

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Newington Parish Council held at Newington Village Hall, Monday May 9th 2016 at 7pm.

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

In Attendance: Guest Mr J Keefe of Eurotunnel, SDC Ward Cllr D Godfrey, two members of the public and N Fursdon the Parish Clerk.

48.16 Apologies for Absence – KCC Ward Cllr Mrs. S Carey.

49.16 Election of Chairman for the coming year

Cllr Mrs S Coleman was nominated by Cllr K Golding and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Smith, with Cllrs R Thornby and J Neale both agreeing.

Cllr Mrs S Coleman accepted, therefore Cllr Mrs S Coleman is Madame Chairman for the coming year.

50.16 Election of Vice – Chairman for the coming year

Cllr K Golding was nominated by Cllr J Neale and seconded by Cllr R Thornby, with Cllrs Mrs S Smith and Mrs S Coleman both agreeing.

Cllr K Golding accepted, therefore Cllr K Golding is Vice – Chairman for the coming year.

51.16 Representatives to outside Committees

KALC Shepway Committee Cllr Mrs S Coleman and Cllr J Neale

Shepway Planning user group Cllr Mrs S Smith and Cllr J Neale

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

53.16 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday March 8th 2016

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday March 8th 2016, had been circulated and published on the Parish Council website, were found to be correct but not signed at this time.

54.16 Eurotunnel Q&A Session

Mr J Keefe, Director of Public Affairs for Eurotunnel.

- Mr Keefe gave an overview of what has been happening at Eurotunnel over the last year Eurotunnel had been in the News a lot over the last year, due to migrant problems and the My Ferry Line strike, which had caused Operation Stack in this country and a similar type of problem over in France.
- Eurotunnel has spent £40M on security of the Eurotunnel site in France. This was spent on both normal types of security upgrades and the complete levelling of the old drainage system, leaving the area flat with a series of deep dykes, which prove very effective in stopping people.
- There have been no problems so far this year, except for the odd broken down train.
- The migrants are still there, but now are better Policed and catered for.
- A lot of money has been spent at the Eurotunnel site in France, to provide extra secure parking for HGV vehicles.
- Here at Eurotunnel an extra 200 spaces have been provided on the entrance slip road.
- The problem with this, is sometimes lorries have to be rejected, due to reasons like, they have a dangerous cargo, that can't go through the tunnel, some have the wrong papers and some should have made their way to Dover docks, but ended up there by mistake. Another group are drivers of cars, that have somehow found their selves in the wrong lane and now in the wrong place. These are about 40 or 50 a day, and with new signs that will soon be in place, this should hopefully be reduced.
- Cllr Neale said that there is a dangerous problem with some of the lorries turning right, and not turning left like they should do.

Eurotunnel Q & A (cont).

- Mr Keefe said that there are traffic signs in place, although at present they are temporary, there are larger permanent ones due to be installed soon.
- Madame Chairman asked if the area was monitored.
- Mr Keefe said it was not possible to monitor that area, but Eurotunnel are very aware of the problem and are looking into ways of solving the problem.
- Cllr Golding asked if traffic lights could be used at the site.
- Mr Keefe said that Kent Highways were very reluctant to having traffic lights at this point, because of the lie of the road. But he would raise the matter again with Kent Highways.
- Cllr Golding said that most Cllrs have had phone calls from concerned residents on the matter.
All the cllrs nodded in agreement.
- Cllr Golding said there have been a lot of concerns, about the amount of light pollution that is happening to the village now, since the new widening of the entrance slip road. Before the slip road was widened, all the traffic was behind a grass covered bund, to achieve the widening, the bund had to be removed, so now the traffic is in full view of the village.
- A village resident said that the headlights are shining right across the fields to the village.
- Mr Keefe said that is was a problem that Eurotunnel had noticed. The engineers have been looking into the matter, one idea is to erect a sound proof fence along the edge of the slip road, this will then be landscaped the village side of the fence, so foliage will cover the fence on the village side. He apologised for the problem which was not foreseen, and should be addressed by the next winter.
- A village resident asked if something could be done, to stop the lorry drivers sounding their horns in the early hours of the morning. After all it is against the law.
- Mr Keefe said that hopefully the sound proof fence should help with that problem, but he would look into the matter anyway.
- Cllr Golding mentioned that down near the Beachborough roundabout, a lot of foliage had been removed.
- Mr Keefe agreed that some scrub had been removed in that area, he said he would look into the matter. He added that a new hedge was being planted along the boundary in the Frogholt area, in November. This should help stop some light pollution to Frogholt and stop a lot of the litter being blown over to Frogholt.
- Cllr Golding said that during the work on the slip road widening, a vast amount of contractor vehicles were parked on the grass verge and the footpath along the A20. The grass verge has been ruined in places and also the tarmac footpath has been destroyed in places.
- Mr Keefe said he would look into the matter, it was awkward not knowing which contractors were involved with the damage.
- A village resident said that a 'Bromley lorry' had done a lot of the damage to the tarmac footpath. He had spoken to the driver, who had said that it would all be repaired when all the work had been completed. But it was not.
- Mr Keefe thanked the member of the public for the information, which he had noted.
- Cllr Golding said there was concern from residents, that lorries queuing on the bridge. The drivers seem to have an unpleasant habit of throwing their rubbish out of their cabs an over the side of the bridge, causing a lot of unpleasant littering on the A20.
- Cllr Mrs S Smith said that if the fence on the bridge was made higher, higher than cab roof level, she would have thought, that would solve the problem.
- Mr Keefe, said that he apologised for the unpleasant problem, and will look into the matter. He added that Eurotunnel are not at all happy with the amount of rubbish being thrown out by drivers. They have contacted all the haulage companies, to try and get some education to the drivers on this matter.
- Cllr Golding mentioned the open trench, behind the bus stop, why has it not been filled in.
- Mr Keefe said he would look into the matter. He cannot see any reason why is has not been filled in.

Eurotunnel Q & A (cont).

- Cllr Golding asked if there were anyway of policing lorries on the entrance road, sometimes lorries are still backing up onto the motorway, where at times you have lorries stacking up both on the inside lane and the middle lane.
- Cllr Neale said he had noticed that at times, where on the entrance road there should be 5 lanes for lorries and 2 lanes for cars, but on occasions he has seen 7 lanes of lorries.
- Mr Keefe said that anything that happens on the Motorway, can only be policed by Kent Police. Hopefully things should get better soon, as there will be new better signage in place, which is being provided by Highways England.
Meanwhile Eurotunnel are buying 3 new trains, the first carriage has already arrived. Once these are in place, it should speed things up, greatly.
- Cllr Neale asked if there would ever be a time, that Eurotunnel only takes lorries.
- Mr Keefe replied that Eurotunnel cannot do that, also as it works out, lorries mainly use the service midweek and cars use the service at weekends and holiday periods. So it works well really.
- Cllr Thornby asked about air pollution levels. Are they monitored ?
- Mr Keefe replied that the air is always being monitored for pollution, and it is within the boundaries. The air has to be monitored.
- Cllr Thornby said that residents in the village are very concerned with the matter.
- A village resident asked who does the air pollution monitoring.
- Mr Keefe said that Eurotunnel does the Eurotunnel site and the tunnels, and Highways England does the Motorway. Mr Keefe said he would enquire what the pollution level is at the moment.
- Cllr Golding asked if Eurotunnel had any intent on pursuing Rail Freight.
- Mr Keefe said that Rail Freight was on track up until the problems of last year. Now they are trying to get it back on track. There is still a project to build a Rail Freight Terminal. Network Rail are carrying out a study on the Kent gauge, but it really needs to be up to euro standards. The study is due to be published in the Autumn.
- Cllr Golding asked if there was a date for the laying of the new electric cable from Sellindge to France.
- Mr Keefe said that both the British and French Governments were actively backing the project, in fact the E.U. is also backing it. The work at the Sellindge Converter Station is now done. The final route is still to be determined.
At present the project is owned by Eurotunnel and a company called Star. Now Star wants to pull out, therefore Eurotunnel will own the whole project. It is hoped the project will be completed by 2019.
- Cllr Golding enquired why drilling activity was currently taking place on land adjacent to the Eurotunnel site.
- Mr Keefe said that he was not sure, it could be something to do with surveying the site for the new converter station.
- Cllr Golding said that on occasions there seems to be tanoy announcements that seem to go out across the village.
- Mr Keefe said he would look into the matter.
- Madame Chairman asked if anything could be done to mitigate the sound of air brakes.
- Mr Keefe said that there was not anything that could be done about that matter.
- Cllr Golding asked about the current planning application that Eurotunnel have made.
- Mr Keefe said that the idea is a good one. The Flexi Plus service, is a service that speeds up journey to getting aboard their train. There is a slight premium for the service, but it is actually a portakabin, with the main terminal now completely refurbished, there is now a need for a permanent Flexi Plus terminal, which will be a building of some note and will enhance the area.

Madame Chairman thanked Mr Keefe for coming to the meeting and taking questions.
The Parish Clerk was asked to do a report for the June issue of the Newington News.

55.16 Public questions and comments

A member of the public mentioned that hedge cutting were blocking the grill to the culvert that goes under the road. Cllr Golding asked Cllr Thornby if he could meet the Environmental Agency person who patrols this part of the river on Fridays, between 9.30am and 12 Noon.

56.16 Report from SDC Councillor D Godfrey – A full copy of the report is on page appendix 1

Cllr Godfrey said that the big news of the month from Shepway is that if the cabinet agree in June then Shepway plans to make an application of interest to the Government for a Garden Town Project, which will be called Otterpool Park. There is a broad area between Lympe, Westenhanger and Sellindge. It will bring 12,000 new homes, plus new jobs.

Also this month a new Police and Crime Commissioner was elected. His granddaughter and himself, came to the Hog Roast and really enjoyed it.

57.16 Report from KCC Councillor Mrs S Carey – None were available.

58.16 Report from KCC Community Warden – None were available.

Madame Chairman said that the KCC Community Warden has only just got back to work after a long illness.

59.16 Report from PCSO – None were available.

60.16 King George V Playing Field.

60.16a To discuss whether to an outdoor gym or youth shelter, explore funding options.

Councillors decided not to pursue this avenue at present.

60.16b To discuss the mole problem in the playing field.

Councillors noted that since the playing field is now being mown again, the mole hill problem seems to have been solved. The playing fields will still be monitored for mole hills.

61.16 Planning

61.16a Decision

Y15/1270/SH - Little Dane Farm Elvington Lane – extension to bungalow
Approved y SDC with a lot of conditions.

61.16b New applications

Y16/0362/SH – Channel Tunnel Terminal – New Flexi Plus terminal.
All 5 Councillors supported the application.

Y16/0382/SH – Peene Farmhouse, Newington Road – Erection wooden shed in front garden.
4 Councillors support the application 1 Councillor abstained as he lived opposite.
Councillors ask that a condition be put that the shed is painted to match adjoining bin store.

62.16 Finance

62.16a To agree the financial statement to the end April 2016.

The Clerk explained that there is still a problem with him not getting the bank statements, the previous Clerk is still getting them, and she said she had sent them on, but none had been received since the February statement. He had prepared a statement using the data from the February statement for the meeting.

62.16b To authorise Cheque payments shown on Cheque payment Statement.

The Parish Councillors authorised the cheques.

62.16c To check progress to change Bank signatory details and change of contact details.

This matter is still on – going.

63.16 Highways / PROW

63.16a Highways – The Clerk read out some reports to KCC Highways.

Ref 199904 Danton Lane to Arpinge Court. Multiple potholes work being programmed.
Ref 199907 Arpinge near Passonage Farm. Multiple potholes work being programmed.
Ref 210310 Passonage Farm to Etchinhill. Multiple potholes under investigation.
Ref 17054723 Frogholt. Drainage and flooding – work done, more work needed.

- 63.16b PROW** – Nothing to report at present. The Clerk said he planned to visit the PROW office at Penstock Hall, Brabourne to see about getting a new PROW map, as the one he has is very out of date.
- 64.16 Transparency Code Fund application** – The Clerk said that the funding application has been submitted.
- 65.16 Management of road freight through Kent** – The Clerk said there was nothing to report at present.
- 66.16 Training opportunities**
- 66.16a – Clerks Conference** – Sutton Valance June 14th cost £70.
The Clerk said he would like to attend the conference, as there is training modules that he would like to take in the afternoon. The Parish Councillors agreed. Clerk to book,
- 66.16b – Councillors Conference**, East Malling July 7th cost £70.
None of the Parish Councillors wish to attend.
- 67.16 Flood Alleviation Ditch to adjoining property**
The Clerk showed some photos he had taken where the flood alleviation ditch which the Parish Council is responsible for, from here the ditch passes under a culvert to the neighbouring property. The ditch in the neighbouring property, although trodden down by livestock, is still there in the form of a swale. The Clerk said that he was almost sure that the problem is a blocked culvert. Councillor Golding asked Councillor Thornby, if he could also show this culvert to the EA person on Friday.
- 68.16 Correspondence** – Correspondence was via e-mail, had been forwarded to all Councillors.
- 69.16 Items of general interest** – There were none.
- 70.16 Date of next meeting** – Monday July 4th.
Councillor Golding asked the Clerk if he could check with the Village Hall, as normally the PC meet on the second Monday not the first.
- 71.16 Close** – Madam Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21.05 (9.05pm).

Appendix 1 SDC Councillor D Godfrey report.

From District Councillor David Godfrey
9th May 2016

The big news this month is the announcement by Shepway District Council about Otterpool manor farm. We have identified a broad area and developed a set of draft principles that, if approved by Cabinet in June, will form a part of an expression of interest to the government this summer. Otterpool Park Garden Town gives us an unmissable opportunity to deliver much needed homes and jobs, in a great setting that's already well connected. It would be difficult to find an area for development with more potential; it already has a motorway and other roads. There's a train station and easy access to the rest of Europe via Eurotunnel. A new garden town could see up to 12,000 new homes being built over the next 30 years within easy reach of nearby villages and towns, but with its own jobs, businesses, schools, parks and open access to the countryside. Over time, there will be opportunities for local people to get involved in the process of planning the town by telling us what they think is important to support the town's long term success.

Our expression of interest is in response to the government's invitation for local authorities to identify areas for new garden settlements, to increase the overall number of homes being built nationally:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/locally-led-garden-villages-towns-and-cities>

For more information please visit www.shepway.gov.uk/otterpool-park which will be regularly updated.

This month also saw the election of the new Police and Crime commissioner for Kent, Mathew Scott (Conservative) who has hit the ground running by increasing pressure on government to recompense Kent police for the enormous costs of dealing with Operation Stack, and to prioritise possible solutions including making a decision over the proposed Lorry holding area, Earlier this month I attended the annual Hog Roast at Newington Village Hall accompanied by one of my young granddaughters who particularly liked the chocolate cake dessert which she was kindly given to take home with her. A well attended and enjoyable event even though we had to leave early as someone was getting sleepy.

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