

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 26 February in the village hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Mrs R Edmonds (chair)
Mr D Richardson
Mrs E Hannavy-Cousen

Ashford Borough Council

Councillor M Bennett

PCSO Ms K Richards

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

There were seven members of the public present.

Apologies for absence

1. Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs C Baker.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Minutes of the meeting of 11 December 2018

3. The minutes of the meeting of 11 December having been circulated were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 11 December 2018

4. None that would not be dealt with later in the meeting.

Financial Statement of 26 February

5. The clerk said that there was now little expenditure remaining in the financial year. The financial statement having been circulated was agreed.

Invoices for payment

The following invoices were approved for payment:

St Mary the Virgin Rolvenden Printing newsletter
£11.70

Management Account Statement

6. A statement showing the amount in the Management account and the loan to the Newenden Trust for the design and planning permission application for the new village hall was circulated. This showed that there was £3,369 in the bank and a loan to the Newenden Trust of £5,042 making a total of £8,412. Mr Edmonds confirmed that the loan amount was correct.

7. The clerk reminded Councillors that the Management agreement with the Selmes Trust provided for the equal division of the sum in the account. However, the Council owed the Selmes Trust four year's rent for the children's playground amounting to £200 (£50 per year) which would need to be deducted from the Council's share of the account. If the account were to be divided at this point then the Selmes Trust would receive £4,506 and the Council £4,106. The clerk went on to advise that some money should be retained in the account to meet any costs particularly for improvements to the Selmes field and similarly a sum should be retained from the Council's share to supplement the frozen precept if necessary.

8. The chair said that although the vicar wished to know what was in the Management account St Peter's church was not in urgent need of funding at this point. Councillor Richardson said that the new village hall might be in need of funds towards the conclusion of construction but was not in immediate need. The clerk then said that he thought that the loan to the Newenden Trust should be repaid before the account funds were divided. Mooring fees and rent from the Rother Fishery Association for the 2019 season would soon become due and would add to the funds.

Police report

9. PCSO Kate Richards reported that two generators had recently been stolen from Northiam station and police were making enquiries.

10. On the 22 March the police were holding a general information meeting in the Town Hall Tenterden at 7.00pm.

Update on New Village Hall

11. Councillor Richardson said that exchange of contract for the sale of the existing village hall was now imminent and consequently the Annual Parish meeting on 26 March would be held in St Peter's church as would future parish council meetings. The price was £198,000. There had been no decision from Ashford Borough Council on the application for planning permission for the new village hall. A number of events would be held to raise funds for the new village hall.

Update on Plans and Proposals for Selmes Field Including Mooring Fees

12. The clerk asked Mr Seal to confirm the increase in mooring fees for 2019. Mr Seal confirmed that the mooring fees would be £100 for residents of Newenden and £150 for non residents. The fees had not been increased since 2005 and were reasonable in comparison with elsewhere. The chair confirmed that the Selmes Trust were content with these fees.

13. The chair confirmed that the cricket club would replace the dilapidated fence on the East boundary of the cricket field and keep the bank mown short as they

had lost a large number of balls in the long grass. The cricket club had decided not to relocate their nets. There was some confusion as to whether planning permission was required to move the gate to the Selmes field and the chair said she would clarify the position with Mrs Jones.

Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting

14. The Annual Parish meeting would be held in St Peter's church on 26 March at 7.30pm. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen asked the clerk to ask for the details to be put on the website. The chair said that she would arrange printing of the agenda and the minutes of the last meeting and their distribution to residents.

15. The clerk would provide copies of the accounts, but commented that these would show a substantial increase in net expenditure as the Parish Council had agreed to subsidise the loss on the fireworks event. Residents would be asked for their views on whether in future years the Council should continue to support the fireworks event.

Election Arrangements for 2 May

16. Elections to the Parish Council would be held on 2 May. The clerk said that Ashford Borough Council was holding a briefing session on election arrangements the following night (27 February) for prospective candidates. The clerk and chair said that they had copies of the nomination forms that were required to be completed by prospective candidates. These needed to be supported by nominees and returned to Ashford Borough Council preferably in person. The nomination period would be open on Friday 22 March and close at 4pm on Wednesday 3 April. The polling station would be in St Peter's church.

17. The clerk said that he would put the election notice up on the noticeboard and on the website. This was a statutory requirement as was the requirement to display notices announcing Parish Council meetings. Arrangements for a noticeboard now needed to be resolved. The chair said that any noticeboard needed to be of sufficient size to accommodate both general notices about village events as well as those relating to the Parish Council. Mr Wheeler had previously said that he would make a noticeboard at reasonable cost but there might also be other local alternative suppliers. Councillors asked the clerk to investigate some suppliers and the cost.

Highways

18. The chair reported that she had received a response to her letter to County Councillor Mike Hill about the accidents at the junction of the A28 and A268. The conclusion of Kent Highways was that no further safety measures were required. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen said that this was unsatisfactory. Waiting until there were three deaths before taking action was not the way to proceed.

19. The chair said that two large potholes had developed on Newenden hill and these had been reported to Highways.

Planning

Gardenscape

20. Councillor Richardson said that Rother District Council had consulted the Council about the revised planning application from Gardenscape. Bourne Group had circulated an open letter to residents of Newenden explaining that they had decided not to undertake any more brick crushing at the site and would not be applying for an environmental permit to do so. As brick crushing was the main cause of concern amongst residents he thought that the Council could now support the application in principle. Mr Cathcart pointed out that the change of use from B8 to B2 would allow for any industrial activities to be undertaken in future. Councillors agreed that this was concerning. They had already decided to point this out in their letter to Rother District Council which would be sent shortly. Mr Turnbull was still concerned at the noise coming from the site in the early morning. This was a separate matter and Councillors agreed to monitor the situation over the coming weeks to see if the noise was mitigated by the promised technical measures.

The Oast

21. Councillors discussed the application briefly and decided to support it.

Village confines exercise

22. Councillors had no further comments on the village confines exercise.

Any other business

Day of action

23. There would be a day of action on 30 March during which the riverbank would be cleaned up.

Children's Playground

24. The chair said that more bark was needed for the children's playground and Councillor Richardson said he would arrange this with Bourne's. Mrs Eldridge said that the children's slide had become very dangerous with the possibility of fingers becoming entrapped. Councillors considered this to be very dangerous and contemplated closing the playground. Mr Seal said that he would look at the problem and report back urgently.

Date of next meeting

25. The next meeting of the Parish Council would be the Annual General meeting on 14 May. The Annual Parish meeting would be on 26 March. Both meetings would be in St Peter's church.

Chair.....

Date.....