

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 16 December at 7.30 pm in the village hall

Present:

Councillors:

Mr A Nilson (chairman)

Mrs R Edmonds

Mr B Livesey

Mrs J Eldridge

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Apologies for absence

1. Apologies were received from Councillor Richardson.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Minutes of the meeting on 4 November

3. The minutes of the meeting on 4 November having been circulated were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 4 November

Noticeboard

4. The chairman reported that he had purchased materials for a noticeboard and banner and circulated a picture on his mobile telephone of these erected between the bus stop and village sign.

Insurance for Flood Warden

5. The clerk reported that he had spoken to both Came and Co and KALC about insurance for the flood warden. There appeared to be onerous risk assessment requirements. The chairman said that he had spoken to Mr Rivers who said that in reality the risk assessment requirements were not that strenuous and suggested that Kent Resilience had ready made templates. Councillor Livesey said he would contact Kent Resilience.

Dog Fouling

6. Councillor Eldridge reported that she had still been unable to contact Mr Leek the Dog Warden at Ashford Borough Council.

Road signage for Newenden Bridge

7. The chairman said that he had still not received any details from the County Council of the proposed road signage at Newenden bridge.

River bank works

8. The Environment Agency had still not informed the Council of the results of their tests on the stability of the banks following completion of the recent works. Mr Seal had suggested that some boats including one belonging to the Rother Fishery Association on the opposite bank on Bourne's side of the river be moved to a location behind the cricket pavilion.

Financial Statement

9. The financial statement having been circulated was agreed as a correct record. The clerk commented that there was now little planned expenditure for the remainder of the year.

Accounts for payment

10. The following accounts were approved for payment:

Mr S Siggery	Maintenance children's playground	£448.00*
Mr J A Leeves	Arrears of pay	£8.11
Mr A Nilson	Materials for new noticeboard	£107.74

Selmes Management

Ecclesiastical Insurance Co	Public liability insurance	£256.16
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*already paid

Clerk's pay

11. The clerk said that agreement had been reached between local government unions and employers on new pay scales that would result in an increase in his pay from £109.56 to £111.97 per month from 28 January 2015. Councillors signed an authorisation to the bank to change the monthly standing order for clerk's pay accordingly.

Defibrillators

12. Councillors decided to purchase a defibrillator under the bulk purchase arrangements being arranged by KALC. The cost would be £640.00 plus VAT (the VAT could be reclaimed). The chairman said that it would only be necessary to purchase replacement batteries in two or three year's time.

13. The chairman said that he had seen the place in the White Hart where it was proposed to store the defibrillator and this was satisfactory.

Precept for 2015-16

14. The chairman circulated a budget forecast for 2015-16 and some succeeding years. The clerk had also previously circulated a spreadsheet showing historical trends in Council expenditure.

15. The chairman explained that the Council tax support grant had been reduced to £70.00, but that the amount raised under the tax base had inexplicably increased. To cover expenditure Councillors agreed that the amount levied on parishioners would be £5,030.00 making a total precept of £5,100 with the support grant. There would in addition be a concurrent functions grant of £370.00 from Ashford Borough Council. The clerk said that when Ashford announced the Council tax it was important that it was checked for accuracy as mistakes had been made in the past.

Planning: application for Garden Store Frogs Hill Farm

16. As the papers were not available it was agreed to defer consideration of the application which was quite straightforward until 19 December.

17. The chairman commented that an application from Mr Seal for a further extension at the Oast was to be expected in the near future.

Highways

18. Councillor Edmonds reported that she had written to Highways reporting potholes in Rye road and at the junction with the A28 Tenterden road.

Any other business

Council elections in May 2015

19. Councillor Livesey advised that he would not be standing for re-election to the Council in May 2015.

20. The chairman said that he required the Register of Electors prior to the elections next May. The clerk said that he had this but it was passworded and he needed to get the password from Ashford Borough Council in order to view it.

Date of next meeting

21. The next Parish Council meeting will be on 24 February. The clerk said he would circulate a list of proposed meeting dates for the remainder of 2015 shortly. It was agreed that the Annual Parish meeting would be held on 24 March.

Chairman.....

Date.....