

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Newington Village Hall, Monday July 4th 2016 at 7pm.

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

In Attendance: N Fursdon the Parish Clerk.

73.16 Apologies for Absence – Cllr Mrs S Smith.

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

75.16 A Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday March 7th 2016

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday March 7th 2016, were actually agreed at the May meeting. They were agreed again and signed and dated by Madam Chairman.

B Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday May 9th 2016

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday May 9th 2016, had been circulated and published on the Parish Council website in draft form, were found to be correct and signed and dated by the Chairman.

76.16 Open Public Session. – As there were no public present this did not take place.

77.16 SDC Councillor – There was no report available.

78.16 KCC Councillor Ms S Carey – There was no report available.

79.16 KCC Community Warden - There was no report available.

80.16 PCSO – There was no report available. Madam Chairman said the PCSO Garland had now left, but there was another PCSO to take over. Cllr Neale commented that he only saw the PCSO once, at the first meeting that he attended.

81.16 King George V Playing Fields

81.16a mole problem in the playing field. – The mole problem has decreased, but it was decided to continue monitoring the matter.

82.16 Planning

82.16a – SDC Decisions – The Clerk said he had not found any SDC decisions

82.16b – New applications

- Y16/0555/SH – Hungar Down – Demolition of existing detached garage and erection of single storey front and side extension with living accommodation in roof space and a first floor terrace.

All Parish Councillors present supported this application.

- Y16/0656/SH - Channel Tunnel Terminal - Request for approval for the replacement of existing EVR building and adjacent car parking area with replacement EVR building together with revision of the layout of the external space.

All Parish Councillors present supported this application.

- Y16/0691/SH - 3 Little Beachborough Cottages, Beachborough - Demolition of existing garage, erection of single storey side extension, provision of dormer window to loft, alterations to an existing window, the additional Juliet balconies together with an area of decking in the rear garden.

All Parish Councillors present supported this application.

However there are concerns that having French Doors and the Juliet balcony to the roof dormer will introduce an element of overlooking of the rear gardens of numbers 1 and 2

Also a possible element of overlooking of number 1's rear windows.

Both causing a possible loss of enjoyment of number 1 and 2 private space.

83.16 Finance.

83.16a The Financial Statement to the end of June – Parish Councillors approved the Financial Statement.

83.16b To authorise Cheque payments shown on Cheque payment Statement.

Parish Councillors authorised the payment of the cheques on the cheque list. Except for one, this was for grounds maintenance. The Vice – Chairman would like to clarify with the contract.

The Clerk will send the relevant documents to the Vice – Chairman.

84.16 Banking NPC

Madam Chairman said she had been to the Bank with another letter, to try and solve the problem of getting the new Clerk's details on the Newington Parish Council Bank Account Mandate, and was really very concerned as to what has happened. Due to the on – going problem, the Parish Clerk has not been able to do the end of year accounts or the Newington Parish Audit for 2015 – 2016, which is a very serious matter indeed.

The Clerk said he had informed PKF Littlejohn the external auditor for Kent, appointed by the Audit Commission. They have extended the deadline to July 18th 2016. They have said that they will extend even more if needed.

Madam Chairman said she was seriously thinking it may be better to change Bank, this matter was debated in depth. There was one concern that changing Bank may cause even more problems. The Vice – Chairman suggested opening another Bank Account with a small amount of money with another Bank and see how things go.

Madam Chairman said she would get some details.

85.16 Highways and Footpaths – The Clerk said there was nothing new to report on either items.

86.16 Transparency Code Fund application. – Update.

The Clerk said that Parish Council had been successful in getting a grant of £618.37 for computer equipment, which he has banked. The Clerk said that the problem is how to spend it, he can't really ask for a signed cheque. He will look into the matter.

87.16 Management of road freight through Kent – Update. – There was no update at present.

88.16 Training opportunities – There is no new training opportunities at present.

89.16 Flood Alleviation Ditch to adjoining property – update.

Councillor Thornby said he had met with the Environment Agency workers, they knew there was a problem at the culvert where the river goes under the road, but not where it passes under the footpath at the end of the flood alleviation ditch. They said that the office would have to be contacted for that issue. The Clerk said that he had emailed them and was awaiting a reply. Madam Chairman asked the Clerk to email Councillor Thornby the contact details, then there would be two sources of contact on the matter.

90.16 Correspondence – Correspondence via e-mail, has been forwarded to all Councillors.

Correspondence by post – The Romney Marsh Partnership, Kent Trust for Youth Sport.

- The Romney Marsh Partnership – Councillors felt that as the Parish is not on the Romney Marsh, not to participate.
- Kent Trust for Youth Sport – Councillors felt that this was aimed at much larger Parish Council, so decided not to participate.

However Councillor Neale took the documents to look into the matter.

91.16 Parish Clerk broadband connection.

The Parish Clerk explained that as he has no landline, he has to log into the BT wifi hotspot, which is good in his area. He used to be able to log into his sons account, but he has changed provider, so he is now having to pay £40 per month, but if he paid for a year the cost would be £180, which works out at £15 per month. He asked if the Parish Council could pay an element of it.

Councillors debated the matter, and decided that the Parish Council would not pay an element of the cost.

92.16 Items of general interest from Councillors, and items for the next Agenda.

Councillor Thornby it was good to see that Eurotunnel have started putting the fence up and have filled in the trench. Councillor Golding said that they had also put no entry signs up.

93.16 Confirm the date of the next meeting – This was confirmed as September 5th 2016 at 7pm

94.16 Under the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2), the public and press will be excluded to enable the PC to discuss staffing matters.

94.16a To agree if payment to [REDACTED] towards petrol and maintenance of his lawn mower was a one off donation or to be a yearly donation.

This matter was debated in depth. The Clerk produced records that showed that a cheque was raised for [REDACTED] for £30, but was then cancelled. There was no indication as to who cancelled the cheque, or why. The Parish Council decided to adjourn this matter to the next meeting, when Councillor Mrs S Smith should be present.

94.16b The Parish Clerk had applied and had an interview for the job as Parish Clerk to Warehorne Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk said that he was not successful with the application.

94.16c The National Joint Council for Local Government has agreed new pay scales for Parish Clerks in agreement with NALC and SLCC. The Parish Clerk is on SCP16 which at present is £8.82 per hour. From April 1st 2016 the rate for SCP16 is £8.924.

Does the Parish Council agree to implement the new SCP pay rate.

The matter was debated by the Councillors, who agreed to implement the new SCP pay rate.

95.16 Close of Meeting. – Madam Chairman closed the meeting at 20.38 (8.38pm)