

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 6 December at 7.30 pm in the village hall

Present:

Mr A Nilson (chairman)  
Mrs R Edmonds  
Mrs J Eldridge  
Mr D Richardson  
Mr B Livesey

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

### **Apologies for absence**

1. None.

### **Declarations of interest**

2. The chairman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the planning application for Maron because it was located next to his house. Councillor Edmonds declared a prejudicial interest in respect of discussions about the Selmes Trust management agreement as she was a churchwarden

### **Minutes of the meeting on 4 October**

3. It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on 4 October having been circulated be approved as a correct record.

### **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 4 October**

White Hart windows

4. Councillor Eldridge reported that there had been no further news about the dormer windows in the White Hart.

Litterpicker

5. The chairman reported that the position on the arrangements for the litterpicker had been resolved following Mr Mckinlay's offer to undertake the duties on a voluntary basis. Mr Mckinlay had been joined by an assistant also on a voluntary basis who had been issued with a high visibility jacket.

Gateway on A268

6. Councillor Livesey reported that after consultation and consideration it had been found that the best position for the gateway with a 30 mph sign would be on the former layby. Councillors asked the clerk to write to Kent County Councillor Mr M Hill to ask him for a contribution towards the cost of the gateway from his member's fund. It was proposed that the Council should ask for £1,500.

### **Playground safety inspection report**

The chairman commented that most of the points referred to in the inspection report had now been remedied.

### **Minutes of the Township meeting on 8 November**

7. The clerk mentioned that he had circulated the minutes of the meeting of the Township meeting on 8 November 2011 and asked if Councillor's had any comments. Councillors had no comments on the minutes.

### **Correspondence received by the clerk**

8. The Lord Lieutenant of Kent had sent his annual invitation to his Civic Service on 6 March. Councillors had other commitments on that date.

### **Precept for 2012-13**

9. The clerk circulated a spreadsheet showing the breakdown of expenditure for the previous five years and for the current year together with estimates of expenditure for the year 2012-13. The clerk explained the basis on which he had increased certain expenditures such as subscriptions and insurance premiums. It was also expected that there would be a small increase in clerk's salaries and he suggested that because of inflation clerk's allowance should be marginally increased. Councillor's agreed that clerk's allowance should be increased from 1 April 2012 to £1.00 per week. Now that litterpicking was being undertaken on a voluntary basis there would be a significant reduction in expenditure. The Concurrent Functions grant which covered much of the cost of litterpicking would remain payable for one further year. Councillors agreed that the precept should remain at the same level as the current year. The precept would be set at £5,000.00 for 2012-13 with a concurrent functions grant of £611.00.

### **Accounts for Payment**

10. The following accounts were approved for payment:

Mr T Mckinley	Litter collection	£45.00
Audit Commission	External audit	£144.00

### **Selmes Management Account**

Mr P Harges	Mowing Selmes field	£28.00
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11. Councillors agreed to transfer £1,000.00 from the current to the reserve account.

### **Financial Statement**

12. Councillors noted and agreed the financial statement to 6 December.

### **Revised Standing Orders**

13. The clerk had circulated copies of the revised template of Parish Council standing orders published by the NALC. Councillors made a few minor amendments to reflect the position in Newenden and adopted the revised standing orders.

### **Revised Financial Standing Orders**

14. The clerk circulated a revised version of the financial standing orders and commented that the changes related to the financial aspects of the management agreement with the Selmes Trust. Councillors adopted the revised financial standing orders.

### **Risk Assessment**

15. The clerk had circulated a revised copy of the Council's risk assessment. Councillors reviewed the risk assessment and agreed to adopt it.

### **Parish Plan**

16. The chairman said that there were some advantages relating to the drafting of a Parish plan for the village. These concerned planning and the provision of services that might be required by residents. The chairman had obtained a copy of the plan for Peasmarsh which he had circulated to Councillors as an example of the format. The drafting of a plan would be done by a small committee of residents. A questionnaire would be needed to ask residents about what they wished to have by way of services and facilities in the village. The results of the questionnaire would then need to be considered and used as the basis for a plan.

17. It was proposed that there should be a meeting of the committee of residents in early February. Councillor Richardson said that he would help with this and drafting of the questionnaire.

### **New Moorings**

18. The chairman had circulated a plan of the proposed ten new moorings. The Selmes Trust had been consulted about the proposal and felt that it was a good idea. The chairman explained that access to the new moorings which would incorporate the existing mooring posts, would be via the bonfire field. It was not practical to access them along the top of the cricket field. Planning consent would almost certainly be needed. There was no intention in providing the moorings to compete either with Bournes or the ferry service. The main problem was that of increased traffic and parking. This would be something that could be incorporated into the Parish Plan. Councillor Eldridge agreed to check the position on planning consent with Ashford Borough Council. It was agreed that the proposal for new moorings would be put to the township meeting on 7 February.

19. The chairman commented that a number of boats were still at their moorings contrary to the requirement for them to be taken out of the water by 30 September. The provision in the mooring regulations for them to be removed related to a requirement of the Environment Agency and action would need to be taken to effect their removal.

### **Planning**

Planning Application

AS/11/01360 Maron Rye Road, Newenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5PL

20. The chairman had declared a personal and prejudicial interest and took no part in the discussion. Councillor Edmonds chaired this part of the meeting.

21. The application was for the demolition of the existing property and the building of two replacement properties. Councillors noted that the property had been empty for at least five years because it had been difficult to sell. Councillors held no view on the proposals and asked the clerk to return a no comment view.

### **Highways**

22. Councillor Edmonds said that buses were now stopping at a point almost outside Mrs Turnbull's house, but that the bus stop sign on the Tenterden road had not been removed.

### **Any other business**

Green algae on base of children's playground equipment under oak tree

23. Councillor Eldridge reported that she had asked her son as to whether the oak tree should be cut back to prevent the formation of algae on the base (a slipping hazard). He had said that this could be done at a cost of £300.00 but that it would be much cheaper to periodically hose down and clean the surface. Councillors agreed that this was the best solution.

### **Dates of meetings in 2012**

24. Councillors agreed the dates of meetings in 2012 as follows:

- 21 February
- 27 March (Annual Parish Meeting)
- 15 May Annual General Meeting
- 10 July
- 2 October
- 27 November

25. All meetings would start at 7.30 pm. As the chairman of Rolvenden Parish Council had asked to attend a meeting the clerk was asked to inform him of the dates of the meetings. In order that Kent County Councillor Mr M Hill might attend a meeting the clerk was also asked to inform him of the dates of the meetings and invite him to attend.

26. The next Township meeting will be on 7 February at 8.00 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....