

Minutes of a Meeting of Newenden Parish Council on 9 July in St Peter's church at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillors

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

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

There were five members of the public present.

Apologies for absence

1. Apologies were received from PCSO Mrs K Richards.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Minutes of the Meetings on 14 May and 6 June

3. The minutes of the meetings on 14 May and 6 June having been circulated were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the Minutes of 14 May and 6 June

4. None that would not be dealt with later in the meeting.

Financial statement of 9 July

5. The clerk commented that as the bank had not yet agreed the amended mandate there had not been any expenditure. Receipts from the Rother Fishery Association and mooring fees had taken the amount in the Management account to over £11,000. Councillors agreed the financial statement.

6. Mr Seal asked if the clerk had details of the mooring fees that had been received as he needed to chase up those who had not paid. The clerk said that he would send Mr Seal a list of those that had paid their fees and the amount paid.

7. The clerk confirmed that the amount in the management account had to be divided between the Council and the Selmes Trust with the Trust receiving slightly more than half because of the rent of £50.00 a year on the children's playground that had not been paid for three years. Mrs Edmonds for the Selmes Trust said that the Trust would be seeking a division of the funds in the near future because St Peter's church needed to pay for new lighting.

Invoices for Payment

8. The clerk said that the following invoices were due for payment but could not be paid yet because the bank had not agreed to the amended mandate.

Mr C Burns	Internal audit	£35.00
Mr D Wright	Materials repairs to playground	£25.31
Mrs R Edmonds	Sign children's playground	£25.00
Mr B Livesey	Hedge repairs	£170.00

Bank Mandates

9. The chairman said that the process for authorising signatories was now almost complete. All that was now required was for Councillor Baker as the last remaining authorised signatory from the last Council to sign and date the form confirming the new signatories. The clerk said he would send her the form for signature.

Update on new village hall

10. Mr Seal reported that the committee had asked the architectural technician to prepare drawings to submit to Ashford Borough Council to obtain Building Regulation approval. A structural engineer had been asked to provide a specification for the steel frame of the building which had some awkward angles. The steel frame would then be wooden clad.

11. The residential building on the site of the old village hall would be built as previously planned although the owner was proposing some internal changes which would not affect the outside appearance. The owner hoped to complete construction by Christmas.

Update on proposals for the Selmes field

12. The Selmes field had been opened for car parking during the day at weekends. Little had been collected in the voluntary payment box. Mrs Edmonds reported that part of the field would be cut for hay and then rolled.

13. Councillor Eldridge asked what had happened to the wild flowers that had been sown. They had appeared one year but had not grown the following years. Councillor Eldridge would look into how wild flowers might be established on part of the Selmes field.

Notice board

14. The clerk showed Councillors four aluminium notice boards of a size that would take about 12 A4 notices. Some of these came with installation posts others did not. The cost varied between £400 and just over £500 although the Council would be able to recover the VAT. Councillors decided on the notice board from Creative Solutions at a cost of about £440 including VAT. However, this could not be ordered until the bank mandate was completed.

Highways

15. The chairman said that he had been discussing with Kent Highways the installation of a gateway an image of the design of which he had circulated to Councillors. This had a 30 mph speed restriction sign and the words “Welcome to Newenden”. There was a possibility of a 50% grant towards the cost which was around £1,000. The gateway would be located on Newenden hill close to the village. One of the problems that he had discussed with Highways was that coming down Newenden hill housing was set back from the road and motorists were therefore unaware that they were entering a built up area.

16. The possibility of reinstalling chevrons on the right hand bend just past the junction between the A28 and the A268 was discussed. These had been removed some years ago and replaced with reflective posts which were not very effective as they quickly became dirty and damaged. The chairman said he would ask Highways if chevrons could be reinstalled and if dragons teeth could also be painted on the road.

Planning

Gardenscape Ltd

17. The chairman explained that the planning application to Rother District Council still included brick crushing despite the company having assured Newenden residents in an open letter that they had no intention of undertaking the activity. Although the planning application would facilitate brick crushing an environmental permit would be required before it could take place. Such a permit would come with a number of stringent environmental conditions. The planning application had not yet been decided.

18. Residents were very concerned about noise from the loading of aggregates by Gardenscape. The chairman said that he had met with Mrs Holland of Gardenscape to discuss the problem and had been advised that they would have working practises to minimise noise. He thought that part of the problem might be because loading noise reverberated against buildings and was thereby projected onto parts of Lossenham Lane. The noise might be mitigated further by the planting of some more trees and he said he would discuss this with Gardenscape. The environment department of Rother District Council had suggested that residents maintain diaries of the noise. However, this was not a straightforward exercise of recording and Councillor Eldridge said that she would contact Rother and establish what exactly needed to be done.

Lossenham Farm

19. The chairman had been in contact with Ashford Borough Council Planning Enforcement who had investigated. They had concluded that the work undertaken so far did not require planning consent, but that were the owner to decide to establish a commercial fish farm business then this would need planning permission. The owner had been advised of the position and no further action was necessary at the moment.

Any Other Business

20. None.

Date of Next Meeting

21. The clerk said that he had another commitment on 10 September and would like the meeting rearranged for 17 September. Councillors agreed to the amended date.

Chairman.....

Date.....