

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Newenden held on 26 March in the village hall at 7.30 pm

Present

Councillors

Mr M Berry (chairman)  
Mr A Nilson  
Mrs R Edmonds  
Mr C Turnbull  
Mrs J Eldridge

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Members of the Public

There were 27 Members of the public present and the vicar the Reverend J Desrosiers in his capacity as chairman of the Selmes Trust.

#### **Apologies for Absence**

1. Apologies were received from Mrs P Morton Jack, Mr H Edmonds, Mr S Richter and Mrs P Robinson.

#### **Declarations of interest**

2. None.

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2008**

3. It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on 25 March 2008 having been circulated be signed as a correct record. Proposd Mr E Gould seconded Mr E Smith.

#### **Matters arising from minutes of meeting on 25 March 2008**

4. A resident pointed out that the opaque perspex on the Parish Council noticeboard mentioned as requiring replacement had still not been replaced.

#### **Police Report**

5. The police had been invited to attend but there was no police representative present to give a report.

#### **Report from Ashford Borough Council**

6. The Borough Councillor Mrs J Hutchinson had been invited but was not present to give a report from Ashford Borough Council.

### **Report from Newenden Parish Council**

7. Councillor M Berry chairman of the Parish Council, reported that the Council had had a busy year. There had recently been a meeting with representatives of Kent Highway Services visiting the Parish and walking round to discuss problems. In Lossenham Lane Highways were not prepared to make good edge of carriageway erosion caused by residents and visitors parking. They were however, prepared to put curb stones for a short length outside of the entrance to the children's playground in the interest of safety. Several residents were concerned at the possible extent of curb stones which might prevent them from parking but understood the need for a short length outside of the children's playground entrance. Highway Services did not accept responsibility for ditches outside of resident's homes in Lossenham Lane although they were prepared to maintain a short length of ditch and piping on the riverside of the lane.

8. Highways Services had agreed to repaint the white lines on the A268 in the Parish and clean out the roadside drains on Newenden Hill. The work on the drains had just been carried out. Highway Services were not prepared to adopt Beech Road which they considered to be a private road. Nor were they prepared to reopen the layby at the top of Newenden Hill. Highway Services agreed that the bus stop was in a dangerous position with nowhere that people could wait other than in the highway. However, the bus stop sign was the property of the bus company and not Highway Services. Residents felt that the bus stop was not used and that if the bus company was not prepared to move it to a position outside of Unity Cottages it should be removed altogether. The clerk was asked to take the matter up with the bus company.

9. There had been a long discussion with Highway Services about the accidents occurring at the junction of the A268 and the A28. Highway Services did not feel that there was a sufficiently serious record of accidents at the junction ie there had been no fatalities. The Government were carrying out a national review of traffic management and at the moment there was a moratorium on the installation of flashing speed restriction signs. Highway Services were not prepared to install chevrons on the bend but agreed to put new marker posts for a greater length along the verge on the bend. Residents and the Parish Council felt that the numbers of accidents were not being recorded and that residents might have to keep these records themselves.

10. The Parish Council had just appointed a new litter collector in succession to Mr G Goad who had resigned and had recently completed a small pavement area at the base of the village sign. A "No Dogs" sign had been purchased and would be put up at the entrance to the children's playground.

11. Finally, the Parish Council had had a meeting with the Selmes Trust at which the chairman of the Trust had explained that the trustees were proposing to increase their number by inviting representatives from the Parish Council and other village organisations to join them. It was also being proposed to clarify the objectives of the Selmes Trust by updating the Trust covenant.

12. There had been some discussion about the riding of quad bikes and motorised toys on the village playing field the noise from which had been causing some distress to elderly residents living close by in Lossenham Lane. The chairman of the Selmes Trust, Reverend J Desrosiers explained that it was proposed to update the original permissions given to four families in the village to ride quad bikes and motorised toys on the playing field. And extend the permission to other residents of the village. Permission would be limited to residents of Newenden and to supervised children under the age of 12. Although the Selmes Trust had public liability insurance it did not hold personal accident insurance which users were advised to take out.

13. Residents felt that limiting the riding of bikes or motorised toys to children under 12 would limit their use but there was a possibility that users might try to ride very powerful machines. It was suggested that only small quad bikes and motorised toys should be ridden by reference to a small engine capacity. The vicar agreed that this was a good idea. Finally, on the times that the playing field could be used the vicar said that riding of bikes and motorised toys would only be permitted in the Summer months between the times of 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm. The Selmes Trust were not prepared to agree to the Parish Council's suggestion of 10.00 am to 2.00 pm because this would restrict the use of the playing field for the purpose to weekends and days on which the cricket team were not playing.

#### **Parish Council Financial Statement to 26 March 2009**

14. A copy of the Parish Council financial statement to 26 March had been circulated and the clerk to the Council commented on the accounts. The clerk explained that the Council had been able to maintain the precept at the same amount of £5,000 for the year 2009-10. In consequence there would be a slight overspend after taking account of a grant for concurrent functions, which would be met from the Council's reserves. A copy of the accounts are at annex A.

15. Members of the public asked about insurances and the clerk explained that the Parish Council maintained an insurance policy in respect of its activities 65% of the cost of which related to the children's playground. The Parish Council made a grant to the village hall management committee in respect of cover for the village hall. This was a substantial premium and the clerk had established that because the village hall was constructed of wood the insurance company had loaded the premium because of the risk of fire causing a total loss.

#### **Report and Accounts of Village Hall Committee**

16. Mr A Nilson the new chairman of the village hall management committee gave thanks to Mr R Gould the previous chairman who had now stepped down. The village hall management committee had experienced inclement weather during fundraising events and consequently these had not been all that successful and income had been reduced. However, the main user of the village hall, the Country Kids nursery, was extremely successful having recently received a Gold OFSTED award. The village hall had in fact made a small loss but this was due to there being two invoices for electricity and two year's worth of Council tax. A copy of the accounts is at annex B.

17. Ashford Borough Council had just replied to the alternative proposal for a new village hall. A possible site had been proposed between the Oast House and the site of the kebab van where parking could be provided that would not be possible if the current site was redeveloped. A new site would also enable the existing hall to be used before the site was sold for housing. Ashford Borough Council had commented that they had three difficulties with the new site: it was on the flood plain, the site was contaminated or in a zone to protect contamination and it was in an archaeological designated area. The village hall committee did not understand the point about contaminated land and did not think that there was anything of archaeological significance about the site. They also felt it was possible to build on the flood plain.

18. Members of the public were concerned about the gate at the side of the village hall placed there by Country Kids to prevent children from running into the road. It was pointed out that Country Kids did not have children in the small area at the back of the hall and the gate was serving no purpose. It was agreed to remove it. Members of the public asked again if the Perspex on the Parish Council noticeboard at the entrance to the village hall could be replaced with clear Perspex.

### **Report and Accounts for Samuel Bishop Foundation**

19. The Samuel Bishop Foundation had made eight grants to children of secondary school age. These included the provision of educational reference books, school equipment and sports kit. A copy of the accounts is at annex C.

### **Report and Accounts of the Selmes Trust**

20. The chairman of the Selmes Trust, the Reverend J Desrosiers, explained that the Trust was in the process of updating itself. The Trust had been established in 1936 so that the revenues could be used for the upkeep of St Peter's church. There was no formal trust deed but a conveyance setting this out and that the land could be used for recreational purposes by the residents of Newenden. It was proposed that the numbers of trustees should be increased and that the Parochial Church Council, the Parish Council and the Friends of St Peters be asked to nominate a trustee. There would also be a professional to advise the other trustees. This was necessary because the Trust could cease to operate were any of the existing trustees not wish to be involved.

21. The Trust did not intend to change its constitution or objectives which it would be unable to do without permission of the Charity Commission. However, the objectives would be restated so that they were clearer. There would be some heavy legal costs in making these changes and the chairman anticipated that the Trust would have no funds to help with the upkeep of the fabric of St Peters for several years as a result.

22. Finally, the chairman explained that the state of the river moorings had recently become extremely untidy. Consequently, the Selmes Trust had temporarily suspended the mooring facility completely. All boats had to be removed from the moorings and the river bank. Although some of the owners of the boats were known there were also some unknowns and this and the tidiness of the riverbank needed to be sorted out before moorings would be allowed again.

23. A copy of the Accounts is at annex D.

**Friend's of St Peters**

24. The Friends of St Peters had had a successful year with several events such as a 1960's night. A walk and a boat race were planned for later in the year. The AGM would be on 27 June.

**Report from Pavilion Management Committee**

25. There was no representative present from the Pavilion management committee.

**Report of village sports clubs**

26. There was no representative present from the village sports clubs.

**Any other business**

27. Members of the public asked about the Christmas lights that the Parish Council had put up in the Lyme trees on the edge of the village playing field but had not yet been taken down. The chairman explained that the lights were difficult to put up and he had had to ask Peter Bourne for his cherry picker to erect them. He would asked Mr Bourne if he could borrow it again to remove the lights.

28. The chairman explained that the cricket club paid for the electricity for the lights, but that they had had to be placed in the Lyme trees because the Selmes Trust were not prepared to allow a suitable tree to be planted at the edge of the playing field. The vicar explained that the Selmes Trust was not prepared to have a tree planted because it would be permanent for the life of the tree and would require maintenance.

29. Members of the public felt that the work to the base of the village sign was excellent and the chairman explained that he had asked Country Kids to display their portable sign only when the nursery was open.

30. A member of the public expressed concern that the only street light in the Parish was on 24 hours a day. The clerk said he would report this to Ashford Borough Council.

Chairman.....

Date.....

Annex A

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**NEWENDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

Income £	2008-09 £
Balance brought forward 31 March 2008	6,466.58
Add receipts	5,477.57
 Total Funds	 11,944.15
 Less payments to 26 March 2009	 6,241.50
 Balance carried forward	 5,702.65
 Expenditure	
Parish clerk salary	1,289.04
Parish clerk admin allowance	26.00
Parish clerk chair expenses	0.00
Stationery	0.00
Postage	8.80
Insurance	989.12
Audit fees	191.00
Training for Councillors/publications	0.00
Subscriptions	116.21
Village hall discretionary grant	1,851.31
Grass cutting childrens' playground	384.00
Tree cutting/repairs childrens' playground	305.00
Safety inspection childrens' playground	81.08
Rent children's playground	250.00
Litter collection	200.00
Kent Air Ambulance Donation	50.00
Lights village Christmas tree	0.00
Works base of village sign	402.50
Fireworks donation	0.00
Miscellaneous	97.44
	6,241.50

Total

Balances at Bank on 31 March

Current Account	381.07
Reserve Account	5,219.91
Plus petty cash balance	101.67
Total carried forward	5,702.65

## Annex B

Newenden village hall accounts year ending 26 March 2009

Brought forward	2,800.13
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Petty cash in hand	94.50
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Income

Donations	851.5
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Bookings	3,919.00
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Insurance from PC	1,851.31
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Total	9,516.44
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Expenditure

Caretaking	426.63
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Water supply	180.40
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Sewerage	88.76
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Electricity	3,827.37
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Fireworks	1,071.00
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Council Tax	251.63
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Repairs and renewals	146.75
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Insurance	1,851.31
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Fire Extinguisher service	50.66
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Total 7,894.51

Balance at 26 March 2009 1,621.93

## Annex C

Samuel Bishop Foundation

Accounts for year 1 Jan to 31 December 2008

Income		Expenditure	£
Jan Charinco	39.32	Grants 4@ £80.00	320.00
Feb Charifund	84.21	Grants 4@£60.00	240.00
Mar Charinco	39.32		
May Charifund	134.34		
June Charinco	39.32		
Aug Charifund	134.34		
Sept Charinco	39.32		
Dec Charifund	245.81		
Dec Charinco	39.32		
June interest	13.04		
Dec interest	13.38		
Total	821.72		560.00

Balance C/F  
31-Dec-07 783.81

Assets  
Nationwide Building Society 1,045.53  
802 Units Charifund  
1,572 Units Charinco

## Annex D

### Selmes Trust

Income and Expenditure Account for year ending 31 December 2008

Income	2007 £	2008 £	Expenditure
Balance b/f	2,732.00	1,319.00	

Mooring Donations	1,750.00	800.00		Rother Rates	7.0
				Rother Rates refund	100
Rent for Playground	120.00		-	Miscellaneous costs	
Fishing Rights	790.00	800.00		Fabric Fund	3,7
Wayleave	1.00		1.00	Insurance	267
				Balance c/f	1,3
Totals	5,393.00	2,920.00			5,3