

## **NEWENDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in St Peters church on 7 November 2023 at 7.30 pm**

#### **Present:**

##### **Councillors**

Mr D Wheeler (chairman)  
Mrs N Holland  
Mrs V Robertson  
Mr A Garman  
Mrs T Gethin

##### **In attendance**

Ashford Borough Councillor Mrs K Walder

##### **Clerk**

Mr J Leeves (retiring)  
Mrs L Dobson (new to post and took the minutes)

16 members of the public

#### **Apologies for absence**

1. None received.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

2. None.

#### **Minutes of the meeting on 5 September 2023**

3. The minutes of the meeting on 5 September having been circulated were approved as a true record and signed.

#### **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 5 September 2023**

4. None.

#### **Financial statement for 1 November 2023**

5. The Clerk outlined the financial statement to 7<sup>th</sup> November. The Council has now received the second half of the precept for the current financial year (£5k) and after anticipated expenditure this month balance will close as expected (£18,999.03). The Clerk explained there is one income matter outstanding. Despite invoicing, Ashford Borough Council (ABC) is yet to make its agreed £2k contribution for grass cutting. **ACTION: Councillor Walder kindly agreed to follow up with James Laidlaw at ABC.**

The Chairman explained he had been sent an invoice for the election by Ashford Borough Council. This is much higher than expected and ABC has been asked to recalculate based on an uncontested election.

Invoices for payment:

| Recipient                     | VAT £ | Total £ |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Scott Pemberton Grass cutting |       | £130.00 |
| Scott Pemberton Grass cutting |       | £260.00 |
| Newenden PCC use of church    |       | £165.00 |

The invoices were noted and approved.

### **Call for sites from Ashford Borough Council: closes 20 November.**

6. Councillor Walder, Ashford Borough Council, explained that the current local plan (adopted in 2019) is being revised. It is strongly recommended that the village gets involved and has a voice, either via the PC or other means. ABC is working on a general design code to help meet future targets for new developments, this will include reviewing sustainability criteria following the increase in people working from home following the pandemic.

The current call for sites is for landowners and closes 20 November. Any landowner within the PC boundary can offer sites.

A public consultation will take place on the design code and Newenden should make every effort to be involved. As a village in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) it would be helpful to look at the new town plan for Tenterden which includes a new design code for an AONB area.

Councillor Walder undertook to keep the PC informed of upcoming dates and meetings and to represent village interests with a loud and competent voice throughout the process.

### **Planning**

7. **Upway, Rye Road: PA/2023/1905** – Councillor Holland explained this was an application for a single storey annexe and new sewage treatment plant. Councillors thought this application was reasonable and had no objections.

### **Frogs Hill Tree Preservation Order work on trees: Application OTH/2023/1868**

Councillor Holland explained the application was to pollard one lime tree and take down another due to safety concerns. Councillors had already discussed and responded. Given the location and the role of the trees in the landscape, Councillors requested that if possible no trees should be taken down but instead work done to make them safe through pollarding.

### **Highways**

10. Councillor Robertson reported that she has written to KCC highways, had a very helpful exchange and will be meeting the KCC Highways officer on Friday. She will report the outcome to the next meeting.

Newenden bridge – Professor Delaney, from Historic England, has explained to Councillor Robertson that Historic England has passed everything to KCC so can't do anything more but are very concerned about the bridge. There has been no stress test for 30years.

**ACTION: Councillor Robertson will follow up with KCC.**

Flooding – Councillor Robertson reported she contacted KCC highways to ask for drain clearance before the storm. The full reply is on NPC Facebook page. It explains the county

is divided into main network areas cleaned every year and minor network areas cleaned every 3 years – Newenden is considered a minor network but should be done by the end of December. Councillor Walder suggested Cllr Robertson speak to Mike Hill at KCC and Councillors agreed to also speak to the landowner of the woods.

**ACTION: Cllr Robertson to follow up with Mike Hill, KCC and Cllr Holland to speak to landowner.**

The Clerk asked if the road salt had been delivered yet. No one thought it had.

**ACTION: Clerk to follow up?** [DN: John not sure if this is something you have ordered or if it is automatically sent?]

### **Any other Business**

The Chairman said the PC will organise and fund a Christmas celebration for the village this year as there have been no fireworks. It will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 5pm. There will be entertainment, a village secret santa, Christmas tree decoration money will go to a good cause. The PC would be very grateful for volunteers to help organise.

Question from member of the public – any update on the play park? Cllr Holland has now received a couple of designs / quotes. Work to find grant funding will now begin but it should be noted that the lease with the Selmes Trust needs to be put on a more formal footing before funding can be secured.

Cllr Roberston is due to undertake online safeguarding training shortly.

A resident reported he had recently experienced a fatal dog attack on his sheep and requested that all residents and visitors keep dogs under control.

### **Date of next meeting**

18. The next meeting will be on 5 December and will be to set the precept for the 2024-25 financial year. The Parish Council will need to submit the precept requirement by 5th January 2024.

### **Meeting closed 8.32pm**

Chairman.....  
Date.....