

**Newington Parish Council**  
**Minutes of meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024**  
**Held at Georges Barn, Newington**

Present: Councillor John Neale (Chairman)  
 Councillor Jill Sage  
 Councillor Bob Laslett  
 KCC Councillor Susan Carey

Clerk: Jean Gilham

1	<b>Apologies</b> – received from Councillor James Butcher, Councillor David Godfrey, Councillor Sarah Wright	
2	<b>Declaration of Interest</b> – To declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or Other Significant Interest (OSI) relating to items on the agenda - None	
3	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> – circulated prior to meeting, agreed a true record signed by Councillor John Neale (Chairman)	
4	<b>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting</b> – Update on condition of trees in field – It was reported by BL that another tree appears to have died. JN and SC have not as yet had a chance to meet and walk around the field to view the condition of the trees. JN will contract SC to make an appointment to view the condition of those remaining trees.	JN/SC
5	<b>Open Session/Public Participation</b> – none	
6	<b>Reports</b> – received from KCC Susan Carey appendix A. FHDC David Godfrey Appendix B. Cllr Stephen Scoffham Appendix C	
7	<b>Planning</b> – RG has not yet contacted JN as arranged at the meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	
8	<b>Financial Reports</b> – payments made, bank statements, spreadsheet for May and June were circulated prior to the meeting. May bank reconciliation was agreed and signed by JG Clerk and JN Chairman June bank reconciliation was agreed and signed by JG Clerk and JN Chairman Signatories for the bank account were once again signed by JN, JS and SW the documents will be emailed to bank to ensure a third person can authorise payments.	
9.	<b>Policy and Procedure Review</b> <b>Co-option Policy, NPC Privacy Notice and NPC General Privacy Notice</b> were all circulated prior to the meeting. Will be signed off and reviewed again July 2025 where amendments may be necessary following the change in Government. <b>ROSPA report</b> – was not discussed a full inspection is due early July. To be moved to September meeting.	July 2025  Sept 2024

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10	<p><b>A.O.B</b></p> <p><b>Village Hall Condition of Car Park</b> - correspondence from Kate Arnold, the car park surrounding the village hall cannot be closed as EDF must have access to the power Line. This matter should be referred to the Community Police Officer. JG will email Kate with the details of the local officer.</p> <p><b>Village Fete</b> – unfortunately there are no plans to hold a fete this year. It is hoped that the fete will be reinstated in 2025 as long as there is enough help to arrange it.</p> <p><b>Grass Cutting at Bargrove</b> – The length of the grass verges around the entrance/exit to Bargrove is a matter of concern, there have been a number of ‘near misses’ when cars are trying to join the main road. This area of grass verge used to be maintained by the previous Grounds Maintenance Team. The PC agreed that for safety Envisage should be contacted and this area should be added to the new contract.</p> <p><b>Membership to the Parish Council</b> – the PC discussed and agreed that it would be of benefit if the Community Police Officer could attend some of the meetings although it was agreed that time constraints had made this impossible in the past.</p> <p><b>Southern Water</b> – email received from Kate Arnold (01.07.24) in which she asks for a full update on the situation before the autumn/winter sets in. A response from Cllr Jim Martin was received having forwarded the email to John Mealey who has been liaison link with Southern Water, a response was also received from Cllr James Butcher and Cllr Stephen Scoffham. Bob Laslett also read a report from an article relating to Southern Water Funding which states that Southern Water were fined a record £90m in 2021 for pumping billions of litres of wastewater into the sea. Southern Water plans a £1.5bn investment between 2025 and 2035 the PC will continue to press Southern Water to ensure that Newington and Peene receive a better service. A full report can be found in The Institution of Engineering and Technology, July-August 2024, Volume 19 Issue 4.</p> <p><b>Operation Brock</b> – JN attended a meeting where the continued use of operation brock was discussed.</p> <p><b>Otterpool</b> – BL attended a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June items discussed included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Otterpool Park Working Group update</li> <li>○ Impact of applications for large Solar Farms within the district</li> <li>○ Kent Police</li> <li>○ Youth Services</li> </ul>	<p>JG</p> <p>JG</p>
11	<p><b>Meeting Closed at 8.30pm</b></p> <p><b>Date of next meeting – September 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 at Georges Barn and will be chaired by Sarah Wright (Vice Chairman)</b></p>	

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**APENDIX A**

**Kent & Medway Report for Newington Parish Council Meeting 08 July 2024**  
**Susan Carey**  
**Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council**

Resilience Forum is implementing Operation Brock on the M20 from 10 July and it's expected to stay in place till mid-August. Whilst this does help mitigate the problems of the heavy cross Channel traffic it is by no means the long-term solution needed and KCC will be lobbying the new Government (as we did previous governments) for the infrastructure we need so that Kent residents and businesses are able to move freely about the county.

Works are under way across Kent to repair and resurface as many roads as possible with the extra money Kent was allocated by the Government. Do please keep reporting any potholes so that Kent Highways are aware of the problems. It's best to report online where there's a map to pinpoint a location. Go to [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) and look in the section on 'Report a problem' in the 'Roads and Travel Section'. You can also report by phone in office hours at 03000 41 81 81 and emergencies outside office hours can be reported at 03000 41 91 91.

There are two important consultations currently under way. One is on the KCC budget for 2025/26. This asks residents for their views on what should be prioritised within the funding available. It's available until 07 August. The results are taken into account in the decisions made on the budget (and your council tax) which is set in February. The other consultation is on Special Schools (for children assessed as having Special Education Needs) and covers how these schools are designated (which category of SEN is catered for) and admissions guidance. It's a topic of great importance to families with SEN children and you can give your views up until 31 July. Both consultations are available at [letstalkkent.gov.uk](http://letstalkkent.gov.uk) Should anyone be unable to access consultations online they are also available in hard copy and in alternative formats, just contact me.

Once you are registered at Let's Talk Kent you will be alerted to all future consultations and take part in as many as are of interest to you.

I was delighted on 15 June to attend one of the performances of 'We'll Meet Again' and a presentation on the history of the Elham Valley Railway Line at the railway museum in Peene. The railway platform proved to be a fine stage and the whole evening was a great effort by local volunteers.

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**APENDIX B**

**From District Councillor David Godfrey District Council Report –  
Report for Newington PC July 8<sup>th</sup> 2024**

We are in the throes of a General Election which is probably the most contentious I have known during my entire voting life.

I was pleased to have been co-opted onto the Newington Peene Parish Council and will do my best to represent you. However, I am also a Member of Hawkinge Town Council where I live. I believe it would be in the best interest of residents to have someone more local to step forward to fill the gap and secure the future of the Council

Having just been co-opted I must give apologies for the July meeting as I will be representing Dungeness as Vice chair of the Site Stakeholder group at a meeting of all national SSGs organised by the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency.

Although in a period of Purdah due to the General Election business continues at the District Council. At this time, we are undergoing a refresh of the corporate plan and the change to a committee system of governance.

I am concerned that progress on Otterpool Park Garden Town has been delayed two years. Otterpool would provide the much-needed additional housing that will be required over the next few years and would help protect against further development around our existing Towns and Villages which simply do not have the infrastructure support required.

I await the publication of the promised consultation on the future of Princess Parade in Hythe and the future of its swimming pool. I personally believe that some development will be necessary on this valuable site as the costs to simply create a large new park would be unviable and put an additional cost on all residents of the district for the benefit mainly of Hythe residents.

I was pleased to attend a unique event at the Elham Valley Line trust recently along with County Councillor Susan Carey and her husband John. It consisted of a short play with the station platform as a stage and a separate film in Georges Barn about the History of the Railway.

I am also pleased to have recently awarded Newington Village Hall a grant for a new oven.

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**APENDIX C**

**District Council Report**  
**Cllr Stephen Scoffham**

**In this report I'd like to give you a snapshot of some of the things which have currently come to the fore both locally and across the district.**

**Bathing Water and Sewage Disposal**

People are now officially advised not to swim at Littlestone and St Mary's Bay and the Council has put up warning notices to that effect. Some of the other beaches in the area have also been downgraded. This is clearly totally unsatisfactory. As a District Council we have no direct powers when it comes to sewage spills and bathing water quality. However, the positive news is that we are in direct contact with the relevant officers and Southern Water who are well aware of our views. We have been assured that there are plans to double the investment in water infrastructure in the forthcoming period (2025-30). I have also talked to the local manager who assures me he will warn us in advance and liaise about any future tanker movements. This is clearly of great importance to Newington and Peene.

**Recycling**

Folkestone-Hythe District Council is working towards achieving a 50% recycling rate. Recycling is measured in crude terms by weight. The quarterly figures vary according to the season – the amount of garden waste increases in the spring which works in our favour. Provisional figures for 2022-23 show an overall reuse recycling rate of just under 45%. Can we break the 50:50 barrier? If everyone tries just a little bit, we certainly can. Have a look at new recycling A-Z on the Council website if you are doubt what to do with a specific item. The web address is [Items starting with A – Folkestone & Hythe District Council \(folkestone-hythe.gov.uk\)](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/items-starting-with-a)

**Folca Building**

The Folca Building has two parts: an Edwardian building in Bouverie Place and an iconic Art Deco structure in Sandgate Road. Under the previous Administration the Council secured a bid of just under £20 million from the Levelling Up Fund to regenerate Folkestone town centre. Some of this money (£2.48 million) has been allocated to the refurbishment of the Art Deco building and work is due to start in September.

**Romney Marsh Visitors Centre**

Kent Wildlife Trust has decided not to continue running the Romney Marsh Visitors Centre. This raises questions about what to do with the Centre and the Reserve. I have visited the Centre along with other Councillors to assess the possibilities. The opportunity to refocus the Centre as a hub for the area is now being actively considered.

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**The New Corporate Plan**

The Council is in the early stages of revising its Corporate Plan. The plan sets priorities for the district and provides valuable guidance on how to allocate resources. From late July to the end of September town and parish councils along with community groups and the general public will be consulted and invited to contribute to the plan as it takes shape. Please do participate in this process. It really does matter.