

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of meeting held at Newington Village Hall, Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 7pm.

**001.17 Councillors Present:** Mrs S Coleman – Madam Chairman, Mrs S Smith, K Golding, R Thornby and J Neale.  
SDC Councillor D Godfrey and KCC Councillor Mrs S Carey

**In Attendance:** N Fursdon the Parish Clerk.

**002.17 Apologies for Absence** – G Harrison – KCC Community Warden.

**003.17 To declare any interests** –

Cllr K Golding declared an OSI on Planning application Y16/1225/SH – He is the owner of the property.

**004.17 Minutes of the Parish Council for November 14<sup>th</sup> 2016**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday November 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

**005.17 Open Public Session.** – There was no members of the public present.

**006.17 SDC Councillor D Godfrey** – Gave a verbal report.

- **Otterpool Park** – There was community engagement sessions held at the end of last year, there will be more planned in the Spring.
- **Lorry Holding Area** – This is on hold, while a Judicial Review takes place.
- **Hythe Swimming Pool** – Hythe Swimming Pool suffered from roof damage during the storm in the later part of last year. It has now been repaired and has opened.
- **Dog Fouling** – Several people had been taken to court for not clearing up after their dogs. They all received heavy fines.
- **Elham Valley Line Trust** – The Elham Valley Line Trust were successful in obtaining a grant from the Shepway Community Chest.

**007.17 KCC Councillor Ms S Carey** – Gave a verbal report.

- **Council Tax** – Most of the Council Tax goes to KCC and the KCC is rising there element by 2%. Social Care takes up most of the charge, and the Government has decided again this year to allow County Councils to add an extra 2% for Social Care, which KCC will most probably do, so the rise would be 2% + 2% = 4%.
- **KCC Budget** – The KCC Budget is being set, this year is very difficult, should get better in future.
- **Business Loans** – KCC have been running a scheme of granting interest free business loans to small and medium size businesses. So far around 50M has been loaned and the re – payments are now funding further interest free business loans. Various businesses from a small wedding business who were loaned £25,000 to improve that business to a medium size company who loaned 1M for development of a new range of products. Both businesses also provided more extra jobs.
  - Madam Chairman thanked Councillor Carey for what she had done with the removed hedge matter at the Arpinge turning.

**008.17 KCC Community Warden** – The KCC Community Warden was not present, but had sent a report –

‘I have visited Newington several times a week over the last month, and have only noticed one flytip at Frogholt, which I reported to Shepway.

I have had no other reports from residents, which is encouraging.

- Madam Chairman thanked the Shepway District Councillor for the good work that Shepway do in clearing up fly tipping.

**009.17 PCSO** – There was no report available.

**010.17 King George V Playing Fields** Madam Chairman said that the moles are still being a problem. Cllr Golding said he would not consider them to be a trip hazard. Madam Chairman said she would, the matter was debated in great depth. The mole hills will be monitored.

## 011.17 Planning

### 011.17a

#### **SDC Planning decisions –**

**Y16/0555/SH – Hungar Down** – Demolition of existing detached garage and erection of a single storey front and side extension with living accommodation in roof space and a first floor terrace. All Parish Councillors present supported this application.

This application was refused by Shepway, but the applicant has gone to Appeal.

**Y16/0790/SH** – Shearins Farm Teddars Leas Road – Erection of a two storey side extension with external alterations to main house together with provision of a detached garage with storage over, in conjunction with proposed outdoor swimming pool.

All Parish Councillors present supported this application.

This application has been permitted by Shepway.

### 011.17b

#### **New Planning applications**

**Y16/1225/SH** - West Lodge, Newington Road, Peene

Listed Building Consent for replacement windows from white timber sash to white timber double glazed.

Councillor Golding declared an OSI and was given dispensation to describe the application. He will not vote.

All four Councillors supported the application. Councillor Golding did not vote

**Y16/1402/SH** - The Mount, Teddars Leas Road, Etchingill

Erection of a part two storey and part single storey rear extension including a first floor balcony, following the removal of existing sun lounge and bay window, together with other external alterations.

All five Councillors supported the application.

### 011.17c

#### **Little Dane Farm, Elvington Lane** – problems being caused.

Madam Chairman said that the building work at Little Dane Farm had started and this was causing problems down Elvington Lane. There has been 20 ton lorries causing damage to the verges, hedges and trees. There is mud all over the Lane, and at times the Lane is blocked by lorries unloading building materials.

KCC Cllr Carey said that writing to Kent Highways may be a way forward, however if Elvington Lane was to be classified as unsuitable for HGV's, then that would mean no other future deliveries in the future to any residents. As for the Lane being blocked while lorries unload, if it is blocked for more than 30 minutes, then the Police should be contacted.

The Councillors debated the matter in depth, but decided that there was no real action the Parish Council could take on this occasion.

It was decided the Clerk to write to Mr & Mrs Maddox, that the Parish Council does not have any real power to intervene, but to contact the Police if there are any lorries blocking the Lane for more than 30 minutes.

## 012.17 Finance

### 012.17a

#### **Financial Statement to the end of November.**

The Clerk explained that amounts are unconfirmed as he is still not getting any Bank Statements.

### 012.17b

**The Cheque list** – The Cheque list was agreed and actioned.

### 012.17c

#### **Progress of Bank details change**

Madam Chairman and Councillor J Neale to attend the bank with their passports.

### 012.17d

#### **2017 – 2018 Budget**

The Clerk went through the budget for 2017 – 2018, he said that some of the categories have been raised to keep up with inflation, there is enough budget in the Training / Conference section for 5 sessions and the Other which is for items like Poppy Wreath, donations etc.

The total budget is £4,863, but this should be more than enough.

### 012.17e

#### **2017 – 2018 Precept**

The Clerk said that the Precept for 2016 – 2017 was £4,480 plus a Shepway Council Tax Reduction Grant of £98.50 = £4,578.50. This year there is no grant available, so the precept would have to go up by at least 10%. Councillors debated the matter in depth and all decided to make precept request of £5,200. This will cover the budget.

**013.17 Highways and Footpaths (PROW)**

**013.17a Highways** – The Clerk said there were no reports on Highways.

Cllr Thornby said there were some of the potholes in village near the turning to Marchant Mews.

**013.17b Footpaths (PROW)** - The Clerk said there were no reports on Footpaths (PROW).

Councillor Mrs S Smith reported that the footpath next to Rickstones was still impassable.

**014.17 Transparency Code Grant update.**

The Vice – Chairman said that he had done some research, he will be purchasing the equipment soon.

The Clerk said that the grant will need to be spent soon, as the DCLG (who issued the grant) are doing spot checks on what Parish Councils who were successful have spent the grant on.

**015.17 Emergency Planning and Resilience Conference**

Madam Chairman and Councillor J Neale attended this conference, and reported that it had been very interesting, there was a section about what happens if the Monarch dies.

**016.17 Parish Council Notice Boards**

The Clerk said that the main notice board seems to be working fine now. The notice board at Peene could possibly re-newing, as it is now letting in water. The Clerk said he would get some information.

**017.17 Conferences, Workshops and Training opportunities.** – None of the Councillors were available.

**018.17 KALC Community Awards Scheme 2017** – There were no nominations put forward.

**019.17 Otterpool Park – Update** – This was covered in the SDC Councillors report.

**020.17 Correspondence** – Correspondence had been via email and had been forwarded straight to the Councillors. Correspondence via post – Invite from The Lord Lieutenant of Kent for up to 2 representatives to attend the annual Civic Service at Rochester Cathedral on Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup>, reply needed by Friday February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Madam Chairman and Councillor J Neale will attend.

**021.17 To confirm the meeting dates for March and September 2017**

The Councillors decided on Monday March 6<sup>th</sup> and September 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Red Phone Box** – Cllr Neale mentioned why the Red Phone Box has a fund allocated, Cllr Golding said from the upkeep, it could do with painting.

**Defibrillator** – Madam Chairman mentioned that in her travels around the country, she has seen many red phone boxes with defibrillators in. Other Councillors mentioned that defibrillators were discussed twice last year. Cllr Neale said that he knows that the Rugby Club has one, he will ask if the Parish could have access. The red phone box and defibrillator will be on the March Agenda

**023.17 Confirm the date of the next meeting** – Monday March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**024.17 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 confidential matters. (Item 26.17)**

**025.17 Close of Meeting to public and press.** – Madam Chairman thanked the public for attending and the meeting closed at 8.20pm