

NEWENDEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
St Peter's church FRIDAY 7 JUNE 2024

PRESENT: Councillors Mr D Wheeler (DW) Chairman, Mr A Garman (AG), Mrs V Robertson (VR), Mr J Turnbull (JT)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs L Dobson, Clerk and 6 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** had been received from Gillian Dalton.
2. **Councillor Vacancies** – as ten or more electors had not requested an election to fill the two vacancies the council resolved to move to co-option. It was agreed that John Turnbull and Gillian Dalton, having registered their interest in becoming councillors, should be co-opted. The co-option of Mr Turnbull was proposed by DW and seconded by VR. The co-option of Ms. Dalton was proposed by VR and seconded by AG. Mr Turnbull was then invited to complete declaration of acceptance of office and register of disclosable pecuniary interests forms and joined the council for the rest of the meeting. The council resolved to allow Ms. Dalton to complete the forms at a later date as she was out of the country on holiday. **ACTION:** Clerk to ensure forms are completed and returned to Ashford BC before the next PC meeting in July.

Cllr Wheeler formally thanked Nicola Holland for all her efforts as Councillor. Her work to raise more than £31,000 in grants towards the new play equipment will make a significant, long-term difference to the village and is greatly appreciated.

3. **Declarations of interest.** DW reminded council of his personal interest in the cricket club and that he would not be part of the discussion at item 10.
4. **Election of a vice-chairman for the period June 2024 to May 2025.** DW proposed VR, seconded by AG and supported by JT. Cllr Robertson accepted the office.
5. **Review allocation of responsibilities between councillors.** Following resignation of previous incumbents, responsibilities were reviewed and Council leads agreed as follows:
 1. **Planning** – Cllr Turnbull
 2. **Playground** – Subcommittee – Cllr Turnbull for council. The PC has invited a couple of interested residents to join a playground subcommittee / project team to help.
 3. **Finance / bank transactions.** – VR, DW
 4. **Employment sub-committee** – VR

ACTION: Clerk to send all playground documentation to Mr Rose for his consideration as a project member.

6. **To consider and approve** the minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2024. The minutes were approved and signed.
7. **Verbal reports** from Council members and Clerk.
 - i. **End of year audit procedures** - The clerk explained a notice of the date for the exercise of public rights had been published on the website today and the period of inspection of accounts would be open to anyone with an interest from 10th June to 19th July. If residents would like to see the accounts or any related documents, please contact the clerk at enquiries@newenden-pc.gov.uk to make an appointment in office hours, Monday to Wednesday.

- ii. **Council communications protocol** – Cllr Wheeler explained he would like all council business to be conducted through the official .gov.uk emails of councillors and clerk. Residents should direct everything through the enquiries@newenden-pc.gov.uk email and the clerk will forward on to councillors as appropriate. Nothing will be on Whats App All agreed. Current email service is due for renewal at end of month so now a good time to look at other options.

ACTION: Clerk to look at alternative email provider options and check with Ashford BC.

8. **Fundraising event – 29th June 2024** – Tavia Gethin will host a fundraiser for the new playground at Lossenham Manor on 29th June. To support the event, DW proposed the Council provides the cakes for the event at a cost of £160-180. This was seconded by VR and all agreed. Council will be represented by VR.
9. **Accounts** - the following payments and receipts were noted and approved for the period 1st May to 6th June 2024.

Payments	VAT £	Total £
Website hosting for year		175.00
Clerk salary – May including increase from 01/04		332.08
Grass cutting – April / May		724.00
Reimbursement for printing for annual parish meeting		46.00
Annual subscription to KALC and NALC		175.45
Receipts		
Reimbursement from ABC for grass cutting contract 23-24		2000.00

10. Planning

PA/2024/0414 - The Cricket Ground, Lossenham Lane, Newenden – Lawful Development Certificate (Proposed) for the installation of permanent netted fencing.

The clerk explained that as this is an application for a lawful development certificate, comments cannot be made as they are for a full planning application. Some residents have been frustrated by this.

PA/2024/0996 – a new application received today, for The Old Granary, Lossenham Lane.

ACTION: JT to assess ahead of the consultation deadline.

11. **Matters for consideration** as an agenda item for the next meeting on 2nd July 2024.

The following items were suggested. Quarterly budget review, risk management, privacy and data protection policies for review. Risk assessment for rounders on the sports field. Review of Lossenham Manor fundraiser. Gigaclear network.

ACTION: JT to contact Gigaclear for info to go on the board.

12. Public Questions

- Does the new lease allow for the playarea to be made bigger? No, it's a stop gap until the new equipment is agreed.
- What has been done to the bridge? Nothing yet, roadworks the other day were looking at traffic lights. VR explained she has spoken to KCC about the corners needing protection before they mend the bridge as it will just get hit again.

13. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 2nd July at 7.30pm

Signed: _____ **Chairman**

Date: _____