.30 pm

Present

Councillors

Mr M Berry (chairman)
Mrs R Edmonds
Mr A Nilson
Mr C Turnbull
Mrs J Eldridge

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Members of the Public

None.

Apologies for Absence

09.58 None.

Declarations of interest

09.59 None.

Minutes of the meetings held on 5 May and 18 June

09.60 It was resolved that the minutes of the meetings on 5 May and 18 June having been circulated be signed as a correct record. Proposed: Councillor Edmonds seconded: Councillor Nilson.

Matters arising from minutes of meeting on 5 May and 18 June

09.61 The clerk reported that he had sent a letter of employment to the litter collector and sent the annual return to the Audit Commission.

Tenancy Agreement for Children's Playground

09.63 The clerk also reported that the vicar and chairman of the Selmes Trust had sent him a copy of the tenancy agreement with the Parish Council for the children's playground. This was a fairly simple document. It had a term of 20 years expiring in April 2023. There was a rent of £50.00 per annum due on 1 May. Although the Council had paid five year's back rent, rent for the current year 2009-10 was still due

and this was listed in the accounts for payment. Councillor Nilson agreed to place a copy of the agreement in the archives.

Selmes Trust Moorings

09.65 The chairman reported that following withdrawal of permission for residents to moor their boats on the Selmes Trust bank of the river, the Trust had now issued a letter setting out conditions under which boats could be moored. In the meantime, some owners had removed their boats from the river bank, but there were still three remaining on the bank. The river bank was being made untidy by these three somewhat dilapidated boats and the mooring conditions prohibited the storage of boats on the river bank. Councillors believed they knew who owned the boats but were not completely certain and were also uncertain as to what action might be taken to try to get their owners to remove them. The Selmes Trust had appointed Mr R Hannavay-Cousen to collect mooring donations and try to enforce the mooring conditions and the clerk was asked to write to him to see what could be done about the boats on the river bank.

Country Kids Sign

09.66 Councillor Eldrige said that the portable sign advertising the Country Kids nursery place close to the base of the village sign was still not being removed when the nursery was closed and it looked untidy. The chairman said he would deal with the problem.

Clerk's Report

Kent County Council

09.67 The County Council were undertaking a consultation about public involvement in planning matters for which they were responsible. The clerk explained that the County Council had planning responsibility for public buildings like schools and libraries and for roads. The County Council also covered planning issues related to waste and minerals. Councillors did not feel that this issue affected the Parish.

Ashford Borough Council

Visit by Dog Warden

09.68 The dog warden had written to ask whether he could visit the Parish to deal with problems associated with dogs. Councillors thought this to be a good idea and asked the clerk to make arrangements for the dog warden to visit.

Charging for Byelections

09.69 Ashford Borough Council intended to introduce charging for administration connected with casual elections for vacancies on Parish Councils except in certain circumstances. The various charges were significant and the clerk said that the Council might have to consider ring fencing part of their reserve as a contingency to meet these charges if they were to arise. Councillors felt that it was unlikely there

would be any casual vacancies requiring an election and that most vacancies had to be filled by co-option.

Tenterden Rural Sites Development Plan

09.70 Ashford Borough Council had sent a CD ROM detailing proposals for housing developments in rural areas around Tenterden.. Newenden remained in an area of no development and there were therefore no proposals for development in the Parish. Councillors discussed the issue of affordable housing in the Parish and referred to previous proposals that had been strongly opposed by residents.

09.71 Councillor Eldridge agreed to look at the CD Rom.

Finance

Financial Statement for 14 July

09.72 It was resolved that the financial statement to 14 July be approved and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Accounts for payment.

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Mr S Siggery	Cutting grass in children's playground	£208.00
Selmes Trust	Rent for children's playground 2009-10	£50.00

09.73 The chairman commented that he had asked Mr Siggery to undertake some repairs to the fence around the children's playground and his invoice was therefore slightly more than usual. Councillor Nilson reported that he had not yet been again to the bank in Tenterden to represent his documents for identification the previous copies of which had been lost by the bank

Highways

09.74 Councillor Turnbull reported that there had been yet another accident at the junction of the A28 with the A268. Fortunately nobody had been hurt. This was the second accident that had occurred recently and Councillor Turnbull was keeping a record. It appeared that Kent Highway Services were unaware of these accidents because when asked to improve safety at the junction they had claimed that they had no record of there having been any accidents. The clerk was asked to write to Highway Services and to Kent Traffic Police pointing out that there appeared to be a breakdown in communication between the two.

Planning

Biomass CHP Plant at Coppards Lane Northiam

09.75 Councillor Edmonds reported that she had received a letter from a resident of Northiam reporting on the views of the Council for the Protection of Rural England

on the proposal. This related to the BBC coverage of the plant and a meeting of Northiam residents about it. Councillor Eldridge said that she thought that the application would go to appeal and in similar cases the Planning Inspector had approved the application. The clerk had written to Rother District Council giving the Council's views and it was felt that they now had to await the outcome of the planning process..

Any other business

Village Hall

09.76 Councillor Nilson reported that the resident who was prepared to sell a field that could be used for the construction of the new village hall had decided to leave the village. The resident was still prepared to sell part of the field the value of which had been estimated at £25,000. It would be necessary to borrow this money and given that there were doubts as to whether planning permission would be granted Councillor Nilson had concluded that it would not be worthwhile.

Insurance for Duck Race

09.77 Councillor Nilson explained that the Friends of St Peters held a duck race on the river Rother on August Bank holiday to raise funds. This consisted of releasing a large number of plastic ducks each with a unique number and allowing them to float down stream to a finishing line. The duck reaching the finishing line first won the owner a prize.

09.78 It was necessary to have the event covered by public liability insurance and he wondered whether the Parish Council would sponsor the event in order to bring it within the insurance they maintained. The chairman suggested that it would be presentationally better were the village hall to cover it uinder their insurance particularly as they already maintained insurance in respect of the village firework display.

Dates of next meetings

09.79 The next meetings of the Parish Council would be on 29 September and 30 November in the village hall.

Chairman.....

Date.....