

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 6 May at 7.45 pm in the village hall

Present:

Councillors

Mr A Nilson (chairman)

Mrs J Eldridge

Mrs R Edmonds

Mr D Richardson

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Apologies for absence

1. Apologies were received from Councillor B Livesey.

Declarations of Interest

2. None.

Election of chairman

3. Councillor Nilson was re-elected as chairman of the Council. Proposed Councillor Edmonds and seconded by Councillor Eldridge.

Election of Vice chairman

4. Councillor Edmonds was re-elected as vice chairman of the Council. Proposed by the chairman and seconded by Councillor Richardson.

Allocation of Business Responsibilities between Councillors

5. It was agreed to maintain the current business responsibilities with Councillor Richardson now taking full responsibility for planning matters from Councillor Eldridge.

Minutes of the meeting of 11 February

6. Having been circulated the minutes of the meeting on 11 February were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting on 11 February

Newenden Housing Needs Survey

7. The chairman reported that he had been in touch with Tessa O'Sullivan about the outcome of the Newenden Local Needs Housing survey. Ms O'Sullivan was in the process of writing a report on the results of the survey. There had been an overall response rate of 45% which was more than the usual response rate of around 30%. Those in support of local housing were 19 whereas 25 were against building housing. However, some of those who did not support more housing thought that any development would be of 10 or more houses a number far more than would realistically be required. Three households indicated that they needed housing: two immediately and one within five years.

Newenden Charity

8. A meeting had been held with the new trustees and it had been agreed that the status of the present Village Hall charity needed to be clarified with the Charity Commission and the Land Registry, before moving any further forward.

Financial Statement to 6 May

9. The financial statement to the 6 May was circulated and the clerk reported that the first half precept and concurrent functions grant had both been received.

Accounts for payment

10. The following accounts were approved for payment:

Mr J A Leeves	Clerk's allowance & postage	£29.50
Mr C Burns	Internal audit fee	£52.20
Kent Association of LC's	Subscription	£120.38
Selmes Trust Management		
Romney Marsh Internal Area Drainage Board		£7.12

Annual Return for the year to 31 March 2014

Internal audit

11. The clerk reported that the internal auditor had made no comments on the accounts and annual return.

Governance Statement

12. The Governance statement in the annual return had been circulated and Councillors confirmed that they were satisfied that all of the points had been met.

Signature of Annual Return

13. There being no points of concern the Council approved the accounting statements and the chairman signed the annual return.

Selmes Management Agreement Return

14. The clerk had prepared an annual statement of account for income and expenditure as required by the agreement between the Parish Council and the Selmes Trust. The chairman had sent this on to the Reverend Desrosiers and was trying to arrange a meeting with him. The return showed a surplus which the Parish Council wish to use to finance moorings on the river Rother once the Environment Agency had completed work on bank stabilisation. The chairman said that he would again ask the Reverend Desrosiers for a convenient date for a meeting.

Highways

15. Councillor Edmonds said that there were no pressing highways matters. The Highways Department had marked potholes for repairs and she would be asking them to also deal with some potholes in Lossenham Lane.

Planning

16. Councillor Richardson said that there were no planning matters, but commented on the change of plans to Lossenham Manor to accommodate concerns of the conservation officer at Ashford Borough Council.

Any Other Business

Sheep on Selmes Trust land

17. The chairman reported that the farmer would be bringing back his sheep onto the Selmes Trust land within the next couple of weeks.

Environment Agency

18. The chairman reported that the Environment Agency had completed stabilisation works on the Sussex side of the River Rother and he expected that they would soon begin work on the Newenden side. He had asked the Agency to write to the clerk confirming when work would start so that boat owners could move their vessels and the banks could be cleared. The clerk said that he had not yet received a letter from the Agency.

Tenterden Forum Meeting

19. Councillor Richardson said he had attended a recent meeting of the Tenterden Forum. No issues of relevance had been raised.

Cranbrook School Catchment Area

20. Councillor Richardson had circulated the reply he had received from Kent County Councillor Mike Hill about the exclusion of Newenden from the catchment area for Cranbrook school. Councillor Hill had confirmed that Newenden's exclusion from the catchment area was in accordance with County Council policy. Councillor Richardson said that he felt that there were a number of points that had not been considered and circulated a draft response. It was agreed that Councillor Richardson should write again to Councillor Hill.

Date of Next Meeting

21. The next meeting will be on 24 June.

Chairman.....

Date.....