

Minutes of the Meeting of Newenden Parish Council held on 23 February
in the village hall at 7.30 pm

Present

Councillors

Mr M Berry (chairman)
Mrs R Edmonds
Ms J Eldridge
Mr A Nilson
Mr C Turnbull

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Members of the Public

There were four members of the public present.

Apologies for Absence

10.01 None.

Declarations of interest

10.02 None.

Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November

10.03 It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on 30 November having been circulated be signed as a correct record. Proposed Councillor Nilson, Seconded Councillor Edmonds.

Matters arising from minutes of meeting on 30 November

Selmes Trust: removal of abandoned boats from riverbank

10.04 The chairman reported that all moored boats had been removed from their moorings. As far as he was aware there were also no submerged boats. This left a small number of abandoned boats and a trailer on the riverbank. Arrangements were in hand to remove these and it was unlikely that the Parish Council would have to contribute to the cost.

Battery Bank: ownership and problem of overgrown vegetation

10.05 The clerk reported that he had contacted Kent Highway Services to find out the result of their Land Registry search to find out who owned Battery Bank. Highways

had advised that the owner was Mr Kenny to whom the clerk had already written about overgrown vegetation. It appeared however, that whilst the Land registry search was taking place somebody had cut the vegetation around the 40 mph repeater signs and they were now visible.

10.06 Councillors were still slightly uncertain about the ownership position of Battery Bank feeling that Mr Gould might own some of the land towards the top end of Newenden hill. It was agreed that the chairman would speak to Mr Kenny and also to Mr Etches a contractor, who might be prepared to cut the vegetation. It might be possible for the Parish Council to make a contribution towards the cost.

10.07 The clerk reported that he had advised Highway Services of the open culvert on the roadside of Battery Bank and asked for it to be covered. Councillor Nilson commented that the work had not yet been done.

Accident statistics junction of A28 and A268

10.08 At the last meeting the clerk had reported that Kent County Council had supplied information on the numbers of accidents at the junction of the A28 and A268 in the last three years involving personal injury. The Council had now confirmed that these were the only accident statistics they were holding. They had promised to telephone the clerk to discuss the position but had not done so. However, they had commented that it was unlikely that the police would have records of every single accident at the junction particularly those of an extremely minor nature.

10.09 The clerk said that he would continue to pursue the matter by contacting the police although he rather suspected that minor accidents not involving injury would not be recorded.

Public Adjournment

10.10 The chairman announced that as the Parish Council did not own or manage the village hall there would be no discussion of the recent application by the management committee to Ashford Borough Council for a temporary entertainment licence.

Clerk's Report

Dog Fouling Signs

10.11 The clerk had received an e-mail from Ashford Borough Council offering to supply dog fouling signs at a cost of £10.00 each. Councillors thought that the signs were a good idea but that they could be obtained more cheaply at B and Q. Four possible locations for a sign were suggested: at the entrance to the cricket pitch, at the entrance to the riverbank from the cricket pitch, at the entrance to the footpath to the riverbank from Lossenham Lane and the entrance to Sounthern Water sewerage treatment works from Lossenham Lane. The clerk was asked to establish the cost of four signs.

Provision of salt bins

10.12 As a result of the recent severe winter weather Kent Highway Services were offering to supply salt bins. There were however, criteria for establishing which locations should have a salt bin and some locations in Newenden would not meet these. It was thought that Heweden hill on the Tenterden road might meet the criteria and the clerk was asked to forward this suggested location to Highway Services.

Invitation from vicar to meet new Bishop of Dover

10.13 The vicar had invited a Councillor to attend a reception to meet the new Bishop of Dover. Councillors Edmonds and Nilson said that they had already been invited to attend in another capacity and would represent the Parish Council as well.

Request from Councillor Hill Kent County Council to speak at Annual Parish Council meeting

10.14 Kent County Councillor Mr M Hill, member for Tenterden had written asking to speak at the Annual Parish Council meeting. Councillors were keen that he should do so and wondered whether he would be prepared to come to the Annual Parish meeting to speak instead.

Neighbourhood Fora

10.15 Kent County Council were interested in setting up some neighbourhood fora and wanted to receive the views of the Parish Council. Councillors felt this was a good idea.

Finance

Financial Statement for 23 February

10.16 It was resolved that the financial statement to 23 February be approved and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Accounts for payment.

10.17 The following accounts were approved for payment:

Mr J A Leeves	Reimbursement litter picker's wages	£100.00
---------------	-------------------------------------	---------

Planning

10/00020/TC(DEL)

2, Rother View, Lossenham Lane, Newenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5PY

T1 Eucalyptus-to reduce by half, to crown lift and re-shape.

Councillors had no comment on the proposal.

10.18 Councillor Eldridge reported that she had obtained details of permitted development rights from Ashford Borough Council so that Councillors could have a better understanding of developments that appeared to be taking place without planning consent.

Highways

10.19 There was nothing further to discuss on highway matters.

Any other business

Post box Lossenham Lane

10.20 The ground in front of the post box had become very muddy and puddles of water had collected along the boundary fence of the Selmes Field. Access to the post box had become difficult because of the muddy ground. Councillors recalled that Kent Highway Services had not been prepared to lay curbing and or extend the tarmac surface up to the boundary fence of the Selmes field. Councillors felt that something had to be done about the puddles and muddy strip along the boundary of the field and agreed to ask Mr Bourne what it would cost to lay road planings on the strip.

Meeting Dates for 2010

10.21 Councillors agreed the dates of meetings for the remainder of 2010.

Dates of next meetings

10.22 The next meetings of the Parish Council will be on 11 May (Annual Parish Council meeting) and 20 July in the village hall. The Annual Parish meeting will be on 23 March.

Chairman.....

Date.....