

Minutes of the Meeting of Newenden Parish Council held on 29 September  
in the Cricket Pavilion at 7.45 pm

Present

Councillors

Mr M Berry (chairman)

Mrs R Edmonds

Mr A Nilson

Mr C Turnbull

Mrs J Eldridge

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Members of the Public

None.

#### **Apologies for Absence**

09.80 None.

#### **Declarations of interest**

09.81 None.

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July**

09.82 It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on 14 July having been circulated be signed as a correct record. Proposed Councillor Turnbull, seconded Councillor Edmonds.

#### **Matters arising from minutes of meeting on 14 July**

##### Overgrown Roadside Boundary Selmes Field and the Oast Hedges

09.83 The clerk reported that Mr Brooks Sherman of the Oast had cut his hedge. The vicar had also arranged for the Selmes field roadside hedge to be cut. However, the vicar had found the clerk's letter requesting the hedge to be cut mildly offensive. The clerk circulated the vicar's letter which was noted by Councillors.

##### Selmes Trust Moorings

09.84 The clerk reported that he had received no response to his letter to Mr Hannavy-Cousen about the Selmes moorings and enforcement of the mooring rules. The chairman said that he had spoken to Dr Butler who had taken over responsibility for

the Selmes Trust moorings. Dr Butler had been in contact with the Environment Agency about removal of disused boats on the river bank and a number of disused band abandoned boat trailers. The Environment Agency considered that it was not their problem: responsibility rested with the landowner in this case the Selmes Trust.

09.85 Dr Butler had approached the harbour master at Rye for advice. In consequence she had issued a letter to the boat owners asking them to remove their boats by the end of October. A further letter would then be sent explained that the boats and trailers would be removed and disposed of.

09.86 The Selmes Trust had no funds to pay for the removal of boats and boat trailers. The chairman therefore suggested that the Parish Council offer to cover the reasonable cost of removing the boats and boat trailers. Councillors agreed in principle and the clerk was asked to write to the Selmes Trust asking them to obtain an estimate for removing boats and trailers. The persons to whom the boats belonged might raise objections and the clerk suggested that if and when the boats were removed a police presence was requested.

#### Kent Highway Services response to clerk's letter about Accident Records

09.87 The clerk circulated the response he had received to his letter to Kent Highway Services about the recording of accidents. Councillors felt that the letter was just a generalised response and did not indicate what records were maintained of road traffic accidents in Newenden. The response was unsatisfactory. The clerk was asked to write again requesting specific information about the record of accidents in Newenden. The request should be framed as a Freedom of Information request.

#### Visit of Dog Warden

09.88 The clerk reported that he had spoken to the dog warden at Ashford Borough Council and explained to him the problem of dog fouling in Newenden. Although the dog warden had previously offered a visit to the parish he now seemed to be less keen on visiting. However, he was prepared to visit the Parish and take appropriate action were he to observe dog owners not clearing up dog waste. The visits would be out of normal hours so that he would be around when owners were more likely to exercise their dogs. In the event that he observed a dog fouling public footpaths and the owner not cleaning up afterwards he would institute a prosecution.

### **Reports**

#### **Planning**

09.89 Nothing to report.

#### **Highways**

##### Overgrown hedges

09.90 The clerk advised that there were three roadside hedges along the A268 that were overgrown. The nearside traffic light before Newenden bridge was being

obscured by overgrown bushes on land owned by Bourne and Co. The hedge opposite owned by residents of the Oast had also become overgrown. There was a more serious problem with trees and hedging growing on Battery Bank. Two repeater speed restriction signs were being obscured and forward visibility was reduced on the curvature of the bend going down Newenden Hill. Finally, laurel bushes outside the Old Vicarage were protruding across the footway. Two of these problems were very minimal and could be quickly rectified but Battery Bank required much more work. It was agreed the clerk would speak to Mr Bourne and write to Mr Kenny once his address had been obtained. Councillor Nilson said he would deal with the laurels outside the Old Vicarage.

## **Clerk's Report**

### Kent County Council

09.91 Kent Minerals and Waste Development Framework: Consultation on scoping report for sustainability appraisal. The parish of Newenden had no minerals or waste facilities and there were no proposals for either in the future. Consequently Councillors felt unable to comment.

### Ashford Borough Council

Statement of Community Involvement: precursor to consultation on the Local Development Framework (LDF)

09.92 The clerk explained that this was the first and less important, document relating to the LDF. The Borough Council was required in law to consult the community about proposals in the LDF. In response to a query from Councillor Edmonds, the clerk explained that the term LDF was the new name for what had previously been known as a Local Plan. The Statement of Community Involvement set out how and whom, the Borough Council intended to consult about it. The clerk read out the section concerning consultation of Parish Councils and indicated the other persons that the Borough Council intended to consult. Consultation would be by a variety of means such as presentations and exhibitions held locally. Information would be available on the Council's website. The clerk gave Councillor Eldridge a paper copy of the Statement of Community Involvement and a CD ROM version which Councillor Nilson copied onto his laptop. The clerk said that he doubted that Councillors would wish to make any comment on the Statement but would wish to concentrate on the LDF itself when it was published.

09.93 The clerk then explained that the LDF would be a very significant document setting out alternative proposals for housing and employment in the Borough for the period up to 2026. As an illustration the clerk set out a number of hypothetical scenarios, some of which were deliberately extreme, that might affect the parish and on which Councillors would wish to comment. These scenarios not only directly involved the parish but also surrounding parishes. The clerk explained that the Council might wish to call an extraordinary meeting to discuss the alternative proposals in the LDF. Any such meeting should involve both the District and County Councillor. There was a further dimension in that Rother District Council would also have an LDF involving developments in Northiam which might have an impact on

Newenden. The clerk suggested that Councillor Eldridge consult her partner who was a planning officer in Rother to establish what these might be.

09.94 Councillor Nilson referred to the need for the parish to have a parish plan. The clerk explained that a parish plan would be integral to the LDF pointing to which of the alternative scenarios in it met the needs of the parish. A parish plan would involve consultation with residents so that their views were incorporated in the plan. Councillors realised that it would be a fairly lengthy process and involve a great deal of work. Councillors decided that they needed to have proposals for a plan in place before the annual Parish meeting in March when the Parish could be consulted. It was suggested that a Parish plan could be discussed at the November meeting and that other business on the agenda should be minimised to allow for discussion.

### Selmes Trust

09.95 Response from vicar to clerk's letter about overgrown roadside boundary hedge of village playing field. This matter had been discussed earlier in the meeting and there was nothing further that needed to be considered.

### British Telecommunications Plc

Invitation to adopt red telephone box.

09.96 British Telecommunications had written inviting the Council to adopt the red telephone box in the centre of the village for £1. Enclosed with the letter was information on the number of calls made from the box in the last year (27) and the extent of mobile coverage in the area. However, were the Parish Council to adopt it, they would remove the telephony equipment and it would no longer be a functional telephone box. The letter stated that BT had no intention of removing the box altogether, but Councillors felt that the suggestion that the Council adopt the box could only be a prelude to this happening. The clerk reminded Councillors that he had written to English Heritage asking them to list the box which was in the village conservation area some time ago but had received no response. The details of the box sent by BT did not mention listing. He had also asked BT to repaint the box because it looked rather down at heel but they had refused saying that it did not need to be repainted.

09.97 Councillors wondered what the cost of adoption might be. They realised that it would involve maintenance and the box would have to be insured. There might also be a problem if it were vandalised. Councillors asked the clerk to approach Ashford Borough Council to see what their view was on adoption and that he should ask BT what costs might be involved in adopting the box beyond the adoption fee.

## **Finance**

### Financial Statement for 29 September

09.98 It was resolved that the financial statement to 29 September be approved and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Accounts for payment.

09.99 The following accounts were approved for payment:

Audit Commission	External audit fee	£138.00
Mr J A Leeves	Clerk's allowance and postage stamps	£18.09
Mr J A Leeves	Arrears of pay April to September	£6.48
Mr J A Leeves	Cash for litter picker's wages	£150.00
Zurich Insurance Plc	Council annual insurance renewal	£1,072.97
Newenden Village Hall	Discretionary grant	£1,959.31

Other Financial Matters

09.100 The clerk reminded Councillors that they would need to set the precept for 2010-11 at the next meeting on 30 November. He would circulate forecasts of expenditure for 2010-11 would be circulated well before the meeting.

**Any other business**

Bulbs for Christmas Lights

09.101 The chairman mentioned that it would be necessary to replace about 100 of the Christmas light bulbs that had failed before they were put up.

Maintainence issues

09.102 Councillor Turnbull mentioned an uncovered hole on the edge of the Selmes field which a boy had recently fallen into. This was not considered to be a matter for the Council and the Cricket club needed to speak directly to the Selmes Trust. A drain on the Battery Bank side of Newenden hill also needed clearing.

09.103 Councillor Eldridge had noticed that the horse ridding sign in Lossenham lane had been knocked over. The clerk said he would report this to Kent Highways.

**Dates of next meetings**

09.104 The next meeting of the Parish Council would be on 30 November in the village hall.

Chairman.....

Date.....