

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 18 September at 7.30 pm in the village hall

Present:

Councillors

Mr A Nilson (chairman)

Mr D Richardson

Mr B Livesey

Mrs J Eldridge

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Apologies for absence

1. Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs R Edmonds.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Finance

3. The following invoices were approved for payment:

Playsafety Ltd	Inspection of children's playground	£86.40
Audit Commission	External audit fee	£144.00

4. The clerk reminded Councillors that he had just paid the renewal premium for the Council and village hall insurance. Under the insurance policy the organisers of the bonfire and firework display needed to advise the insurers of the event every year and should not rely on the previous year's notification.

Report of inspection of children's playground by Playsafety Ltd

5. The report of the inspection of the children's playground had been circulated to Councillors electronically. Councillors thought that there were no matters requiring attention as Councillor Livesey had undertaken a thorough repair of the seat attached to the picnic bench.

Adoption of the Code of Revised Conduct

6. Copies of the final version of the revised Code of Conduct had been circulated to Councillors in electronic format. Councillors noted that Ashford Borough Council had adopted the new code. Councillors agreed that Newenden Parish Council should adopt the revised code.

Declaration of interest forms

7. A copy of the revised declaration of interest forms were circulated to each Councillor. The chairman went through the forms in detail and explained what was required. Councillors were asked to complete the forms and return them to the chairman by the time of the next meeting on 2 October. The clerk would then send them to the monitoring officer by the deadline of 30 days from adoption of the revised code of conduct.

Update on mowing of the Selmes field

8. The chairman reported that the field had now been mowed twice. The grass had been very thick and in the recent fine weather had dried out. Councillors wondered whether somebody might be able to rake it up. The chairman also referred to the quotation Mr Seal had received for fencing the Selmes field and that it had been decided to go ahead with this. The field would then be stock proof and sheep could graze.

Planning Application 12/00990/AS

9. Councillors considered this application for a large extension to Bakers cottage. Councillors had no comments on the application which they felt should be supported.

Planning Application for Bodiam ferry

10. The proprietors of the Bodiam ferry had submitted a planning application to Rother District Council for an extension to their residential property and building facilities for their business. Although the business was located in Northiam (East Sussex) the proprietors were closer to Newenden and the business had greater implications for Newenden than it did for Northiam. Councillor Eldridge had therefore obtained a copy of the planning application.

11. Councillor Eldridge explained what was proposed. Councillors felt that they should write to Rother District Council in support of the application because of the business and employment implications for Newenden.

Adoption and sealing of byelaws

12. Copies of the draft byelaws which had been approved by the Department for Communities had been circulated to Councillors. Councillors agreed that the byelaws should be adopted.

13. The chairman and Councillor Richardson signed two copies of the byelaws and a seal was applied.

14. The chairman explained that the adoption of the byelaws had to be advertised in a local newspaper. The advertisement would state that copies were available for inspection at the offices of the Council. Having gone through this procedure the sealed copies and a copy of the advertisement would then be sent to the Department of Communities for application of the Secretary of State's seal. The chairman said that he would supply a form of words for the advertisement. The clerk commented that the newspaper (the Kent Messenger) would probably charge for publishing the advertisement.

Any other business

Parish Plan

15. Councillor Richardson outlined progress on drafting of the Parish Plan. The working party had considered all of the written submissions they had received and were drafting a plan. The most difficult issue was that of parking and Councillors discussed various options including the area close to the kebab van, Bourne's car park when not in use, behind the cricket pavilion and the Selmes field. There was a need for a footpath/cycle path from the pedestrian gate at the Bourne's end of the cricket pitch to the village particularly if there were more guests at the Bodiam ferry. The footpath to Northiam would also get greater use. It was agreed to put the options for car parking to residents at the Township meeting on 2 October.

Overgrown hedge at Three Wents

16. The clerk reported that the resident of Three Wents had telephoned him about the letter she had received expressing concern about her overgrown roadside hedge. It was apparently not the hedge that was the problem but weeds between the hedgerow and the footpath. She had contacted Kent Highway Services who had said that they would clear the weeds from the footpath.

Date of next meeting

17. The next meeting would be on 2 October at 7.00 pm to be followed by a Township meeting at 8.00 pm. The chairman outlined the items for the agenda for the Township meeting (Parish plan, fishing, planning application for new moorings, byelaws and Councillor Eldridge would also talk about the Samuel Bishop Foundation) and said that he would circulate a formal agenda before the meeting.

Chairman.....

date.....