

Minutes of the Meeting of Newenden Parish Council held on 2 October in the village hall at 7.30 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**

08.108 None.

#### **Declarations of interest**

08.109 None.

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on 13 August**

08.110 It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on 13 August having been circulated be signed as a correct record. Proposed: Councillor Eldridge. Seconded: Councillor Nilson.

#### **Matters arising from minutes of meeting on 13 August**

##### Noise from Riding of Motorcycles on village playing field

08.111 The clerk reported that he had received a substantive response from the vicar, who was chairman of the Selmes Trust about the riding of motorcycles and motorised toys on the village playing field. The Selmes Trust was proposing to impose a number of conditions on the riding of motorcycles and motorised toys. Essentially, these would restrict their use to those children resident in the village who were under twelve and accompanied by an adult. The activity would also be restricted to the period between 1 May and 30 September and to the hours of 11 am to 7.00 pm.

08.112 Councillors felt that this response was more constructive than they had expected. There was an issue of enforceability of the conditions which Councillors

felt would be difficult. Councillors also felt that the times during the day when activities were permitted were rather long. It was felt that the Council should talk to the Selmes Trust about these points.

08.113 The vicar had also raised the issue of the future of the Selmes Trust that the trustees felt should be modernised and asked whether the Parish Council would be interested in having a role in the future of the Trust. Councillors agreed that they had an interest in the aims of the Trust and went further by suggesting that other village organisations like the Cricket Club and the Samuel Bishop Foundation also had an interest. Councillor Nilson felt that village organisations needed to better co-ordinate with each other. It was suggested that the clerk should arrange a meeting with trustees of the Selmes Trust so that the future of the Selmes Trust and co-ordination could be discussed further.

#### Planting of Christmas Tree on the edge of the Village Playing field

08.114 The chairman of the Selmes Trust had refused the Council's request to plant a Christmas tree on the edge of the village playing field so that it could be decorated with lights during the Christmas period. The trustees considered that the tree would be a permanent feature and did not think this was appropriate. Councillors decided to place the Christmas lights in one of the existing Lime trees growing at the edge of the field. Councillor Turnbull commented that unfortunately the Lime trees were suffering from a disease that would eventually kill them. This would however, take many years.

#### Playsafety Ltd report on the Childrens' Playground

08.115 The clerk had circulated the report by Playsafety Ltd on the childrens' playground prior to the meeting. The report detailed a number of medium and low risks, but there were no high risk matters.

08.116 The chairman reported that Mr Golding had repaired the entrance gates. There was also a short metal fence outside of the entrance gates to prevent children from running directly into Lossenham Lane. This required repair. The chairman said that he thought this fence had been erected by Kent Highway Services and if so they might be willing to repair it. The clerk said he would approach Jennie Wickenden and find out if Highways would undertake the repair. Councillor Eldridge said she would ask her son if he was prepared to cut low branches from the oak tree overhanging the playground.

#### Publication of Clerk's Contact Details in Parish Magazine

08.117 The chairman confirmed that the clerk's contact details were now published in the parish magazine.

### **Reports**

Highways

Speed Restrictions

08.118 The clerk had already circulated the reply he had received from Kent Highway Services to his letter asking for the installation of flashing signs on the approaches to the junction of the A. with the A. Councillors were disappointed with the reply. Councillor Edmonds commented that the response from Highway Services was the same that she had previously received when she too had raised the matter of speed restrictions. Councillors felt that Highway Services did not have correct information as to the numbers of accidents at the junction because they were not being reported. It was felt that the chairman and the clerk should draft another letter to Highway Services refuting their claim that there had been no accidents.

## Planning

### Planning Application: 08/01422/AS

08.119 The Old Cart Lodge, Lossenham Lane, Newenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5QQ

Erection of rear conservatory.

Councillors noted that the extension was large but were aware that it could not be viewed from the highway. Councillors supported the application.

### Proposed electronic communication of planning applications and decisions

08.120 The clerk reported that Ashford Borough Council was proposing a trial of an electronic system for the communication of planning applications to parish and town councils. The existing paper based system was costly and electronic communication would save cost.

08.121 At present the clerk received a weekly list of new planning applications for the Borough and a list of those on which a decision had been made. He also received a list of those applications due to be considered by the Planning Committee. It was now proposed to extend this system to the applications themselves. Parish Councils would be informed of an application and provided with a link to the case file on Ashford's website. This file would contain all of the usual information including plans and design and access statements. Once the parish or town council had considered the application comments would be returned to Ashford via e-mail.

08.122 The clerk said he would have no difficulty in operating the system. The numbers of applications were very low and he would if necessary be able to print out case papers although not any large plans. The cost of doing so would be negligible indeed, the cost implications for Newenden were almost non-existent.

08.123 Clerk to advise Ashford Borough Council that Newenden Parish Council would have no objection to operating an electronic based system as the numbers of planning applications for the parish were very few.

## **Clerk's Report**

## **Kent County Council**

### South East Regional Assembly

Consultation on provision in South East Regional Plan for Gypsies, Irish Travellers and others.

08.124 The County Council were undertaking a consultation exercise on behalf of the South East Regional Assembly about views on the provision to be made for gypsies and Irish travellers in the South East regional plan. Councillors recognised this was a difficult subject but did not feel that there was anything they could contribute on the issue.

### Highways

Parish and Town Council seminar 15 October

08.125 Highway Services were holding a conference in Canterbury on 15 October to which Parish Councils were invited. The clerk passed the letter to Councillor Edmonds who indicated that she would try to attend.

## **Ashford Borough Council**

Information about new Kent homechoice scheme

08.126 This letter set out how people living in the Borough could find out about the new scheme providing for the allocation of public housing. Councillors noted the letter.

Exploring the provision of older peoples' accommodation

08.127 An invitation to parishes to participate in a project to explore the provision of accommodation to older people. Councillors felt that older people moved out of the village to Rolvenden or Sandhurst. Newenden did not attract older residents because of poor public transport links and lack of facilities. In consequence of this it was felt that the project was not relevant to the village.

## **Finance**

### Financial Statement for 2 October

08.128 It was resolved that the financial statement to 2 October be approved and a copy is attached to these minutes.

### Accounts for payment.

08.129 The following accounts were approved for payment:

Mr J A Leeves	Clerk's allowance postage expenses	£18.04
Playsafe Ltd	Safety inspection report	£81.08
Mr S Siggery	Mowing grass in playground	£240.00
Zurich Municipal	Premium for Council insurance policy	£989.12
Mr D Golding	Repair of playground gates	£225.00

08.130 The clerk commented that he had tried to obtain a quotation for insurance from Co-operative Insurance. Unfortunately the company did not itself offer insurance for legal expenses or libel and slander which it had to obtain from another company. These two elements were therefore very expensive and they were unable to quote a competitive premium. He had also tried to obtain a reduction of the premium through accepting voluntary excesses. However, Zurich Municipal did not offer such excesses.

Other financial matters

08.131 The clerk reported that the Audit Commission had now completed their annual external audit for the year to 31 March 2008. The Commission had made a comment about the Council's risk assessment procedure but had otherwise not put any other comment on the form. The clerk would display the form on the noticeboard.

08.132 The clerk commented that Ashford Borough Council should have paid the second instalment of the precept. Ashford did not however send any notification of payment and he would have to wait until he received the bank statement to check whether it had been paid.

**Any other business**

Public Telephone Kiosk

08.133 The clerk reported that English Heritage had acknowledged his letter asking them to list the public payphone kiosk.

**Dates of next meetings**

08.134 The next meeting of the Parish Council would be on 3 December in the village hall. Dates for meetings in 2009 would be discussed at the next meeting.

Chairman.....

Date.....