



**NEWINGTON
ANNUAL
PARISH MEETING
2016**

Minutes of the Newington Annual Parish Meeting, held April 11th 2016

NEWINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Monday April 11th 2016 in Newington Village Hall at 7pm.

Those present.

Parish Councillors – Mrs S Coleman (Madam Chairman), Mrs S Smith, Mr K Golding, Mr J Neale.

In attendance – KCC Councillor Mrs S Carey, SDC Councillor Mr D Godfrey, one resident from the Parish and the Parish Council Clerk – Mr N Fursdon.

Apologies – Parish Councillor Mr R Thornby and Mr C Davies.

Minutes of the 2015 Newington Annual Parish Meeting.

The Minutes of the 2015 Newington Annual Parish Meeting were not present, the Parish Clerk said he could not find any trace of them. It was agreed that the current Parish Clerk was not in post at the time of the 2015 APM, and that the previous Parish Clerk was unwell at that time.

End of year Finance Statement (unaudited)

The Parish Clerk presented the end of year Finance Statement, which showed that the Parish Council carried forward £3,783.67 slightly less than last year. The end of year finance statement was agreed.

Presentations

Kent County Council, Elham Valley Ward, Councillor Mrs S Carey's Report.

Councillor Carey handed out copies of her report to all present, (a copy of the full report is on page 4 Appendix 1). Councillor Carey read through her report and some of the highlights were.

Key issues for KCC – Social Care now accounts for half of KCC spending.
Continuing large reductions in grant from Central Government.
Increase in landfill tax.

Good news - Continued support for the economy of East Kent.
£5.1m for sea defences and utilities at the Folkestone seafront development.
Joint £11.2m investment with central government for super-fast broadband.

Local issues - The major issue for the Elham Valley division is the possible lorry holding area at Stanford.
There is also a proposal to extract sand North of M20 Junction 11.

- A resident from the village asked, when will the lorry holding area be decided.
- Cllr Carey replied – The application is not decided by KCC or SDC, but by the Secretary and Vice – Secretary of State for Transport.
- The resident asked – Is it possible that other options will be considered.
- Cllr Carey replied – Highways England have said that they would.
- The resident said – That the amount of litter between Longport and the bridges has reduced, which is a good.
- Cllr Carey replied – That must be Eurotunnel that have done that.
- The resident reported – That there is still lorries parking up on the hard shoulder on the slip road into Eurotunnel.
- Cllr Carey replied – That when this happens Highways England should be informed.

Madam Chairman thanked KCC Cllr Carey for her report.

The Elham Valley Line Trust Report – Cllr K Golding (a copy of the full report is on page 7 Appendix 2)

The Elham Valley Line Trust had a very successful year in 2015. Some of the highlights included

- The first Military day, which went very well.
- The Apple Press weekend was very successful.
- The two new 'Spooky' events went so well, people wanted to book for this year.
- Despite the dismal weather the Christmas Fayre was very successful.
- A very successful Fun Day, which raised £1,000 for the Alzheimer's Society.
- Continued with school visits, with the children enjoying outside classes and pond dipping.
- Unfortunately the Summer Fayre was a bit of a write off, due to Operation Stack and the War and Peace at Westenhanger.
- There is a small team of volunteers, but more volunteers would be most welcome.

Madam Chairman thanked Cllr Golding for the Elham Valley Line Trust report.

Newington Gardeners' Association Report

The Mr Coleman the Show Secretary gave the report for the Newington Gardeners' Association, which had a very successful year.

- The Newington Gardeners' Association has 60 members, who meet once a month in the Village Hall.
- Each year the club chooses a charity to support, last year it was the Air Ambulance.
- The Newington Gardeners' Association have a stall each year at the Newington Village Fete.
- Each year there is a Garden Party in the summer and the Christmas Social and Barn Dance.
- The Newington Gardeners' Association has 2 shows a year, a Spring Show and a Summer Show.
- There are also at least 2 outing planned each year.
- The Newington Gardeners' Association has another busy year planned for 2016.

Madam Chairman thanked the Show Secretary for the Newington Gardeners' Association report.

Police – There was no report from the Police.

KCC Community Warden – There was no report from the KCC Community Warden.

Madam Chairman added that the KCC Community Warden has been ill in hospital for quite a period of time, and has only just come out. He should be soon up and about.

Newington Village Hall – (Full copy of the report is on page 9 Appendix 3)

Madam Chairman read the report from the Newington Village Hall Committee.

- Village Hall lettings are doing well, with the Village Hall being used on most days.
- Fundraising was quite good, however it was a shame that the Easter and Halloween events were cancelled, due to lack of ticket sales.
- Kitchen and Car Park. It was planned to refurbish the kitchen and car park last year, but we were unable to, but these should be done soon.
- A new fence has recently been erected near the entrance to the Village Hall, to stop cars from parking on the grass area.

Shepway District Councillor, North Downs East Ward, D Godfrey report.

Councillor Godfrey gave a verbal report.

- He feels that he is the luckiest one of the three Councillors in the North Downs East Ward, as he has the Parish of Newington, where he always enjoys attending meetings.
- He mentioned the Ward Plans that had been launched at the beginning of the year. However there had not been much feedback from the Parishes on this matter.
- He mentioned that he was also a Hawkinge Town Councillor, who had been successful in getting a grant from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative, for purchasing and installing outdoor gym equipment.
- He is looking forward to another interesting year.

Newington Parish Council

Madam Chairman gave the Newington Parish Council report.

She said that Newington Parish Council have had a very busy year, there was the continuing issues with potholes, some of which were reported back in 2014, and still have not been done, despite them having white lines around them. There had been cases of Fly Tipping, and Fly Parking by HGV's is an ongoing problem. She thanked the Parish Councillors, SDC Councillor and KCC Councillor for all their work through the year.

Public Forum

- The amount of lorries coming out of the Eurotunnel reject lane is becoming vast.
- There is no signage on the A20 for the reject road.
- There needs to be a high fence over the bridge, to stop lorry drivers throwing their rubbish over.

Next meeting the Parish Council AGM on Monday May 9th 2016

Madam Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and the meeting closed at 8.45pm (20.45)

Appendix 1 – Report from KCC Councillor S Carey

Report to the Annual Meeting of Newington Parish Council 11 April 2016 for Kent County Council by Susan Carey

Key issues for the County Council in 2015/16

- **Rising demand for social care (adults and children) – this now accounts for over half our spending**
- **Continuing large reductions in our grant from central government – £58m less for 2016/17**
- **Increase in landfill waste from households (Landfill waste tax has risen to £84.40 a tonne)**

Some good news

- **Continued support for the economy in East Kent through loans to businesses to retain or expand the number of jobs**
- **£5.1m for enabling works (sea defences and utilities) for the Folkestone Seafront development**
- **A joint £11.2m investment with the Government to bring access to superfast broadband network to more Kent homes and businesses**

Local issues:

The major issue to affect my Elham Valley division over the last year has been the proposal by Highways England to build a lorry holding area near Stanford. This is being done powers under the Highways Act 1980 and does not require permission from either the County Council or the District Council. I am opposed to both options but believe the Stanford West site is the 'least bad' site.

There is also a proposal to extract sand north of Junction 11 and I have supported Postling and Stanford Parish councils in their objections to this.

I have helped individual constituents with school transport and school appeals and highway problems.

Grants

Each KCC councillor is able to allocate grants and in 2015/16 I supported the following projects:

£10,000 to Hawkinge Town Council towards the acquisition of land and planning costs for the Community Centre

£3,610 to Kent Highways for a replacement of the gateway to Lyminge village (Folkestone end)

£1,500 to Shepway District Council for a store for the equipment used in community clean ups and green gym activities

£1,000 to St Peter & St Paul's church in Saltwood towards the repair of the bell tower

£1,000 to Elham Village Hall towards the cost of a new cooker

£1,000 to Evington village hall, Elmsted towards the cost of disabled toilets

£500 to Lyminge Bowls Club towards the cost of works to their west bank

£500 to Funding for All to help local groups find grants (they helped St Nicholas church in Newington)

£500 to the National Coastwatch Institute in Folkestone for external renovations to their watchhouse

£500 to Hawkinge Brownies for equipment

In addition I successfully applied for a £750 grant to St Nicholas church in Newington for their new kitchen and chairs project from the Ronald Cruickshank Charity.

I am always looking for good projects to support so I can allocate the funds across my Elham Valley division. Projects I have supported in Newington in the past include the steel gates and the play area at the Elham Valley Line Trust, the play area in the George V playing fields and the village hall.

Community involvement

I write a monthly report in Newington News and attend Newington parish council meetings whenever I can. I value the work of Newington parish council and the individual councillors and particularly Cllr Sue Smith who joined me in cleaning the signs and cutting back vegetation at the entrance to the village.

I also took a stand for KCC at the Newington annual fete in June and have attended events to support St Nicholas' church.

My work for Kent

At County Council I have a special responsibility for finance and am on the following public committees:

- County Council (8 meetings 100% attendance)
- Governor Appointments Panel (10 meetings 90% attendance)
- Growth Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee (7 meetings 100% attendance)
- Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee (vice chairman) (7 meetings 100% attendance)
- Property Sub-committee (7 meetings, 100% attendance)
- Shepway Joint Transportation Board – I was chairman for 2015/16 and the chairmanship alternates with the District Council. (4 meetings 100% attendance)

I also have the following internal meetings:

- Project Advisory Group which appraises capital projects (chairman)
- Procurement Board (vice chairman)
- Treasury Management Advisory Group (vice chairman)

I also serve on the following bodies in my capacity as a county councillor:

- Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority
- Pension Board (chairman)
- Sir John Williams Charity (Elham)
- The Robert Thompson Charities (Saltwood)

The year ahead

The County Council continues to face financial challenges for at least the next two years and must continue to find ways to reduce demand for services and their cost. Your County Council will continue to make the case for the infrastructure projects that Kent needs such as the Lower Thames Crossing and more resources for our road network.

Elections for the County Council take place in just over a year on 04 May 2017 and will be on the new boundaries with a reduction in county councillors from 84 to 81 and a more equalised number of electors to councillors (the average is 13,490 and Elham Valley was 15,636 at the last county election). Newington parish will stay as part of Elham Valley but Saltwood and Lympe parishes will be removed which will leave Elham valley at 1% above the new average number of electors.



Sprucing up the Newington village sign



At the Newington fete with David Godfrey

The Elham Valley Line Trust

2015 was another very successful year for the Trust.

Paying visitor numbers were slightly down on the previous year, but we are finding more people are visiting just the crafters in the Barn and the tea room, which continues to increase its income.

We had a very busy year, some of the highlights include

A new Military day, which proved very successful and due to popular demand will this year be extended to a whole weekend;

Another Apple Pressing weekend, which was hugely successful, with over 68 gallons of apple juice produced and yet again we sold out.

Two new Spooky evenings, which proved so popular we struggled to get everyone around the site. In fact, it was so successful, people tried to immediately book tickets for this year's event and at the time we hadn't even decided whether we were going to do it again, but we have now and of course it will be bigger and better.

The year was again finished off with the ever popular Xmas Fayre which despite some dismal weather, again set records; The most takings in the tea room in one day mainly achieved by serving almost 120 meals in the day, and the most train rides in one day at 175.

We also held a very successful fun day in the summer, which raised over £1000 for the Alzheimer's Society and allowed us to remember George Wright who founded the Trust and sadly passed away nearly 3 years ago having suffered from Alzheimer's for several years.

We also continued with school visits with groups of school children taking part in outdoor art classes, pond dipping and catching and identifying insects.

Unfortunately, it wasn't all highlights, the Summer Fayre weekend was probably best described as a disaster, largely due to operation stack and compounded by the War and Peace event at the racecourse, which effectively caused gridlock around the area and meant we saw very few visitors, although some were determined, parking up at Tesco's and walking. We just felt sorry for the determined stall holders who bravely supported us and stood around for most of the weekend with very little reward.

We had a slightly quieter winter mainly because it was shorter due to the early Easter this year, but we haven't stood still.

We have rescued and displayed the Rood screen which was originally in St Martins Church much to the satisfaction of the Brockman Family Trust and at the same time we have updated some of our display cabinets.

The model of the Eurotunnel terminal has had a major update with all the platforms being lifted and realigned with new track, which appears to have significantly improved the layout's reliability and reduced the amount of time needed to keep it running each week.

We have constructed some new paths around the site and extended our dipping pond and we have also been instrumental in the preparation of a new trail around the Eurotunnel owned land adjacent to the Trust, complete with information boards designed and produced by craftsmen from the Barn.

I said last year that we had been donated a railway coach which was once used on the Elham Valley Line, and we planned to dismantle it, transport it to site and rebuild on the top of the embankment to use a classroom for school visits and art classes. We had received a lot of support for this, not least from the local parishioners and we had done a lot of work on applying for grants to enable this to go ahead.

Unfortunately, we received some bad news this week, when an expert in restoring similar coaches informed us that it was in worse condition than everyone had thought and it was not practical to save it. However, we have not given up on the concept and we are looking at other options to provide a similar facility.

Some of you will have seen the chaff cutter slowly rising from the ashes, in the car park. This has not been as quick as we would like and some of the other jobs we hoped to complete, such as the work on the tunnel construction locos and manrider has also seen very slow progress.

Unfortunately, this all comes down to the one thing. A small group of volunteers can only do so much.

It was very hard on all the volunteers last year, but over the winter we have managed to pick up a handful of volunteers who have really helped ease the pressure, and we have already had a very successful Easter weekend.

But, as always we could use more volunteers and if anyone feels they can contribute anything, however small, please don't hesitate to come and see me or speak to one of the team when we are open.

Thank you for listening.

Chairman's Report

Hall Lettings

2015 was another good year for the Hall. Hiring's remain very busy and the Hall is used on most days. Thanks to Jenny Laslett for keeping the diary filled with bookings, organizing the keys and booking paperwork and collecting payments.

Fundraising

The Fundraising events saw the cancellation of the Easter and Halloween Parties due to low ticket sales – both these events have run for many years. The Halloween Parties in particular have always been very popular but required a significant effort to prepare and clear away after the event. I think all those involved were sad to see this year's party cancelled but also slightly relieved too. Our Summer Fete was a big success again this year. As always thanks must go to Karen and Kirsty for the organising and to all those that are involved on the day to set-up and man the stalls and clear-up after the event.

Kitchen & Car Park

Last year I said we were hoping to upgrade the kitchen and re-surface our car park. Well, we still are. Hopefully, this year both these jobs will get completed.

Fence

We have had a small fence put up to stop people parking on the grass at the front of the Hall, something that was discussed many times, the grass is now looking much better already.

Storage Container

Thanks to Bob Laslett for organising the supply and installation of a new storage container and thanks to everyone that helped with the removal and reinstatement of all the Fete equipment.

Thanks

Finally thanks to all the Committee for their continued support.