

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

Present:

Councillors

Mr A Nilson (chairman)

Mrs R Edmonds

Mrs J Eldridge

Mr B Livesey

Mr D Richardson

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Apologies for absence

1. None.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Minutes of the meeting on 6 May

3. The minutes of the meeting on 6 May having been circulated were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of 6 May

4. The Environment Agency had now completed their works on the Sussex side of the river Rother and were due to begin work on the Kent (Newenden) side. The Agency would require moored boats to be moved and for the river banks to be cleared before work could start. The clerk confirmed that he had not yet received a letter about this from the Agency. Councillors were pleased with the work that had already been done which would reduce the possibility of flooding and it was agreed that the Council would write thanking the Agency.

Financial Statement

5. The financial statement to 24 June was approved.

Accounts for payment

6. The following account was approved for payment:

Mr A Nilson Fencing posts for repair of fence childrens' playground £20.40

Housing Needs Report

7. The chairman reported that following receipt of the Housing Needs report he had heard nothing further from either Tessa O'Sullivan of Action with Communities in Rural Kent or from the developer Mr Miles Hall. The normal sequence of events where housing needs had been identified was for a Housing Association to find suitable sites to meet the housing requirement. It was agreed that the Council would ask Tessa O'Sullivan what action she would now be taking.

8. Councillors discussed publication of the Housing Needs Survey report. It was agreed that the report should be published on the Newenden website with some modifications to remove information that might allow the identification of individuals. The chairman said that he would write to Tessa O'Sullivan asking whether the Council could publish the report on the website after removing any details that might enable individual respondents to be identified.

Planning

Planning Application for Gate Cottage

9. Councillors considered the planning application for Gate cottage and agreed to support it.

Procedure for consideration of Planning Applications

10. Councillors thought that it was advantageous to continue to receive planning applications in paper format as these were easier to cross refer. It was agreed that the papers would be taken to the monthly surgery in the pub to allow residents to comment and that they would be circulated to Councillors prior to this.

Highways

11. Councillor Edmonds reported that Highways had filled some potholes and had marked others for future repair. There were still some unrepaired potholes in Lossenham Lane and she would speak to Highways about them.

Newenden Trust Update

12. The chairman reported that there had not been any developments but he was continuing to work on the legal situation and would soon be calling a meeting of the new trustees.

Community Speed Watch Update

13. Councillor Livesey reported that there had been nine speed watch sessions with 289 vehicles exceeding the speed limit. The police had arranged for Special constables to speak to those who had been caught repeatedly speeding in the county.

Defibrillator, village sign and other capital expenditure

Defibrillator

14. It was agreed that the Council would purchase a defibrillator and that it should be located in the White Hart inn. Councillor Livesey said he would speak to Ivan about it. The cost would be around £1,000.

Village noticeboard

15. The chairman reminded Councillors that they had not made any progress on the issue of a village notice board. The notice boards on the supplier's websites that the clerk had circulated sometime ago were of unsuitable designs. Councillor Eldridge said that she had recently seen a notice board at Icklesham which seemed suitable. She agreed to take photographs and circulate them.

Procedure for raising items on the Parish Council meeting agenda

16. The chairman said that there had recently been discussion in the Kent Association of Local Councils about the process for placing items on Parish Council meeting agendas. It was thought that because the village was so small Newenden residents knew who was a Parish Councillor and would raise any issue that they would like discussed. It was thought that no action was needed.

Any other business

Cranbrook school catchment area

17. Councillor Richardson said that he had circulated the reply he had received from the Education Department at Kent County Council. The school had become an Academy and in consequence was no longer under control of the County Council. It was agreed that Councillor Richardson would try to speak to Governors at the school to raise the issue of Newenden being outside of the catchment area.

Dog Fouling

18. Councillors were concerned at the amount of dog fouling along the river bank adjoining the Selmes field. Councillor Eldridge agreed to contact the dog warden at Ashford Borough Council to ask what could be done.

Overgrown hedge Selmes field hedge

19. Councillor Edmonds said that the roadside hedge along Lossenham Lane which formed the boundary with the Selmes field was becoming overgrown. It was agreed that cutting this was a Winter task but that they might ask the farmer who put his sheep in the Selmes field if he knew anybody who might be able to cut it later in the year.

Day of Action

20. It was agreed to hold a day of action on 16 August.

Crime report

21. The PCSO had advised Councillor Livesey that there had been four crimes recently in the Rolvenden West Tenterden district. These included the kebab van which had been burgled.

Date of next meeting

22. The next meeting will be on 2 September.

Chairman.....

Date.....