

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 27 November at 7.30 pm in the village hall

Present:

Councillors

Mr A Nilsen (chairman)

Mrs R Edmonds

Mrs J Eldridge

Mr B Livesey

Ashford Borough Councillor Mr M Bennett

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

#### **Apologies for absence**

1. Apologies were received from Councillor Mr D Richardson and Kent County Councillor Mr M Hill.

#### **Declarations of interest**

2. None.

#### **Minutes of the Meeting on 2 October**

3. The minutes of the meeting of the 2 October having been circulated were approved as a correct record.

#### **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 2 October**

4. Councillor Eldridge reported that she had attended the recent Tenterden Forum meeting and raised the issue of painting double white lines on the Rye road on the approach to Newenden bridge on the village side. Councillor Hill had said he would investigate but some doubt had been expressed that the proposal would be supported by Kent police.

#### **Financial statement**

5. The financial statement to 27 November having been circulated was approved.

#### **Accounts for payment**

6. There were no accounts for payment.

#### **Precept for 2013-14**

7. The chairman referring to the new code of conduct commented that all Councillors by virtue of their ownership of residences in the parish had an interest in the precept and that if they all declared an interest would be unable to set it. In these circumstances it had to be assumed that

members of the Council could go ahead and discuss and set the precept for the forthcoming year. The clerk had circulated estimates of expenditure for the year 2013-14 and commented that he was not aware of any other significant expenditure for which he had not accounted. The chairman said that on the income side it appeared that the Concurrent Functions grant would in fact continue to be paid for at least a further year. The chairman said that he had heard a suggestion that the Government would be proposing to cap the amount by which Local Councils could increase their precept. Councillor Bennett confirmed that this was rumoured but that so far it was just a rumour.

8. Taking account of the amount in reserve and that the Concurrent Function grant would remain for a further year, Councillors felt that the precept for 2013-14 could again be kept at the same level of £5,000.

### **Consultation on Byelaws**

9. The clerk reported that he had not received any approaches to view the byelaws during the consultation period advertised in the Kent Messenger. Councillors confirmed that they too had not been approached by any resident enquiring about the byelaws. The chairman said that this being the case the sealed copies of the byelaws together with the newspaper advertisements could be sent to the Department for Communities. The Department would then arrange for the byelaws to be brought into force. The clerk was asked to send the necessary documentation to the Department.

### **Update on Management of Selmes Trust land**

10. The chairman reported that the sheep farmer now considered the Selmes Trust fields were too wet for his sheep to graze and he would not be turning them out on the field until the Spring of 2013.

11. The river warden Mr Seal was consulting the Environment Agency to see if they were prepared to do anything about the subsidence of the river bank in places. It was uncertain if this was the responsibility of the Agency or the landowner.

12. The chairman explained to Councillor Bennett the agreement that the Parish Council had with the Selmes Trust to manage their land. Councillors went on to discuss the arrangements for grass cutting in the Parish and that at least three contractors cut different areas. The chairman said he would approach the cricket club, the Parochial Church Council and Ashford Borough Council to see if they were all agreeable to combining the work into one contract. The clerk explained what would be necessary if it were decided to hold a tender for the work.

### **Highways**

13. Councillor Edmonds reported that Kent Highways had cleared many of the gullies along Lossenham Lane and Rye road. There also appeared to be a reduction in the number of accidents at the junction of the A268 and A28 as a result of the installation of the flashing speed restriction sign.

14. Kent Highways had delivered the large bag of salt, but some of it had been taken. She had asked Mr Bourne to collect and store it in a safe place.

### **Planning**

15. Councillor Eldridge reported that Ashford Borough Council had granted planning consent for the Maron and Baker’s cottage applications. The operators of the Bodiam Ferry had also been granted planning consent by Rother District Council.

16. There had been some coppicing of wood on Battery Bank and Councillor Livesey commented that Ashford Borough Council had given permission for this to take place. However, the Council had not asked for the views of Newenden Parish Council and he wondered why not. The clerk was asked to investigate why the Borough Council had not consulted Newenden.

**Any Other Business**

17. Councillor Eldridge reported that she had recently met the dog warden from Ashford Borough Council and discussed dog fouling. He would send two metal “no fouling” signs to be put up at each end of Lossenham Lane.

**Dates of meetings for 2013**

18. Councillors decided that the Parish Council would meet on the following dates in 2013:

- 19 February
- 26 March Annual Parish meeting
- 7 May Annual Parish Council meeting
- 4 June
- 20 August
- 1 October
- 26 November

Chairman.....

Date.....