

Minutes of the Meeting of Newenden Parish Council held on 17 February
in the Newenden village hall at 7.30 pm

Present

Councillors

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

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Members of the Public

There were four members of the public present.

Apologies for Absence

09/001. None.

Declarations of interest

09/002. None.

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2008

09/003. It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on 3 December 2008 having been circulated be signed as a correct record. Proposed Councillor Nilsen, seconded Councillor Eldridge.

Matters arising from minutes of meeting on 3 December

09/004. The clerk reported that he had arranged a meeting with Kent Highway Services on 25 February in the car park of the White Hart inn at 10.00 am. The chairman and Councillor Eldridge confirmed they would attend. The clerk said that matters for discussion at this meeting would be considered later and he would then send them to Highway Services before the meeting.

Public Adjournment

Accidents at Junction of A268 and A28

09/005. A resident living at Tree Wents close to the junction of the A268 with the A28 complained about accidents involving vehicles travelling too fast at the junction

of the A268 with the A28. Vehicles often crashed through her hedge and into her garden. The chairman commented that the Council had previously asked Kent Highway Services to install a mini-roundabout at the junction, but they had refused because these were not permitted on A roads. This explanation did not appear to be correct and he would be raising the issue with them again. Equally, Kent Highway Services had also refused requests to install flashing speed restriction signs.

Reports

Planning

09/006. Approvals

08/0177/AS

2 Bakers Cottages, Lossenham Lane, Newenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5QA

Conservatory Amended Plans

08/01681/AS

The White Cottage, Lossenham Lane, Newenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5QD

Replacement Windows and Doors.

Poundfield

Amendments to front elevation of houses.

Poundfield comprised of two newly built houses and Councillors felt that these amended plans had probably already been implemented by the developers. Councillor Eldridge undertook to contact Ashford Borough Council to check on the situation.

09/007. Refusals

None.

09/008. Applications for Consideration

09/00078/AS

Manor House East, Lossenham Lane, Newenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5QD

Replacement front gate and picket fence dividing front garden.

09/009. Councillors noted that Manor House East was a Listed Building and the clerk explained that any structure within the domestic curtilage of the property was also listed as it affected the setting and appearance of the overall property. The clerk said that he had visited the property and the existing gate had rotted gateposts and was falling over. The nameplate of the property on the gate was falling off and the whole

appeared dilapidated. He did however, note that to the left of the gate was a mature beech hedge and to the right a mature hawthorn hedge. Councillors checked the application and found the gate and fence would be constructed of wood and painted/stained a dark colour.

09.010. Councillor Edmonds explained that although the house appeared to be one property it was divided into two semi-detached properties. The intention of the boundary fence which appeared to run up the front path was to reflect this division. Councillors felt that this would look rather odd and would affect the appearance of the property. Councillor Eldridge agreed to approach the owners of that part of Manor House East who were proposing this development to establish their exact intentions and then discuss these with Ashford Borough Council.

Application for Certificate of Lawful Use/Development

08/01852/AS

The Coach House, Peartree Cottage, Lossenham Lane, Newenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5QA

Change to residential use.

Councillor Eldridge explained that Ashford Borough Council had not consulted the Parish Council because strictly speaking this was not a planning application. It was likely to be approved as the applicant had been using the property for residential purposes for over four years.

Highways

09.011. Councillors discussed the matters that they would be raising at the meeting with Kent Highway Services on 25 February. The clerk reported that he had visited the Parish the previous day and noted various matters that required attention. Councillor Edmonds gave the clerk a further note of matters that she wanted discussed. The clerk said he would incorporate all of these into a single list and send it to Kent Highway Services. This would include the Council's concerns over traffic management at the junction of the A268 and the A28.

09.012. In addition to highways matters the clerk referred to what appeared to be an abandoned vehicle outside of Copt Hall. Councillor Berry said that he knew who owned the vehicle and had been in touch with PCSO Chris Brett because the vehicle did not have a current road fund duty licence. PCSO Chris Brett was not prepared to take any action because the vehicle was not parked on the public highway. The clerk suggested that somebody might speak to the owner rather than contact Ashford Borough Council who had the power to remove the vehicle.

09.013. The clerk said that more provision for parking could be made outside of Copt Hall although the problem was that when more space was provided the numbers of vehicles simply increased to fill it. Nevertheless he would contact Ashfor Borough Council Housing Department to see if anything could be done to increase the numbers of parking spaces.

Clerk's Report

Kent County Council

Trading Standards

09/014. Trading Standards were offering an e-mail alert service similar to that operated by Community Watch detailing possible rogue traders. The clerk asked whether Councillors would like him to subscribe to this service and forward any e-mails received. Councillors confirmed that they wished him to do so.

Ashford Borough Council

09/015. The clerk confirmed that he had replied to requests from Ashford Borough Council to be notified of the amount of precept being requested for 2009-10 and Concurrent Functions grant. As a matter of interest he circulated a list of other parishes in the Borough with details of the amounts of Precept and Concurrent Functions Grant they had requested.

Finance

Financial Statement for 17 February

09/016. It was resolved that the financial statement to 17 February be approved and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Accounts for payment.

09/017. The following accounts were approved for payment:

Mr S Siggery	Mowing childrens' playground	£144.00
Mr C Turnbull	Fee renewal domain name	£36.80

Councillor Turnbull confirmed that the domain name was being reserved for a Newenden Parish Council website.

Other Financial Matters

09/018. Councillor Nilsen undertook to go to the bank in Tenterden so that he could be made a signatory to the Council's bank account. The clerk gave him a letter from the bank.

Rent for Childrens' Playground

09/019. The clerk said that he had contacted the Treasurer of the Selmes Trust Mr Cloote who had confirmed that the last five years' rent for the childrens' playground was outstanding. At £50.00 per year this was £250.00. He had explained to Mr Cloote that whilst the Parish Council was content to pay a low rent for the playground they would not be prepared to pay rent set at a commercial level. Mr Cloote had

understood the situation. Mr Cloote did not have a copy of the tenancy agreement and Councillor Nilsen said he would look in the archives. The clerk said that he would ask the vicar for a copy if Councillor Nilsen could not find one.

09/020. Councillors agreed to pay the Selmes Trust £250.00 back rent.

Annual Parish Meeting 26 March

09/021. Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting on 26 March in the village hall were discussed. The clerk would prepare the Council's accounts for the year and the Chairman would write a letter inviting residents to attend. He would then arrange for this to be circulated before the meeting.

09/022. Councillors agreed to speak to those responsible for village organisations such as the Village Hall Management Committee, the Samuel Bishop Foundation and the Friends of St Peters and invite them to attend the meeting and speak about activities during the past year. The clerk was asked to incorporate an invitation to the meeting to the Selmes Trust in his reply to the vicar's e-mail about the regulations for the use of quad bikes on the village playing field.

Selmes Trust: Matters Arising from Meeting on 3 December 2008

09/023. The vicar had sent an e-mail to the clerk following the meeting with the Selmes Trust on 3 December attaching a set of Rules for the use of quad bikes on the village playing field which he intended to circulate to residents of the village.

09/024 Councillors commented that whereas at present about four families had received specific permission to ride quad bikes/motorised toys on the playing field the letter setting out rules for their use was addressed to all Newenden residents: it was therefore, in effect, increasing the numbers of permissions to use the playing field for the purpose.

09/025. Councillors noted that the rules specified that the playing field was for the use of Newenden residents only and that quad bikes and motorised toys were only to be ridden by children under the age of 12.

09/026. Councillors felt that the times specified during which the playing field could be used 12.00 to 18.00 were too long and that the restriction should be 10.00 to 14.00. This would allow elderly residents to rest in the afternoon. Concern was expressed as to how the rules were to be enforced. The clerk was asked to reply to the vicar making up these points and inviting him to the Annual Parish Meeting.

River Moorings on Selmes Trust River Bank

09/027. Councillors were concerned about the state of the river bank moorings described in the e-mail from the vicar. It was noted that the vicar had spoken to the owners of the boats concerned and asked them to remove them from the river bank.

Any other business

Litter Collector

09/028. The chairman confirmed that George Goad the litter collector, had resigned from the job several weeks ago and there was now a vacancy. The clerk commented that this was the reason for the amount of litter in Lossenham Lane and along the verges of the A268.

09/029. Councillor Turnbull said that Ann Bourne had mentioned to him previously that she would be prepared to take on the post. Councillors noted that this would mean that as she was an adult she would have to be paid the appropriate National Minimum Wage (£5.73) and could see no objection to doing so. Councillor Turnbull said he would speak to Ann Bourne.

Country Kids Sign

09/030. Councillor Eldridge felt that the moveable small sign advertising Country Kids nursery located at the base of the Newenden village sign looked untidy. The chairman explained that Country Kids had been permitted to locate the sign there in order to attract customers when they were first starting up. The sign was moveable and he would be asking Country Kids to put it away at the end of each day.

Area Around Base of Newenden Village Sign

09/031 Councillor Eldridge explained that when the village sign had been erected it had been intended to make up a small area at the base of the sign. Granite sets and other materials had been purchased which were now stored in Mr Garmans garden. It had been intended that Mr Garman would undertake the work of building a plinth but he had not had time. Councillors felt it unlikely that they could get together a working party to do the work. It was therefore felt that they should ask Bourne Amenity to undertake the work and the Parish Council would pay them. Councillor Turnbull agreed to speak to Bourne Amenity.

Dates of next meetings

09/031. The next meeting of the Parish Council would be on 5 May. This will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting. Before this the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 26 March.

Chairman.....

Date.....