

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 7 August 2012 in the village hall

Present

Councillors

Mr A Nilson (chairman)

Mr B Livesey

Mrs R Edmonds

Mrs J Eldridge

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Apologies for absence

1. Apologies were received from Councillor D Richardson.

Declarations of interest

2. Councillor Livesey declared a prejudicial interest in the planning application and left the room for that item.

Planning application 12/00819/AS

3. Councillors considered the application for Church cottage for holiday accommodation and decided that they did not wish to make any comment.

Finance

4. The following account was approved for payment:

Mr S Siggery Mowing children's playground and cutting boundary hedge £315.00

Other financial matters

5. The clerk reported that he had received the renewal notice for the Council's insurance and insurance of the village hall. The renewal premium was approximately £2,627.00. It was not due until 18 September and it would not be appropriate to pay it until closer to the renewal date.

6. The clerk also reported that he had not received any response from the vicar to the annual account of the Selmes Trust management agreement and whether the payment due to the Selmes Trust was correct. Councillors thought it would be preferable to have the vicar's agreement but that in the absence of no reply it could be paid. Councillor Edmonds said she would remind the vicar.

Mowing of the Selmes Trust field and churchyard

7. The chairman reported that he had received an invoice for £260.00 from Mr Siggery for mowing the upper churchyard. Councillors decided that the Parish Council was not responsible for mowing the churchyard and that the Friends of St Peter's should be asked if they would pay the invoice.

8. The chairman reported that Mr Seal had bought a new heavy duty mower but that even this would not be able to mow the Selmes Trust field which was extremely overgrown. Councillors discussed options and felt that they should see if Mr Bourne would be able to cut it. Otherwise they would ask Mrs Butler's farming assistant to cut it once and Mr Seal could then cut it a second time.

Nomination for ABCDJA

9. The nomination had been circulated to Councillors and the chairman said that all that was now required was one further letter of support. The nomination had to be submitted to Ashford Borough Council by 15 August.

Damage to bench in children's playground

10. Councillor's discussed the damage to the picnic bench in the children's playground and visited the playground after the meeting to inspect the damage. The clerk reminded Councillors that Playsafety Ltd would have inspected the playground in July. He had not yet received their report but they would comment on the damaged bench if the damage had been done at the time of inspection. It was found that a seat attached to the table had broken away at the screw fixings. Councillors thought that the bench could be fairly easily repaired and that somebody could be found in the parish to do the repairs.

Provisional approval and procedure for adoption of byelaws

11. The chairman reported that the Department for Communities had given provisional approval to the byelaws and a procedure now needed to be followed to bring them into force. A copy of the byelaws needed to be sealed by the Council. The Council did not have a common seal so what was required was a seal using sealing wax which should be signed and dated by two Councillors. After sealing the byelaws should be advertised in a local newspaper and copies made available for inspection at the offices of the Council. Copies could be made available at a small charge. After they had been available for 1 month they could be sent in duplicate to the Secretary of State for confirmation. It was hoped that this procedure could be completed by the end of the year.

Any other business

Agreement with Rother Fishery Association

12. The clerk told Councillors that he had not yet received any response from Mr Crowley of the Rother Fishery Association to his letter enclosing a copy of the revised fishery agreement and asking for his comments. Councillors asked the clerk to remind Mr Crowley.

Flashing speed restriction sign

13. The clerk advised that he had heard nothing further from either Kent County Councillor Mike Hill or Kent Highway Services about progress on the installation of the flashing speed restriction sign. Councillors asked the clerk to chase up progress.

Village hall committee

14. The chairman commented that the village hall committee had become moribund and that it needed to be rejuvenated by the appointment of new members. There were a number of problems concerning the condition of the structure of the hall and Councillor Edmonds commented that recently there had been hygiene problems in the kitchen area that had come to light with the Newenden market. Councillors suggested the names of residents who might be interested in joining the committee and agreed to sound out prospective members.

Wind turbine

15. Councillor Edmonds mentioned that a wind turbine had been erected towards Wittersham and the owners of Hole Park farm had applied to the Borough Council to erect another.

Community speed watch

16. Councillor Livesey reported on an initiative whereby residents would measure the speed of motorists in speed restriction zones and note down their registration numbers if they were exceeding the limit. Details would be passed to the police who would write a strong letter to errant motorists who had been observed repeatedly exceeding the speed limit.

Kent County Council footpath consultation

17. Kent County Council had written to consult on footpaths. Councillor Livesey agreed to look at the website and see if the Council needed to make any comments on the proposals. The clerk was asked to write to the County Council asking them to repair the supports of the noticeboard showing footpaths in the parish.

Date of next meeting

18. The next meeting will be on 18 September when the Council would discuss the new Code of Conduct.

Chairman.....

Date.....