

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 6 June in Heart House at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillors

Mr D Wright (chairman)
Mrs C Baker
Mrs H Masters

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Apologies for absence

1. Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs J Elldridge.

Declarations of Interest

2. None.

Certificate of Exemption from External Audit

3. The clerk explained that if a local council had an income and expenditure of less than £25,000 it could certify itself as being exempt from a limited assurance external audit. The chairman and Councillors thought that there was no reason for a limited audit to be carried out and that the Council should certify itself as being exempt from the requirement as it met the criteria.

Governance statement

4. The clerk had circulated the Governance statement to Councillors before the meeting. Councillors considered that the Council had fully met all of the requirements of the Governance statement in the previous year and could therefore sign the statement as being in compliance.

Accounting statement

5. The clerk had circulated the accounting statement to Councillors before the meeting. The chairman commented that the figures did not show a great deal of difference from the previous year. The clerk said that this was the case with the exception of other expenditure and receipts which had been distorted by the purchase and subsequent reimbursement of expenditure on fireworks. There would be a different arrangement for the purchase of fireworks in the coming year and this distortion would not be repeated. Councillors agreed the accounting statement.

Public display of Governance and Accounting statements

6. The clerk said that it was a requirement that the Governance and Accounting statements were displayed on the noticeboard and the website for a period of time to allow for public inspection.

Any other Business

Appointment of Safeguarding Officer

7. The chairman said that he had been reminded by a previous Councillor that the Council needed to appoint a safeguarding officer. The chairman said that he was qualified to undertake this role and other Councillors agreed that he should be the appointed safeguarding officer.

Training for Councillors

8. The clerk said that the Council had not undertaken any training recently and now that there were some new Councillors it might be appropriate to do so. KALC ran courses for Councillors but the latest advertised for 12 June was too soon and probably fully booked. The clerk said he would call KALC and find out the training programme.

Update on Bank Mandates

9. The chairman said that following his visit to the bank in Tenterden he was now on the banking mandate. The clerk gave printed forms to Councillor Mrs Masters and she and Councillor Eldridge would visit the bank in the near future. The clerk said there were now a number of invoices that needed to be paid and he would bring over the cheque book sometime in the next week.

Date of next meeting

10. The next meeting would be on 9 July.

Chairman.....
Date.....