

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 22 February in St Peters church at 7.30 pm

Present:

Mr D Rose (chairman)  
Mrs J Eldridge  
Mrs H Masters  
Mrs T Gethin  
Mrs L Larkin

Councillor K Walder Ashford Borough Council

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

There were 31 residents present at times.

**Apologies for absence**

1. Apologies were received from Mr D Wright, Mrs C Jones and Mrs E Hanavay-Cousen.

**Declarations of interest**

2. Councillor Gethin declared an interest in the planning application for the Old Barn.

**Minutes of the Meeting of 7 December 2021**

3. The minutes of the 7 December 2021 having been circulated were agreed as a correct record.

**Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of 7 December 2021**

4. None that would not be covered later in the meeting.

**Financial Statement of 22 February**

5. The clerk said that there were no exceptional items of expenditure remaining this financial year and the financial statement was agreed. The clerk also commented that there would in the new financial year, be expenditure connected with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. This would be discussed later.

Invoices for payment

Management account

Homeleigh Timber and Supplies Supplies for construction of Jetty £281.48

### **Defibrillator and associated training**

6. The chairman said that the defibrillator had been installed in the disused telephone box and was battery powered.

7. Although the defibrillator was easy to use and instructions would appear on the machine when operated, training would be helpful. Training was available at a cost of £200.00 for 12 people and there was also training available via Zoom. Several residents indicated that they would like training and Councillor Larkin would arrange it with the trainer.

### **Platinum Jubilee arrangements**

8. The chairman said that a budget of £3,000 had been forecast for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations on 4 June. Donations had been promised from Bourne's, the Parish Council and Ashford Borough Councillor Mrs K Walder. An organising committee had determined the arrangements for the celebrations which would include the hire of a marquee and food and drink.

### **Grass cutting scheme**

9. The clerk reported that the grass cutting scheme in 2021 had been successful with the contractor Scott Pemberton, cutting all the areas required. Mr Pemberton confirmed that he would carry on the contract in 2022 at the same price. The clerk had sent a report to Ashford Borough Council and request payment of the grant for this year.

### **Children's Playground: Report and update condition and maintenance**

10. The chairman said that following the annual Play Safety report there was little maintenance required beyond some cleaning of surfaces and the tightening of some bolts on the equipment.

### **Update on new village hall**

11. The chairman reported that the recent notice put up on the website about an announcement at the meeting of developments was misleading. He had learned just this afternoon that the Liaison Committee had been disbanded following the cessation of discussions between the Janus Foundation and the Selmes Trust. He was disappointed at this outcome and it was now necessary to discuss how to take the project for the construction of the new village hall further.

12. At this stage it was necessary to obtain more information about finances and the position of the village hall charity and how the Parish Council could help. A special Township meeting would be held in the near future to discuss the way forward.

### **Highways**

#### Potholes

13. Councillor Masters said that there had been little progress in filling the potholes in Lossenham Lane as County Highways had little money for this work. It was possible that a letter to Councillor Hill might speed up repairs.

### Newenden Bridge

14. Progress in making repairs to Newenden bridge were also very slow and in the meantime it appeared that part of the bridge was sinking and further deteriorating. Councillor Masters had spoken again to English Heritage about repairs but progress was slow and there was no date for repairs to begin.

### 20 mph Limit in Lossenham Lane

15. The chairman said that it would be necessary to make an application to the County Council which Ashford Borough Council had indicated they would support. This might best be done through Councillor Hill at the Annual Parish meeting.

### Speedwatch Scheme

16. It had been suggested that the Speedwatch scheme should be restarted. There were some road traffic statistics from the previous scheme and these and accident statistics at the junction of the A28 and A268, could be collated and sent to Councillor Hill before the scheme could be restarted.

### **Planning**

17. There were three applications to be considered.

#### 22/00066/AS and 22/00067/AS The Old Barn

Councillor Eldridge said that the Council had considered the applications and there were no points of concern. A no comment response was appropriate.

#### 22/00194/AS 2 Unity Cottages

Councillor Eldridge said that there was nothing of concern in the application and that a no comments response was appropriate.

#### Planning Inspectorate Decision on Appeal by Lossenham Farm for Lawful Development Certificate

18. The clerk reported that the Planning Inspectorate had dismissed the appeal of Lossenham Farm for a Lawful Development Certificate.

### **Any other Business**

#### Jetty

19. Mr Seal reported that work on construction of the Jetty would start in the next two weeks.

#### Queen's Tree Canopy

20. Councillor Eldridge said that Ashford Borough Council had offered to supply free trees for planting primarily on private land. Applications had to be made by 15 April. The application form was rather difficult but Councillor Eldridge offered to help. Mr Gould expressed an interest in the scheme.

**Date of next Meeting**

21. The Annual Parish meeting would be held on 22 March and the Annual Parish Council General meeting on 10 May.

Chairman.....

Date.....