

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 21 February 2012 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

There was one member of the public present.

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Councillor Mr D Richardson.

Declarations of Interest

2. None.

Minutes of the meeting on 6 December 2011

3. The minutes of the meeting on 6 December 2011 having been circulated were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 6 December 2011

4. The clerk reported that he had heard nothing further from Kent County Councillor Mr Mike Hill about the flashing road sign that he had said he would fund. It was agreed that the clerk would remind him about this just before the Annual Parish meeting on 27 March when it was likely to be raised.

Correspondence

5. South East Water had sent a consultation document on their plans for dealing with drought. Councillor Eldridge said she would look through the consultation. The clerk circulated an invitation to join Action with Rural Communities in Kent and mentioned that they provided very helpful advice on obtaining grants for village halls which at some stage the village might need when proposals for a new village hall went ahead.

Financial Statement

6. Councillors noted the financial statement to 21 February and the clerk commented that there was nothing to report.

Other Financial Matters

7. There were no other financial matters.

Accounts for payment

8. The following accounts were approved for payment:

Mr T Mckinley	Litter collection tool	£12.99
Mr S Siggery	Mowing grass in children's playground	£288.00
Selmes Management Account		
Ecclesiastical Insurance	Selmes Fields insurances	£232.87

Parish Plan

8. Councillor Richardson was unfortunately not able to attend the meeting, but had arranged a committee meeting to discuss work on the plan on 29 February.

9. The chairman reported on the proposals for a village handyman scheme about which he had attended a recent meeting with Ashford Borough Council. The Borough Council were seeking to devolve some of the services that they provided in villages to Parish Councils. A trial scheme had been set up involving Wittersham Parish Council who would employ a village handyman to undertake maintenance work particularly grass cutting. Wittersham only had sufficient work to occupy the handyman for three days a week and so they wished to involve other parishes such as Newenden and Stone to take up the other two days. Rolvenden Parish Council had already indicated that they did not wish to participate and the chairman was sceptical about involving Newenden because there did not seem to be any advantage. Grass cutting for the Parish Council was done by Mr Siggery and a deal could be done with him or another service provider to undertake other grass cutting in the village.

10. The chairman had asked Ashford Borough Council for a list of services they provided to the village and how much these cost. So far they had only provided a costing for litter picking. In summary the chairman said that he thought that Ashford Borough Council were uncertain about the scheme.

Update on New Moorings

11. Detailed plans for the moorings were being drawn up and these would be submitted to Ashford Borough Council in order to obtain planning consent. The planning fee was likely to be about £170.00 reduced to 50% for Parish Councils.

Planning

12. Councillor Eldridge reported that there was still no news on the windows in the White Hart.

Planning Application 12/00087/AS

13 Councillors felt that the proposal for a new access onto the highway for the Oast was an improvement over the existing arrangement as the property had to be accessed via the car park to the White Hart. Councillors supported the application.

Highways

14. Councillor Edmonds said that she had reported their broken reflectors on Newenden hill to Highways and Jennie Wickenden had informed her that new reflectors were on order and would soon be in place. Councillor Livesey said that the No Entry sign on the A28/A268 junction had been knocked down. Councillor Edmonds said she would report this to Highways.

Any other business

15. None.

Date of next meeting

16. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual General Meeting on 15 May. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 27 March.

Chairman..... Date.....