

**Newington and Peene Parish Council Meeting
Minutes of meeting held on 9th September 2024
Held at Newington Village Hall**

Present: Councillor Sarah Wright (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Jill Sage
Councillor Bob Laslett
KCC Councillor Susan Carey
FHDC Councillor Stephen Scoffham
FHDC Councillor James Buttler

Clerk: Jean Gilham

N.B. The venue was changed at very short notice – a sign was published informing parishioners of the new venue, should they wish to attend.

1	Apologies – received from Councillor John Neale (Chairman) Councillor David Godfrey. The meeting will be chaired by Councillor Sarah Wright.	
2	Declaration of Interest – To declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or other Significant Interest (OSI) relating to items on the agenda - None	
3	Minutes of Previous Meeting - circulated prior to meeting, agreed a true record and signed by Councillor Bob Laslett	
4	Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – there was no update on regarding the condition and planting of trees on the field, this item will be moved to next meeting. Request the Community Police Officer join the Parish Council at the next meeting.	JG JG
5	Open Session/Public Participation – Mr Malcolm Fever, resident of Newington Village was present, as a visitor for the meeting	
6	Reports – received from KCC Susan Carey – appendix A FHDC Stephen Scoffham – appendix B	
7	Planning – Item no: 24/1080/FH no comments have been received Item no: 24/1079/FH no comments have been received Item no: 24/1080/FH no comments have been received Item no: 24/0978/FH no comments have been received	
8	Finance Reports – payments made, bank statements, spreadsheet for July and August were circulated prior to the meeting. 8.2 July bank reconciliation - was agreed and signed by JG/Clerk & RFO and SW Vice Chairman 8.4 August bank reconciliation - was agreed and signed by JG/Clerk & RFO and SW Vice Chairman 8.5 New signatory - has now been set up. 8.6 Unity Bank - will now be charging a monthly fee instead of a quarterly fee, effective as of end of September 2024.	

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	<p>8.7 Charities Commission – the Clerk has completed all documentation relating to the Charities Commission for 2022/2023 and 2024.</p> <p>8.8 Fasthosts (email/domain service) – documentation was received on 28th August in we were informed that following a recent update to the registration policy, unfortunately we will no longer be able to provide support for gov.uk domains after 30th September 2024. A new provider was sought and all documentation was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The Parish Council voted to use Parish Online for their email/domain name. This service will come online by 30th September 2024</p> <p>They also voted in favour of using Parish Online to build a new website which will be fully compliant and will come online at the same time or very soon after the email service. The Hugo Fox site will become obsolete very soon after.</p>	JG
9	<p>Policy and Procedure Review –</p> <p>ROSPA report – reviewed, there are a small number of items which will need to be monitored closely to ensure the safety of all the play equipment. The vice chairman thanked Bob Laslett for his quick action carrying out repairs which enabled the park to remain open for the school summer holidays. Currently there is no specific maintenance team whom the PC can call on to carry out repairs, Cllr Stephen Scoffham has offered to ask his PC for the details of the team they use, this information will be passed to the Clerk.</p> <p>Accessibility Statement – was last reviewed in 2020 and there were a small number of matters which were of concern. These items will be ‘fixed’ when Parish Online take over the new service. This policy will be re-reviewed in March 2025, to ensure it is fit for purpose.</p> <p>Risk Assessment – was accepted. The PC agreed that JG should purchase items will be purchased so that the Clerk can back up all Parish Council Items monthly as this has fallen behind.</p>	JG/SS JG JG
10	<p>A.O.B –</p> <p>10.1 Bus Stop – the Parish Councillors will carry out a visual inspection of the bus stop (Folkestone Side of the main road) to ensure it is in good condition. The bus stop (Canterbury Side of the main road) needs some refurbishment and weed control. The Clerk will contact the Bus Company/KCC to establish who is responsible for maintaining the public right of way and request that it be carried out.</p> <p>10.2 Pathway/Public Right of Way/Eurotunnel – this permitted path that has become overgrown behind Councillor Sages property was discussed. It was agreed that this was useful for local residents. Councillor Sage to meet with Councillor Laslett and inspect to see what can be done.</p>	JG JS & BL

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<p>10.3 Village Hall – Questions from John Neale PC Chairman were discussed –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet Refurbishment – will include gender neutral/childrens as well as male and female toilets. • A bid has been lodged for Solar Pannels to be installed on the roof. <p>10.4 Evacuation Team – the list of parishioners willing to be part of this team has now been completed. It will be sent via email to the relevant person at the Eurotunnel site.</p> <p>10.5 Parish Council Meetings – Councillor Sarah Wright thanked Councillor Bob Laslett allowing the Meeting to take place in the Village Hall this evening, a notice was published with the new venue information so any members of the public could attend. Following discussion - it was agreed by all present that the Parish Council meetings would be held in the Village Hall effective immediately. The Clerk will inform David at the Elham Valley Trust.</p> <p>10.6 Telephone Box/Library – new books (mostly childrens) have been added to the library and slightly older books have been boxed up and moved out for safe keeping. The books will be rotated on a timely basis. The telephone box will receive a facelift now that the original ‘Busby Red’ paint has been purchased.</p> <p>10.7 Football Nets – new nets have been purchased for the Football goals on the field by Councillor Bob Laslett, they will be fitted as soon as possible.</p> <p>10.8 Noticeboards – The notice boards in Peene and Newington are intended for use of the Parish Council in order to publish agendas, minutes and reports of all meetings. The locking system on the Newington board is not functioning and needs replacing. Jill Sage will ensure that the locks are renewed and keys are kept at the Clerks address and a spare set will be lodged at the Chairmans address.</p> <p>The Parish Council are concerned that The Friends of St. Nicholas Church have been posting a number of items within both notice boards and the Parish Clerk has had to remove some of the items (especially in Peene, where the notice board is considerable smaller) to ensure that as much information is given to residents as possible.</p> <p>10.9 Playing Field – After the power cable works were completed the playing field levels were not correct and water was failing to drain properly from the field. The Parish Council was paid compensation to have the groundworks carried out to correct the problem. These works need to be organised. Councillor Golding was dealing with this but he has since moved from the Parish. Councillor Laslett stated he was aware of what was needed and agreed to pick this project up and report back at the next meeting, with specification, so that the works can be put out to tender and the contract can get underway.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BL</p>
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	<p>10.10 Consultations – The following consultations are underway</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Local Transport Plan2. Local Planning Consultation3. FH&DC Corporate Plan <p>This is the opportunity for local people to review the plans and have their say. Special attention needs to be paid to the Local Planning Consultation which could have important proposed changes for our Parish</p>	ALL
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**The meeting was closed at 9.10pm
Date of the next meeting 11th November 2024
Time and Venue – Newington Village Hall at 7pm**

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Appendix A

Report for Newington Parish Council Meeting 9th September 2024

Whilst we must wait till the October budget to see what the new government will fund and what it will not, there has already been one policy announcement about Adult Social Care funding. The government confirmed in *Fixing the Foundations* that it will not be proceeding with adult social care funding change that would have put a cap on care costs. This reform, which would have combined a cap of £86,000 on lifetime care costs with a more generous means test, was due to be implemented in October 2025. With so many of us living into frail old age, more families are being expected to meet care costs and it's a shame to see this attempt to share the burden more fairly is not going ahead as planned.

KCC's Director of Public Health is urging those eligible to take up vaccinations for protection from flu and COVID 19. The effectiveness of vaccines wanes over time so topping up is important especially for the vulnerable such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

Those qualifying for the flu vaccination from 1 September 2024 are:

- all children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2024
- primary school-aged children, from Reception to Year 6
- secondary school-aged children, from Year 7 to Year 11
- all children in clinical risk groups aged from 6 months to under 18 years
- pregnant women

Those qualifying for the flu vaccination from October 2024 include:

- adults aged 65 years and over
- those aged 18 years to under 65 years in clinical risk groups (as defined by the Green Book, Influenza Chapter 19). This includes pregnant women, individuals with chronic heart, kidney or liver disease, diabetes, or a weakened immune system (immunosuppression)
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- frontline workers in a social care setting without an employer-led occupational health scheme

Those qualifying for the COVID-19 vaccination this Autumn are:

- adults aged 65 years and over
- residents in a care home for older adults
- individuals aged 6 months to 64 years in a clinical risk group (as defined in tables 3 or 4 in the COVID-19 chapter of the Green Book). Pregnant women are included in this clinical risk group
- frontline NHS and social care workers and those working in care homes for older people

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Thank you to those of you who took part in the consultation on KCC's 2025/26 budget. The results of this will help shape where savings are made and what should be prioritised. There are several other consultations still under way including the Transport Plan for Kent. You can take part through registering at Let's Talk Kent <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/>

Susan Carey
Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council

Appendix B

Newington Parish Report 9th September 2024
Cllr Stephen Scoffham

I imagined that August, being a holiday month would be relatively quiet with respect to Council Business. How wrong I was! This brief summary highlights some of the things that have been going on locally and which I have been involved with across the district.

Meetings with Sojan Joseph

I have had two meetings with Sojan Joseph, our new MP. The first was an orientation meeting and involved a tour round Hawkinge. The second was a meeting for representatives from all parishes in the North Downs East and North Downs West areas. Sojan was keen to hear our views on local issues and is planning a regular three-monthly meeting so he can stay in contact. The meetings are being co-ordinated by Chris Johnston, Mayor of Hawkinge.

Dymchurch bathing water

On 19th August I attended a special meeting of Dymchurch Parish Council to discuss bathing water quality, or the lack of it. Representatives from both Southern Water and the Environment Agency explained how they monitored water quality, the problems that they had identified and the difficulties of tracking down the reasons why bathing water in the Dymchurch area is suffering from pollution. It is clearly a complex problem but the more we complain about it the more resources they are likely to devote to dealing with the issues.

Black Horse Field, Densole

The plans for this site have now been extensively revised to take account of local concerns and to improve the design and layout. I have met with both the developer and the relevant FHDC officers to learn more about the plans and have been liaising with the local action group to keep them informed of developments.

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Litter

The summer season brings large numbers of visitors to the beaches in our District and the litter that they create is difficult to manage. We have been in close contact with Veolia about the problems that have arisen, and they have responded excellently.

Sustainable Futures Forum

The Sustainable Futures Forum is an initiative designed to support local groups that are involved in environmental activities. The Forum gives participants a chance to learn how to publicise what they are doing and communicate with other groups. There are two events planned for this autumn

Biodiversity resolution

In late July I brought a resolution to full Council affirming the importance of biodiversity and wildlife and the way that it can be supported across the District. I am pleased to say that after a short debate the resolution was passed unanimously.

Planning quotas

You will probably know that the new national government has re-introduced housing targets for Local Authorities. As I understand it, the quota for our District has increased slightly and now stands at a little over 800 houses a year. Finding land for these developments is not going to be easy. It will be important to watch carefully what is proposed as the new Local Plan is developed this autumn

Corporate plan consultation

Finally, please do take part both individually and as a Parish in the Corporate Plan consultation which sets priorities for the District. Simply search for 'Folkestone-Hythe Corporate Plan' or go directly to <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/policies-plans-documents/corporate-plan>