

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 5 July in the village hall at 7.30 pm

Present:

Mr A Nilson (chairman)
Mrs R Edmonds
Miss C Bond
Mr D Richardson
Mrs E Hannavy-Cousen

Clerk: Mr J Leeves

There was one member of the public present.

Apologies for absence

1. None.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Minutes of the meeting on 7 June

3. The minutes of the meeting on 7 June having been circulated were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 7 June

Newenden Trust

4. The chairman reported that there had been no developments with the Newenden Trust.

Village hall

5. The chairman said that the committee looking at the options for the future of the village hall would report at the Township meeting on 13 July. The two options would be presented at the meeting by Alan Seal. The clerk said he had seen some legal advice on village halls in a local council journal which stated that the Charity Commission would have to approve any sale. There would be no objection provided that there was nothing in the articles of association that precluded a sale and that the proceeds were used to provide a new village hall. The chairman said that this accorded with his view.

6. The chairman had received several requests from those unable to attend the Township meeting to allow proxy votes. Councillors felt that proxy votes should not be allowed and there should be a vote by show of hands. If necessary there would be a postal vote.

Village maintenance contract

7. The chairman had received a reply from Kent County Council to his request for an indication of the financial contribution the parish could expect if it took over the functions undertaken by the County Council. The County Council had said that they did not do any urban work in the parish and therefore would make no financial contribution. This would result in there being a significant shortfall in the

funding required for the parish to undertake maintenance work. The proposal for the Parish Council to take over the work was therefore temporarily stalled.

Broadband

8. Councillor Bond reported that she had been in contact with British Telecom. The company were not accepting orders for superfast broadband from residents of the parish. It was possible to have fast broadband at about 6 megabits, but this was not superfast fibre broadband. She would be contacting Councillor Callum Knowles at Ashford Borough Council who had responsibility for dealing with broadband for business use.

Cranbrook school

9. Councillor Richardson said that there had been no developments on the issue of the catchment area for Cranbrook school.

Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations

10. Councillor Richardson reported that the barbeque to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday had been a success. Unfortunately the weather had been wet and it had not been possible to hold some of the games that had been planned. This had resulted in the event making a loss of about £197.00. Councillors thanked Councillor Richardson for organising the barbeque event and agreed to the Parish Council underwriting the loss.

Financial Statement

11. The financial statement had been circulated and Councillors had no comments on it.

Accounts for payment

12. The following accounts were approved for payment:

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Mr C Burns | Internal audit fee | £54.80 |
| Mr D Richardson | Deficit on Queens 90th birthday event | £197.81 |

Mandate for Bank Accounts

13. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen said that she had visited the bank in Tenterden and completed the formalities. Councillor Bond said that she would do so in the next few days.

Selmes Management Account

14. The clerk had prepared an account of the division of revenues held in the Selmes management account on 31 March 2016. Councillors noted the account. The chairman said that further action now awaited the arrival of the new vicar in the early autumn.

Ashford Local Plan

15. Ashford Borough Council had circulated for consultation a local plan setting out a framework up until 2030. The closure date for consultation was 10 August. The chairman thought that the Council

should comment although there was little that affected Newenden in the plan. The Ashford group of KALC would also be discussing the consultation at their meeting on 19 July.

16. Newenden was to be treated as a rural settlement in which some development was acceptable. The chairman thought that this would mean that developments in the village would be slightly easier in contrast to the present situation under which there was virtually no development because the village had a status of being unsustainable.

17. The other proposal that might have an impact on the village was the creation of a dark sky zone in which artificial lighting was restricted. The proposal for this zone did not currently include Newenden but the chairman said that he thought this might be something to be considered. He would raise the point at the Township meeting.

18. The Local Plan also referred to the creation of a Community Infrastructure Levy. This would be in addition to section 106 requirements for developers. Although it would have little impact on Newenden the creation of this levy could be important were there to be any developments.

Highways

19. Highways had cleared drains along Lossenham lane and outside Mr Wright's house and had also patched a number of potholes. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen reported that highways had also cleared the footpath between Newenden and Sandhurst.

Planning

20. Councillor Richardson said that he had not received any planning applications recently.

Any other business

Selmes field

21. The sheep had come onto the pasture in the Selmes field too late to keep the grass under control and consequently it had grown quite long and would therefore require cutting. Mr Crowley had a large strimmer which could be used to cut along the river bank and Councillor Edmonds said that the sheep farmer knew somebody who would cut the field for around £100.

Sheep straying

22. The sheep were getting into the children's playground quite frequently and the boundary fences needed attention. This work could be done on the forthcoming day of action. The safety inspection of the children's playground had just taken place.

Notice to nursery

23. The chairman reported that he had reminded the nursery that their tenure of the village hall ended on about 22 July. He had offered them a few additional days in which to remove all of their equipment.

Ashford Homelessness Strategy

24. Ashford Borough Council were consulting on a homelessness strategy. It was agreed to put up a notice at the entrance to the Township meeting and that the Council would comment on the strategy. Councillor Richardson said that he would examine the strategy and comment.

Day of action

25. There would be a day of action on 23 July.

Date of next meeting

26. The next meeting would be on 13 September. There would be a Township meeting on 13 July.

Chairman.....

Date.....