

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council in the Village Hall on 21 February at 7.30 pm

Present:

Mr A Nilson (chairman)
Mr D Richardson
Mrs R Edmonds
Mrs C Baker
Mrs E Hannavy-Cousen

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Apologies for absence

1. None.

Declarations of interest

2. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen said that she needed to declare a personal interest in the planning application. There were no other declarations of interest.

Minutes of the Meeting on 13 December 2016

3. The minutes of the meeting on 13 December were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 13 December

Bus shelters

4. The chairman said that he had not seen Mr Crowley to ask him about bus shelters.

Wetland area

5. The chairman reported that he had had a site meeting on the Selmes field with Mr Bourne. It was proposed to make the scrape deeper at one metre and also slightly bigger. However, the site was extremely wet and consequently the work would not be done until late summer when it had dried out.

Crocuses

6. Councillor Edmonds reported that the Crocuses had been planted.

Financial statement to 21 February

7. The clerk commented that there now remained little anticipated expenditure in the current financial year. The financial statement to 21 February was approved.

Selmes Trust Account

8. The clerk reminded Councillors that there needed to be a meeting with the vicar in order to divide up the revenue in the Selmes management account. This had not been added to by receipts in the current year, but would soon increase again when these started to be received.

9. The chairman said that he had been trying to arrange a meeting with the vicar. Unfortunately the vicar was extremely busy and he had not yet been able to do so.

Invoices for payment

10. The following invoice was approved for payment:

Mr C Turnbull	Renewal of domain name newenden.org	£19.20
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New Village Hall

11. The chairman reported that he had written to the Charity Commission seeking authorisation to sell the site of the old village hall. He expected that the Commission would give their approval provided that the proceeds of sale were used to build a new hall. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen commented that the Newenden Trust had indicated that the site of the old village hall must be sold for the maximum amount that was achievable. The chairman and clerk confirmed that this would be a condition placed on the trustees who were obliged to obtain the maximum return possible from the sale. One way of doing this was for the Trust itself to build the house on the site of the old village hall and then sell it rather than sell the site and let somebody else build it. This might maximise the return, but there would be a cost in financing the new build and delay while it was being built and subsequently sold.

12. The chairman also confirmed that he had contacted County Councillor Mike Hill for help in obtaining advice from Kent Highways about access to the proposed site of the new hall which had been one of the points raised by Ashford Borough Council in their preliminary planning advice.

13. The chairman said that the plans drawn up by Mr Robinson needed to be seen by the village. There would likely be many comments and a separate meeting would be necessary from the Annual Parish meeting on 28 March which would otherwise be too protracted. It was therefore proposed to hold a Township meeting on 30 March at which the village could comment on the plans for the new village hall.

14. The chairman reported that Action with Communities in Rural Kent had been in touch asking if the village hall would like to join their organisation which provided helpful advice to village halls including how to obtain grants. The Newenden Trust needed to consider this.

Update on Community Land Trust

15. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen reported on developments with the Community Land Trust. A short presentation would be made at the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting, to be followed by a separate Township meeting once detailed proposals had been developed.

Planning

16. Councillors briefly considered the planning application by a resident on Frog's hill and decided to support it.

Highways

17. Councillor Edmonds reported that potholes had started opening up in the roads and she would be reporting these to Kent Highways. Councillor Richardson reminded her that this could be done on the Highways pothole reporting website.

18. The sign on the approach to the junction with the A28 had been repaired and now flashed when motorists exceeded the speed limit. The chairman reported that recently there had been a serious accident at the junction. This was further evidence of the need for the junction to be redesigned.

Parish Caretaker Scheme

19. The chairman said that funding from the Borough Council was insufficient to run a Parish Caretaker Scheme and as Councillors knew the County Council was unwilling to contribute claiming that they did not at present undertake any work in the Parish that the Parish Council could take over. He proposed to raise the possibility of the Caretaker Scheme at the Township meeting and ask whether residents would be prepared to pay for private work to be done by the Caretaker. This would have the effect of increasing the funding available to run the Scheme.

Any Other Business

Air Ambulance

20. The Council had received a request from the air ambulance for a contribution towards the cost of running the service. The clerk reminded Councillors that the Council had made a contribution of £50.00 several years ago. Councillors discussed the request and decided to ask the Annual Parish Meeting whether they should make a contribution. The chairman said he would ask Rolvenden Parish Council if they would be making a contribution.

Electoral Review

21. The Boundary Commission had not proposed any changes to boundaries affecting Newenden. However, it was thought that the title of the ward should be renamed "Newenden, Rolvenden and Tenterden West". The chairman said that he would write to the Commission.

Great British Clean Up

22. Ashford Borough Council had written to Parish Councils suggesting that they held a clean-up events around their villages for which they were offering litter collection equipment. Councillors said that they already held days of action at which various jobs were undertaken around the village and did not need to hold any more.

Survey of Litter and Dog Waste Bins

23. Ashford Borough Council was undertaking a survey of litter and dog waste bins in the Borough. Councillors said that in addition to the bins shown on the map there was a litter bin inside the entrance gate of the children's playground and a dog waste bin at the end of Lossenham Lane.

Bus stop on Frog's Hill

24. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen commented that a new replacement bus stop sign had been erected on the bank at the side of the A28. There was however, nowhere to safely stand out of the road while waiting for a bus. The bus stop was also infrequently used.

KALC Membership Study

25. The chairman said that KALC had circulated a membership survey which needed completion by the chairman and clerk. The clerk said he would look at this.

Twinning

26. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen said that she was interested in the idea of twinning the village with another town in Europe. The chairman thought that this was something that could be discussed at the forthcoming Township meeting and mentioned that there was a small town in Germany called Beilstein an der Mosel that was about the same size as Newenden. He said he would circulate some photographs.

Date of Next Meeting

27. The next meeting would be the Annual General Meeting on 9 May. The Annual Parish Meeting will be on 28 March and there would also be a Township meeting on 30 March.

Chairman.....

Date.....