

Minutes of the Meeting of Newenden Parish Council held on 3 December
in the village hall at 7.30 pm

Present

Councillors

Mr M Berry (chairman)
Mrs R Edmonds
Mr C Turnbull
Mrs J Elldridge
Mr A Nilson

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Members of the Public

None.

Apologies for Absence

None.

Declarations of interest

None.

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on 2 October having been circulated be signed as a correct record. Proposed Councillor Turnbull, seconded Councillor Edmonds.

Matters arising from minutes of meeting on 2 October

Meeting with the chairman and trustees of the Selmes Trust

The clerk had arranged a meeting with the chairman of the Selmes Trust, the Reverend Desrosiers and the two trustees on 8 December at 7.30 pm at Councillor Nilson's house. Councillors discussed the issues that they wished to raise.

The meeting had arisen over the complaint that the Parish Council had received about noise from the riding of motorcycles and motorised toys on the village playing field that belonged to the Selmes Trust and the representations that had been made to the Trust about the problem. The chairman reported that there had been some more acts of anti-social behaviour on land belonging to the trust. The most serious of these had been the firing of an air rifle on the river bank belonging to the Trust that had resulted

in the police having to be called. There was also concern at the state of the moorings belonging to the Trust as some boats had sunk or were making the riverbank untidy. There was also concern that the Lyme trees along the main road might have become infected with honey fungus and could die as a result. There was a danger that the trees might fall.

Councillors discussed what they knew of the sources of income received by the Trust. The main source of income had been from moorings along the river. However, the rents paid by villagers were on the basis of voluntary donation and some villagers had refused to make donations. The Trust also received income from Rother Fisheries Association and from Carolyn Jones who kept a horse on the field close to the sewerage works. The cricket club did not pay for use of the playing field although they paid a small rent for the pavilion.

It was felt that there needed to be greater co-ordination between various organisations in the village and that this issue should be raised at the meeting.

Reports

Planning

The clerk reported that Ashford Borough Council had refused the following planning application:

08/01422/AS

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

Erection of Rear Conservatory

Councillors noted that the reason for refusal appeared to be related to the materials proposed to be used for the conservatory which were considered inappropriate. Councillor Edmonds said that she had spoken to the applicant who intended to appeal against the decision.

Highways

The chairman said that he and the clerk had yet to produce a letter to Kent Highway Services about their refusal to introduce traffic management measures at the junction of the A with the A .

The clerk said he would be contacting Highways about the undergrowth growing on Battery Bank that was overhanging the highway reducing visibility on Newenden hill. However, he rather suspected that cutting this undergrowth was the responsibility of the landowner and not the County Council. The undergrowth at the bus stop also required cutting back.

Councillor Turnbull reported that there was a significant dip in the road close to Unity Cottages which was probably being caused by subsidence. There was also a problem

with a drain outside the cottages. Councillor Edmonds said she would speak to Highways about these problems.

Clerk's Report

Kent County Council

Highways

Further consultation on amendments to the draft permit scheme for activities on Kent roads.

Councillor Turnbull had previously looked at the original proposals when they had first been published and did not feel that there were any issues for Newenden.

Ashford Borough Council

Notification of the Ashford Winter Festival event.

This event to celebrate completion of the ring road around the town had already taken place. Councillors did not feel it was a matter for Newenden.

Review of Ashford Borough Council support to Voluntary and Community Organisations.

There were no voluntary or community organisations of this type in the village.

Kent Association of Local Councils

Consultation on verge cutting.

The chairman agreed to respond to this short survey.

Finance

Financial Statement for 3 December

It was resolved that the financial statement to 3 December be approved and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Accounts for payment.

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Mr J A Leeves	Arrears of salary	£20.84
Mr J A Leeves	Petty cash (litter collector's wages)	£100.00
Village hall Committee	Discretionary grant (insurance)	£1,851.31
Audit Commission	External audit fee	£141.00
Tillingham Trees	Cutting trees overhanging childrens' play	£80.00

Other Financial Matters

The clerk was asked to request a mandate form to operate the bank account as at present only the chairman and Councillor Edmonds were authorised to sign cheques.

Precept for 2009-10

Councillors discussed the level of the precept for 2009-10. It was estimated that expenditure for the year would be about £5,450. This compared with estimated expenditure for the current year of £5,600. In the current year the precept had been set at £5,000 and the Council also received a small Concurrent Functions grant of £280.00. Taking account of this the forecast for 2008-09 was a deficit of £320.00 expenditure over income.

The clerk pointed out that the Council held £5,200.00 in reserve. Apart from routine items of expenditure there were no significant costs to be met for the remainder of the year and he expected that the current account would still have a balance of around £1,000.00 by the end of the year. Essentially, there were two options: either increase the precept by a small sum to cover the deficit of expenditure over income or keep it at the same level and absorb the deficit from the reserve.

Councillors felt that the deficit was fairly small and the precept could remain at the same level as 2008-09. It was resolved therefore that the precept for 2009-10 should be £5,000.

Any other business

Dates of Meetings for 2009

It was agreed that meetings in 2009 should be held on the following dates:

17 February
26 March Annual Parish Meeting
5 May Annual Parish Council Meeting
14 July
6 October
30 November

Dates of next meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be on 17 February and 26 March (Annual Parish Meeting) in the village hall.

Chairman.....

Date.....