

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 24 February at 7.30 pm in the village hall

Present:

Councillors:

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

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

There were six members of the public present including Mr A Seal river warden and Mr S Crowley from the Rother Fishery Association. Mr D Wright and his wife were also present for the discussion of his planning application to build a new house adjacent to the White Hart inn.

#### **Apologies for absence**

1. None.

#### **Declarations of interest**

2. Councillor Livesey declared an interest in a planning application for his residence at Church cottage.

#### **Minutes of the meeting on 16 December 2014**

3. The minutes of the meeting on 16 December 2014 having been circulated were agreed as a correct record.

#### **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 16 December 2014**

##### Flood Warden Risk Assessment

4. Councillor Livesey said that he had not yet spoken to Kent Resilience about risk assessment templates for flood wardens.

##### Dog Waste bins

5. Councillor Eldridge said that she had spoken to Mr Leek the Ashford Borough Council dog warden and been told that second hand dog waste bins were available.

##### Newenden Bridge Signs

6. The chairman reported that a new sign saying "warning walkers in the road" had been placed at the foot of the village sign. This was the wrong place for such a warning sign which needed to be

nearer to the bridge and he would contact Kent County Councillor Mike Hill to ask for it to be moved to a more appropriate position.

### **Financial statement**

7. The financial statement having been circulated was approved.

### **Update on defibrillator**

8. The chairman reported that the defibrillator had been received and installed just inside the entrance to the White Hart inn. The chairman had informed the South East ambulance service. The clerk said that he would now tell the Council's insurers although this should not lead to an increase in premium this year.

### **Update on Selmes Trust: suggestions from Mr Crowley**

9. Following last year's work on the riverbanks by contractors for the Environment Agency the chairman said that the tops of the banks now appeared to be quite firm and stable and thought that in consequence public access to them could now be restored by opening the gate at the bottom of the cricket field.

10. Mr Crowley said that DEFRA was proposing to establish a number of river catchment improvement groups with the aim of improving the quality of river water. The groups would comprise of riverbank landowners, Kent Wildlife Trust, water companies, Parish Councils and other bodies with an interest in river water quality improvement. The groups would aim to restore the natural condition to rivers. There was a very small amount of funding for the proposal which was in effect insignificant.

11. Mr Crowley outlined his plan for an area of wetland on Selmes Trust land the other side of the children's playground. The wetlands would be formed by scooping out a shallow area to form ponds in which reeds and other aquatic plants would grow. The chairman said that Mr Seal could probably help with his digger.

12. The chairman said that now that the works were complete on the riverbanks the Council could begin to take forward the plans for building moorings. However, the proposals could not proceed until a new vicar was appointed as he was the chairman of the Selmes Trust.

### **Planning**

#### New House Adjacent to White Hart inn

13. The chairman invited Mr Wright to outline his proposals for the new house. Councillors were concerned about a number of aspects relating to the application as the development was within the village conservation area. In particular concern was raised about the elevation of the roof and the type of tiles that would be used. More importantly Councillors expressed concern over the position of the house on a relatively small plot that they thought would not permit Mr Wright to turn his car around so as to drive out onto the Rye road in a forward direction. Mr Wright explained that he would be able to reverse into his garage and then drive out forwards.

14. Again on materials Councillors thought it preferable that wooden weatherboarding be used rather than plastic lookalike. Mr Wright said that modern plastic wood lookalike would be very hard

to tell from wood and was lower maintenance. Finally, concerns were raised by Councillors and Mr Wright's prospective neighbours about a drain which ran along the boundary and through which flowed run off from the Rye road. The drain ran into a ditch that then allowed the run off to eventually flow into the river Rother. Mr Wright said that he would not do anything to block the drainage.

15. After Mr Wright had left Councillors said that they would continue to support the application, but asked the clerk to set out their points of concern to Ashford Borough Council referring to the appropriate legal requirements of developments in conservation areas and to provisions in the Borough Council's plans relating to them.

#### Church cottage

16. Councillors considered the plans for Church cottage and had no comments on them. Councillors thought that they wished to support the application.

#### **Highways**

17. Councillor Edmonds said that she had contacted Highways and Ron Swan, the Kent County Council Highway Steward would be making an appointment for a visit to the parish.

#### **Any other business**

18. Councillor Edmonds said that there was a problem with the end wall of the Old School forming a boundary to the churchyard. The churchyard was closed and Ashford Borough Council was responsible for maintenance. She would be in contact with them about the problem.

#### **Date of next meeting**

19. The next meeting would be the Annual General meeting on 12 May. The Annual Parish meeting would be on 24 March. The chairman asked the clerk to send him the minutes of last year's Parish meeting and the agenda and said he would prepare a covering letter to distribute to residents. The chairman said he would be in touch with Councillors about distribution of the letter and the provision of refreshments at the meeting.

Chairman.....

Date.....