

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 20 August at 7.30 pm in the village hall

Present:

Councillors

Mr A Nilson (chairman)
Mrs R Edmonds
Mrs J Eldridge
Mr B Livesey

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Apologies for absence

1. Apologies were received from Councillor D Richardson.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Minutes of the meeting on 4 June

3. Having been circulated the minutes of the meeting on 4 June were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 4 June

4. Councillor Eldridge reported that she had painted the play horse in the children's playground. The chairman reported that the Newenden housing survey had not yet been circulated to residents.

Financial statement

5. The financial statement was circulated and approved.

Accounts for payment and other financial matters

6. The following accounts were approved for payment:

Mr J A Leeves	Arrears of pay	£5.45
Cedarwood Building Ltd	Repairs to playground	£1,170.00
Cranbrook & Sissinghurst PC	Speed watch equipment	£460.00
Play Safety Ltd	Inspection of playground	£88.80

7. The clerk reported that the local Government national pay negotiations for 2013 had just been concluded and that as a result his salary had increased by £1.09 per month and that the bank should be instructed to change the amount of the monthly standing order.

8. The clerk said that funds in the current account would be insufficient to pay the insurance renewal on 18 September and the bank needed to be instructed to transfer £800 from the reserve account. Councillors also instructed the bank to transfer the Council's share of the surplus for 2012-13 under the Selmes Trust Management Agreement from the management to the current account.

Insurance policy long term agreement

9. The clerk reported that the Council's insurance policy was due for renewal on 18 September and the brokers had invited the Council to sign a further long term (three year) agreement so that a discount could be given on the premium. The chairman said that the wording of the long term agreement did not make much sense and it had been referred back to the brokers who in turn had referred it to the underwriters. Councillors decided that in principle they were prepared to sign the long term agreement and renew the insurance policy at the reduced premium. The clerk was asked to press the brokers for a response.

Community speed watch

10. Councillor Livesey referred to his e-mail reporting on the first use of the speed watch equipment. He said that he had recruited a team of 12 residents to help operate it and further speed watch sessions would take place shortly. There had been no accidents recently at the junction with the Tenterden road.

Update on Management of Selmes Trust Land

11. A farmer had agreed to graze sheep on the Selmes field and in return he would mow the top off the grass. The gate at the far end of the field which was lying in the long grass would need to be put into place before the sheep arrived.

Parish Plan update

12. Councillor Richardson was unfortunately on holiday and was not available to give an update. He would do so at the next meeting.

Planning: White Hart application for a new dwelling

13. The chairman said that he had been present at the meeting of the Borough Council's planning committee that considered the application for a new dwelling in the grounds of the White Hart. The officer's recommendation had been for refusal, but the committee had voted to approve the application with the support of Councillor Bennett.

Report on children's playground from Playsafety Ltd

14. The chairman said that there was nothing urgent in the report and most of the concerns were medium trip hazards. It was felt that some additional bark was required but that it would be sensible to put this in early next year after the Winter. A protruding bolt on the Ashford playground sign had been noted and Councillor's thought that the whole sign should be removed as it was not a Borough Council playground. Councillor Livesey said he would go through the report and produce a schedule of items that needed to be done. A day of action could then be arranged to sort them out.

Any other business

15. Councillor Edmonds reported that the village hall committee had been offered wheelie bins for refuse. However, there was no land around the village hall where they could be stored. Councillor Livesey said that he had attended a meeting at which the police and crime commissioner had spoken.

Date of next meeting

16. The next meeting will be on 22 October.

Chairman.....

Date.....