

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council held in the Old Dower House on 7 June at 7.30 pm

Present:

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

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Apologies for absence

1. None.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Minutes of the meeting on 10 May

3. The minutes of the meeting on 10 May were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 10 May

Affordable housing

4. The chairman said that he was going to a presentation about community land trusts at Shepherdswell on 8 June. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen reported that the committee looking into the possibility of establishing a community land trust had had a meeting with Action with Communities in Rural Kent. The prospects for establishing a community land trust looked encouraging.

Village maintenance contract

5. The chairman reported that he had had a meeting with representatives of KCC Highways who had promised to send him a proposal. The meeting had been positive and he was hopeful that they would offer some funding for Newenden to take on their responsibilities.

Newenden Trust

6. No further progress had been made as a bank account had to be opened.

Village hall

7. The meeting had had to be held in the Old Dower house because the village hall had been taken over by the children's nursery and access to table and chairs was being obstructed by teaching materials. In consequence Councillor Richardson said that the nursery organiser should be given a reminder that she had to vacate the village hall at the end of the summer term.

8. The chairman reported that the committee looking into the future of the village hall had identified two main possibilities. First, to demolish the old village hall and build another on the existing site. Second to demolish the existing hall, sell the site and build a new hall as an extension to the cricket pavilion.

New vicar

9. Councillor Edmonds reported that a new vicar had been appointed for Rolvenden and Newenden and he would be taking up his post in September.

Financial Statement to 7 June

10. The financial statement to 7 June had been circulated. The clerk commented that there had so far been little expenditure and unless something exceptional occurred it would be another year in which expenditure was modest.

Accounts for payment

11. The following accounts were approved for payment:

Mr J A Leeves	Arrears of pay April & May	£2.70
Mr B Livesey	Subscription to CLT	£49.00
Selmes Management		
Romney Marshes Internal Drainage Board	Drainage rate	£7.19

Banking mandate

12. Councillors Bond and Hannavy-Cousen explained that they had not yet had an opportunity to call into the bank in Tenterden to arrange to be put onto the banking mandate. Both said they would try to do so as soon as possible.

Annual Return

13. The clerk reported that the internal auditor had completed his work and had had no comments. He had therefore signed the annual return. It was now appropriate to sign the Annual Governance Statement which the clerk and chairman did.

14. The clerk passed around the Accounting Statement on which Councillors had no comments. It was agreed that the chairman could sign it.

Planning Application

15. Councillors had seen the planning application for Friary Platt 16/00750/AS and agreed to support it.

16. The clerk reported that although he had been notified that Mr Bourne had submitted an application for a commercial building about which he had informed the Council, he had still not

received the papers. Councillor Richardson confirmed that the application was on Ashford's website and Councillors could look at it there.

17. The clerk reported that Ashford had approved the change of use at Barn Hill house.

Highways

18. Councillor Edmonds said that highways had completed repairs to all of the potholes with the exception of those at the junction with the A28. She had also received an e-mail about the sign for Beech road requesting further information.

Any other business

Township meeting

19. The chairman said that he would like to call a township meeting on 13 July in order to set out the two alternative possibilities for the future of the village hall that were beginning to emerge. It was agreed to try to arrange a township meeting for that date.

Meeting with Damian Green MP

20. Councillor Hannavy-Cousen reported on her recent meeting with Damian Green MP. On superfast broadband provision he had explained that greater priority would be given to providing it were the case to be made in terms of the requirement for businesses in the parish. He had accepted that the parish could not finance the high cost of providing it themselves. She had explained that there were a few larger businesses such as Bourne's that would need good broadband, but in addition, many people worked from home and also needed better broadband. Mr Green had explained that Ashford Borough Council had an officer Mr Calam Knowles who dealt with broadband provision and suggested that she contact him. The chairman said that he would raise the issue of broadband provision at the township meeting.

21. On the question of being outside of the catchment area of a grammar school, Mr Green explained that Holmewood comprehensive school in Tenterden provided grammar school standard education and he felt that Newenden children were not therefore being disadvantaged. Mr Green had suggested that there should be greater co-ordination with provision of out of hours medical cover from Hawkhurst cottage hospital and the clinic in Cranbrook.

Queen's 90th birthday celebrations

22. Councillor Richardson gave an update on the preparations to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Most of the tickets to the barbeque on 11 June had been sold with only eight being left to sell. Councillors discussed the various practical arrangements for the barbeque including the difficulty of gaining access to the cricket pavilion.

Date of next meeting

23. The 28 June had become an inconvenient date and councillors agreed that 5 July would be more convenient.

Chairman.....

Date.....