

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Newington Village Hall, Monday January 11th 2016 at 7pm.

01.16 Councillors Present: Mrs S Coleman – Madam Chairman, K Golding, Mrs S Smith, R Thornby and J Neale.

In Attendance: SDC Ward Cllr D Godfrey, one member of the public and N Fursdon the Parish Clerk.

02.16 Apologies for Absence – KCC Ward Cllr Mrs. S Carey and PCSO D Garland.

03.16 To declare any interests – There was no interests declared.

04.16 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday November 9th 2015

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday November 9th 2015, had been circulated and published on the Parish Council website, were found to be correct and signed and dated by the Chairman.

05.16 Open Public Session – The member of the public present did not wish to speak.

- **Flood Alleviation Ditch** – The member of the public said that although the flood alleviation ditch has been cleared out, it stops at the footpath at the farmer's yard. It does not reach the stream, so the water backs up.
 - Cllr Golding explained that the Parish Council cleaned out the part of the alleviation ditch that the Parish Council are responsible for. The Parish Council cannot go onto someone else's land and clean the ditch, as it is their responsibility. For the Parish Council to clean the ditch that runs along the back of the properties, we had to get permission from the MOD and have a risk assessment in place, before the land could be entered. Also we were not allowed to damage the field in anyway.
 - It was suggested that the Clerk contact the Environment Agency on the matter.
- The member of the public said that someone from the Environment Agency comes quite often to check things but they never get out, just look from their vehicle, sometimes even driving up footpaths which is causing a mess.
 - The Clerk will write to the Environment Agency.
- **SEWAGE** – The member of the public mentioned about the problem with the sewage pipe from Lyminge.
 - Cllr Golding said that Southern Water are aware of the problem, and are sending tankers there regularly to deal with the matter. He was not sure what the long term solution was.
 - The Clerk to write to Southern Water, asking what their intensions were for a long term solution.
- **HGV FLY PARKING** – The member of public mentioned about the amount of lorries still fly parking. There had been instances when the entrance to the allotments had been blocked due to a lorry being parked.
 - SDC Cllr D Godfrey commented that there has been a lot of lorries that have been ticketed.

06.16 Report from SDC Cllr D Godfrey

- **PHONE NUMBER** – He had not been able to obtain a phone number to report illegally parked HGV lorries yet, but will pursue the matter.
- **MISLEADING / AWKWARD WEBSITE** – He had reported that the website was proving to be misleading and awkward to use. The matter is being investigated, in fact some of the website is being re-developed now.
- **HIGHWAYS ENGLAND** – Highways England are currently holding a consultation to try to improve the Operation Stack situation.
- **LITTER BIN CRETE ROAD WEST** – The litter bin in Crete Road West will be replaced and possibly a second new litter bin may be allocated.
- **AIR POLLUTION** – He had not yet pursued this matter. - Cllr Golding said to contact Dave Johnson of Eurotunnel on the matter.
- **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SETTELMENT** – The amount of money that Central Government gives to the District Councils, will be even less this year and will end completely soon.
- Unliterary Council, similar to Medway.

07.16 Report from KCC Ward Cllr Mrs S Carey

The KCC Cllr was unable to attend the meeting tonight. The Clerk said he had not received a report, but SDC Cllr D Godfrey said that she had sent a report, he gave his computer tablet to Madam Chairman and she read the report out to the Council.

(Post meeting, the Clerk found that he had received the report, it had gone to his other e-mail address, and printed copy of the report is with these minutes in the minute book, and a copy is appendix 1 to these minutes)

The KCC Cllr also mentioned in the e-mail.

- **SCHOOL BUS** – If the school bus is full on a regular basis, could someone provide her with more details, like dates and times, also could it be made clear, if the bus was a public service or a dedicated bus for schoolchildren only? The she can follow the matter up.

08.16 Report from KCC Warden – No report was available.

09.16 Report from PCSO – The PCSO was unable to attend but did send Madam Chairman an e-mail –

Generally the area is quite quiet at the moment.

With regards to Immigrants, if you feel insecure or threatened, you should dial 999, the Police must respond to your call. Even if you do not feel insecure or threatened you should call 101, again the Police have to respond.

10.16 King George V Playing Fields

10.16a Outdoor gym / youth shelter – The Clerk suggested that this be carried to the next meeting, as he had not been able to find any costs, only information on the equipment. The Cllrs agreed.

10.16b Moles – The Cllrs decided that this matter should monitored.

11.16 Planning

11.16a The Planning decisions from the agenda were noted.

11.16b Y15/1270/SH - Little Dane Farm Elvington Lane Hawkinge CT18 7AD

Erection of a single storey extension with rooms in the roof space together with loft conversion to existing bungalow and other external alterations, and erection of a detached garage.

Cllr Neale had brought his laptop, and the Cllrs viewed a video provided by the owners of the neighbouring property, which shows the amount of runoff from the applicant's site, as it is now, when it rains hard, which in turn floods their property. The video was shot on January 5th 2016.

All the Cllrs decided to Strongly Object to the application –

The new application did not solve any of the problems highlighted in the first application –

The application is over 100% enlargement –

The application would almost certainly cause more frequent flooding to the neighbouring property.

The Clerk would do a report and send off to Shepway Planning.

12.16 Finance

12.16a Financial Statement – The financial statement to the end of December 2015 was agreed by the Council.

12.16b Cheque List – The cheque list was agreed and authorised by the Council.

12.16c Bank details – The Madam Chairperson said that this matter is progressing.

12.16d To discuss the 2016 – 2017 precept. – The Cllrs debated this matter in depth and all decided that the precept for 2016 -2017 should go up by 5%, due to the reduction in the amount that Shepway give the Parish Council. Therefore the 2015 – 2016 precept was £4,361.00, with a rise of 5% making the 2016 – 2017 precept £4,579.05.

13.16 Highways and public rights of way

13.16a Highways – There was no new items to report.

13.16b Public rights of way – The footpath by Eurotunnel needs attention.

14.16 Transparency Code funding applications –

The Clerk handed out some documents with different information on laptops and printers. The Cllrs agreed on a laptop, but wanted further information on printers. The Clerk will e-mail Cllr Golding further information.

15.16 KALC Community Awards Scheme 2016 – The Cllrs had no one to nominate.

16.16 Highways England – Managing freight vehicles through Kent – This is a consultation being held by Highways England to build a large permanent lorry holding area adjacent the M20 near M20 J11. Cllr Smith attended a consultation exhibition at Sellindge, and she gave documentation on the consultation to each Cllr. There is 2 options – option 1 called Stanford West is between Stanford and Sellindge, this has direct access from the M20 and also back onto the M20, this also includes an extension for approx. 1,000 behind Stop 24 services and a bridge over the motorway to the other part. Option 2 is called Junction 11 North, where lorries will go off the M20 at junction 11, the up Stone Street, to the site which is on the right, between Stanford and Postling. As well as the two sites there are four alternative for each site:
Alternative 1 – use the site only during Operation Stack.
Alternative 2 – use during Operation Stack and to avoid Dover TAP or Eurochannel queuing on the motorway
Alternative 3 – As alternative 2 plus provide overnight parking to avoid the flyparking that takes place across our district by lorries.
Alternative 4 – As 3 plus a full Motorway Service area.
The Cllrs debated the matter in depth, and by a majority decided to support Option 1 Stanford West and alternative 3.
The Cllrs stated that although this will not totally solve Operation Stack, but will significantly help in reducing it. Also there would be enough off road parking to move flyparking HGVs on.

17.16 KALC AGM – Two Councillors had attended this, but there was no matters to report affecting the Parish.

18.16 DRAFT SHEPWAY CHARTER – Councillors decided there was no need to respond.

19.16 FLYTIPPING IN NEWINGTON

Madam Chairman reported on the recent case of flytipping in Newington. It had been proven from some of the flytipped material, that the flytipped material had originated from the party that had hired the village hall. Shepway District Council are mainly investigating the matter, working with the Police.

20.16 CORRESPONDENCE - All correspondence was circulated to the Cllrs – the correspondence was noted.

21.16 ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Eurotunnel entrance expansion work – Cllr Smith commented that the work where the Eurotunnel entrance expansion is, they have taken down trees, so now the site is in full view of the A20. Cllr Golding said that they were possibly classified as scrub, so would be removed. But there should be some type of barrier. The Clerk was asked to look up the planning application.

Street Lights at Village entrance – Cllr Thornby mentioned that the street lights at the Village entrance were now being turned off. He felt it was important to have them on, the other Cllrs agreed. The Clerk to contact KCC Highways requesting the lights are left on for road safety.

Post by War Memorial – Cllr Thornby mentioned that one of the posts at the War Memorial is damaged and needs replacing. Cllr Golding said he would get a quote for the job.

22.16 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – March 7th 2016.

23.16 MEETING CLOSED – 9.30pm (21.30).

APPENDIX 1 – KCC COUNCILLORS REPORT

Report to Newington Parish Council meeting 11 January 2016

Thank you to those who responded to the budget consultation where there was broad support for raising the council tax by 1.99% which is the maximum allowed before a referendum must be held. We then had the Government's autumn statement on 25 November but we had to wait till just before Christmas for the details of what this meant for councils. It was not good news. KCC faces a reduction of 34% or £58m in our government grant which was worse than our most pessimistic estimate. We had been planning on savings of around £80m for 2016/17 but our budget gap is now £95m. As our budget for 2016/17 has to be published this week to meet legal deadlines there is no time to put in place extra measures to achieve these savings and we will be taking money from reserves. Our reserves are among the lowest of any county council and are mostly ringfenced for specific purposes such as repaying PFI loans on school buildings or replacing equipment so the reserves will have to be replenished for 2017/18 which means even more savings that year on top of further reductions in our government grant.

The Government also announced that councils responsible for social services may raise another 2% of council tax above the referendum limit.

So, if agreed at the budget meeting on 11 February, there will be a 1.99% increase on the KCC element of our council tax. For a band C property this means a rise from £966.88 to £988.24. This would raise £11m towards spending demands across all council services. We will then also be asked to agree a further 2% increase specifically for demand and cost pressures within adult social care. This would increase the band C rate to £1,007.60 and raise a further £11m specifically for adult social care.

It is a difficult situation made worse by the lack of notice and our government funding will continue to reduce for the next two years as part of the government's efforts to balance the nation's finances.

The government has however found £250m to fund a lorry holding area in nearby Stanford and I have covered this in the December issue of Newington News. There are two alternative sites and four options for each site:

Alternative 1 – use the site only during Operation Stack.

Alternative 2 – use during Operation Stack and to avoid TAP (when traffic is slowed on the A20 approaching Dover and which then backs the traffic up as far as Folkestone) which now happens several times a week.

Alternative 3 – As alternative 2 plus provide overnight parking to avoid the flyparking that takes place across our district by lorries.

Alternative 4 – As 3 plus a full Motorway Service area.

Site 1 at Stanford West would have access from a slip road on the M20 and lorries could both enter and leave the site without using local roads. It is also less prominent visually and makes use of the existing facilities at the Stop 24 site (it would be on both sides of the M20). Site 2 at Junction 11 North would bring the lorries off the motorway at the existing Junction 11 slip road and they would turn left onto the B2068 (Stone Street going to Canterbury). They would then travel a short way along this road to a new roundabout which would allow them to turn right into the site.

Do please respond to the consultation. I do not want either site as parking the lorries deals with the symptom not the problem and it seems bizarre that we funnel so much HGV traffic through the bottleneck of the M20 when other ports could take more (a surcharge for Dover and Eurotunnel would price away demand). However, the government appears very determined to have a lorry park and if we must have one then site 1, Stanford West is the 'least bad' option. If we must have it then it should be used to deal with Stack, TAP and overnight lorry parking (alternative 3) but a full motorway service area is unwelcome as it would add to the noise and light pollution as well as taking up land that could otherwise park lorries.

Please make your response to the Highways England consultation by 25 January.

I expect a further consultation in March 2016 with detailed plans of the preferred site and the Environmental Impact Assessment. Decisions about the lorry holding area will be made by the Secretary of State for Transport using his powers in the Highways Act and he needs no permission from either Shepway District Council or Kent County Council.

To end on a positive note I am pleased to report that the Ronald Cruickshanks Foundation has awarded a £750 grant to St Nicholas church in Newington. I regularly ask the charity for its support and it has made an annual donation for over ten years.

Susan Carey
Member, Elham Valley
Kent County Council