

Newington Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
held at George's Barn, Newington on Tuesday 6 September 2022 at 7pm

Present:

Councillors: Councillor John Neale (Chairman)
 Councillor Kevin Golding (Vice Chairman)
 Councillor Sarah Wright
 Councillor Jill Sage

Clerk: Sharon Westby

01	Apologies	
	Councillor Cleo Smith	
02	<p>To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and Other Significant Interests (OSI) relating to items on the agenda.</p> <p><i>A member who declares a DPI in relation to any item on the agenda will need to leave the meeting for the whole of that item and will not be able to speak or take part unless a relevant Dispensation has been granted. A member who declares an OSI will be able to speak on the item but will be required to leave the meeting for the vote.</i></p> <p>Councillor Golding declared a personal interest in item 13 of the agenda.</p>	
03	<p>Agree and sign the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 11 July 2022. The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.</p>	
04	<p>Matters arising from the previous minutes</p> <p>Item 11 – the work on the playing field is almost finished with planting to be completed later in the autumn when the trees and grass will have a better chance of survival. The hedging has been reduced as agreed.</p> <p>Item 14b – Councillors agreed that maintenance to the exit at Bargrove would be carried out at £20 per visit for the time being but that this additional work would be added to the grounds maintenance contract going forward when the contract was up for renewal on 31 December 2023.</p>	
05	<p>Open session</p> <p>There were no members of the public present.</p>	
06	<p>Report from Susan Carey - Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council District Councillor</p> <p>Councillor Carey was unable to make the meeting and a report was submitted but was received after the meeting took place. A full transcript of which can be found in Appendix A to these minutes.</p>	
07	<p>Report from David Godfrey - Folkestone and Hythe District Councillor</p> <p>Councillor Godfrey was unable to attend the meeting and the clerk read out his previously submitted report, a full transcript of which can be found in Appendix B to these minutes.</p>	

08	<p>Report from Community Warden Gary Harrison No report received</p>	
09	<p>Planning To note applications decided and pending since the meeting held on 11 July 2022 (see Appendix C to these minutes) No comments or concerns were raised by Councillors.</p> <p>An email had been received from Alison Thompson of English Rural relating to the affordable housing application in Peene (ref 21/2434FH). Under this application, legal S106 planning agreement ensures that priority for the properties is first given to residents of Newington sand Peene. However, there is also a cascade of neighbouring parishes, should no one come forward from the main parish. It was suggested by English Rural that Stanford, Etchinghill and Postling should be the named parishes and all Councillors agreed with this proposal. It was agreed that the site was about giving families from the parish the opportunity to live in affordable housing. Clerk to reply to Alison Thompson.</p>	Clerk
10	<p>Finance The Financial Statement (Appendix D to these minutes) detailing payments made since the 1 July 2022 was reviewed and the sums detailed therein were agreed. Budget Monitoring for the second quarter of the financial year (Appendix E to these minutes) was reviewed and the sums detailed therein were agreed. Councillors agreed not to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor arrangements.</p>	
11	<p>ElecLink Councillor Golding advised that confirmation has now been received giving agreement to all the previous queries and concerns. Paperwork was almost ready to sign and Councillors agreed that this should be done at the next parish council meeting in November 2022 where it can be agreed and witnessed appropriately. He will ask for a draft of the document in the meantime. Councillors once again thanked Councillor Golding for his hard work .</p>	KG
12	<p>Conversion of existing stiles to kissing gates and telephone box Stiles/Kissing Gates Councillor Golding had emailed Edward Denne at KCC Public Rights of Way to purchase the kissing gates but to date had no response. Clerk will make contact and obtain the necessary authorisation forms so that the gates can be fitted as soon as possible.</p> <p>Telephone Box The contractor has been advised to go ahead with the shelving required but is currently very busy.</p>	Clerk
13	<p>Parish Council Meeting Room Donation Councillors agreed a donation of £70 for the use of Georges Barn from April 2023 to March 2024.</p>	
14	<p>Bus Stop The bus stop on the far side of the road as you leave the parish onto the A20 is in disrepair and the surrounding area needs maintaining. Clerk will contact Stagecoach regarding the state of the bus stop and its immediate surroundings.</p>	Clerk
15	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Councillor Neale advised all at the meeting to beware of phishing emails that had been sent in his name from an unknown email account. b. The clerk had been advised via the parish council website of a road closure taking place on Newington Road/The Street on 10/10/2022 and 11/10/2022 between the times 08:00 - 17:00. Advanced warning signs will be installed 2 weeks prior to the road closure and Environmental Agency will be doing a letter drop to local residents to inform them of the closure. 	

	<p>c. The lock on the noticeboard by the telephone box does not appear to be working and the noticeboard cannot be opened. Councillor Golding will take a look and try to rectify. It was agreed that notices that are placed in the noticeboard should not be for businesses but for local events and the like.</p> <p>d. A letter had been received relating to money raised in 2012 towards the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Park by an outside charity not related to the parish council. A parishioner has enquired what happened to some monies raised which may have passed through the parish bank account in 2012. Clerk will reply to the letter to inform that we are investigating and that our understanding is that this was never a parish council project. Councillor Neale will endeavour to check parish records.</p> <p>e. The traffic chaos as a result of holiday traffic around the channel tunnel at the end of July was discussed. Councillors were disappointed with the lack of organisation by the authorities that resulted in the gridlock that lasted many hours over several days. The parish was massively impacted but a big thank you to all parishioners that helped those stuck in traffic.</p>	<p>KG</p> <p>JN</p>
16	Date of next meeting Monday 14 November, 2022 at 7pm	
17	Close Meeting The meeting closed at 8.35pm	

Please note that these minutes can be viewed on the Parish Council's website at www.newingtonandpeene-pc.gov.uk

Signed and Dated

APPENDIX A

Report to Newington Parish Council 06 September 2022

Inflation and increased demand for council services are causing real financial concern at the County Council. We are looking for savings both for this year's budget and for our 2023/24 budget. However, we are still receiving grant funding from Government to pass to the Districts to help those in financial distress, KentTogether is also available for help and advice and there will be more news on specific measures to help the most vulnerable.

You may have seen news about bus service reductions. The vast majority of bus services in Kent are normal commercial services run by the bus companies such as Stagecoach and Arriva. Passenger numbers on these services have not recovered since Covid and together with fuel price increases and driver shortages this has led to the bus companies withdrawing some of their routes because they no longer cover their costs. KCC's Public Transport Team have worked with the bus companies to find ways to minimise these withdrawals but we do not have the resources to fund the services the bus companies want to drop and we are withdrawing subsidies from some of routes we do still subsidise. The subsidy per journey where we are withdrawing support range from £3.31 per journey to £72.40 per journey.

On the good news front we will be continuing to plant trees as part of our commitment to reach 19% canopy cover for Kent as a whole. 'Right tree, right place' will provide shade in the summer, habitat and food for wildlife, mitigate flooding and help clean the air we breathe. Each of the KCC County Councillors will be able to allocate trees for planting in their division over the next three years and they will also be expected to help find volunteers to water them till they are established. I know you have already agreed to some tree planting on your land and it would be good to either help this project or do more.

Kind Regards,

Susan Carey

Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council

District Councillor, North Downs West, Folkestone & Hythe District Council

APPENDIX B

From District Councillor David Godfrey

I hope everyone has been able to enjoy the exceptionally warm summer despite the struggle with keeping our gardens looking good. Sorry I can't be with you but I am attending an NDA (Nuclear Decommissioning Agency) Summit in Edinburgh as vice Chair of the Dungeness Site stake holder Group.

We finally have a new PM and I am pleased that she is committed to security of energy as with the current Energy crisis we need to explore ways of increasing generation. I am supporting Damian Collins MP efforts to have Small Modular Reactors (being developed by Rolls Royce), deployed at Dungeness which would not only provide security of supply but also provide significant employment and economic benefits to our District. SMRs in use are 8-10 years away from becoming a reality but we need to do the ground work now to try and secure them at Dungeness.

Community Infrastructure Levy - have your say

Residents can share their views on the draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule proposed by Folkestone & Hythe District Council in a consultation that has started (22 August) and runs until 5pm on 3 October 2022. The CIL is a fee that local authorities can charge on new development in their area and is an important tool to help deliver the infrastructure needed to support development in the district. To find out more and comment please visit folkestone-hythe.gov.uk//CIL/review/draft/CIL

Paper copies of the main consultation documents will also be available to view at the Civic Centre and district libraries during normal opening hours. Submissions can either be made online or by post using the appropriate form, which can be either downloaded from the consultation webpage or picked up at the Civic Centre.

My Cabinet Portfolio for housing

We are undertaking some innovative projects to learn more about making our homes energy efficient. Two of the projects that I have been working on with my housing team are the refurbishment of Ross House apartments in Cheriton and the retrofitting of 109 of the Council's older Council houses. Our tenants in Ross House have all been temporarily re-housed whilst the work is being carried out. The methodology and tenders for works on both projects are being worked up and will be largely funded by our successful bid for levelling up money from central govt. The methods of improving energy efficiency will include insulation, Air source heat pumps and solar panels.

Ward Budget

I was pleased to award the funds for the kissing gates and telephone box library and look forward to dropping by to see them in the near future.

Cllr David Godfrey
Cabinet Member for Housing and Special Projects

APPENDIX C

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Schedule of planning applications decided and pending since the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 July 2022

A. DECIDED

None

B. PENDING

- i **Ref: 21/2434FH:** Land Adjoining Fairview House, Newington Road, Peene
 Proposal: Hybrid application consisting of an outline application for the erection of a 4 bedroom detached self-build plot with all matters reserved except for access to be combined alongside full planning for the erection of three residential dwellings being one 2 bed house and two 2 bed flats and associated vehicular parking and external works.
 Status: Under Consultation
 No comments submitted by the Parish Council

- ii **Ref: 22/0492FH:** Land Opposite 17 Underhill Cottages, Newington Road, Peene
 Proposal: Lawful development certificate (proposed) for the construction of footway (extension to existing), construction of hardstanding (extension to existing parking area) and drainage to existing grass areas
 Status: Valid

- iii **Ref:22/0992FH:** Wayside Cottage, Frogholt, Frogholt, Folkestone, CT18 8AT
 Proposal: Re-pollard one yew by 6 metres in a conservation area
 Status: Under Consultation

- iv **Ref: 22/1108FH:** Coombe Farmhouse, Coombe Farm, Etchingill, Folkestone, CT18 8BP
 Proposal: Conversion of outbuilding to residential dwelling (Resubmission of planning application 22/0092/FH)
 Status: Under Consultation

- v **Tree Preservation Order:** Wayside Cottage, Frogholt, Frogholt, Folkestone, CT18 8AT
 One Yew tree
 Status: For information only

APPENDIX D**NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL****Financial Statement as at 30 August 2022****Bank balance as at 30 June 2022 = £9,354.81****Income**

Date	From	Description	Value
21/07/22	F&HDC	Ward Budget Funding-Kissing Gates	480.00
21/07/22	F&HDC	Ward Budget Funding-Telephone Box	295.00
		Total	775.00

Expenditure

Date	To	Purpose	Value
30/06/22	Unity Bank	Service Charge	18.00
04/07/22	Griggs & Partners	Grounds Maintenance	155.00
28/07/22	Mrs S Westby	Clerks Salary July 2022	264.55
03/08/22	Griggs & Partners	Grounds Maintenance	150.00
12/08/22	Elham Valley Line Trust	Donation for use of the meeting room	70.00
19/08/22	Ray Hill	War Memorial planting	50.00
28/08/22	Mrs S Westby	Clerks Salary August 2022	264.55
		Total	972.10

Bank balance as at 30 August 2022 = £9157.71

APPENDIX E

Newington Parish Council							
Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring Document 2022/23							
Receipts & Payments up until 30 August 2022							
Full Year Budget	Receipts	Actual (Apr - Aug)	Predicted (Sept - March)	Predicted (Full Year)	Variance (+/- over/under spend)	Notes	
7000	Precept	3500	3500	7000			
100	VAT reclaim	97.19	0	100			
0	Ward Budget Funding	775	0	775	775		5
7000	Total Income	4372.19	3500	7100			
	Payments						
190	KALC Subscriptions	171.26	0	171.26	-18.74		4
1600	Grounds Maintenance	1030	695	1725	125		1
80	RoSPA Play Safety Annual Inspection	0	80	80	0		
400	Playground Equipment Maintenance	0	400	400	0		
50	War Memorial Maintenance	50	0	50	0		
30	Poppy Wreath	0	30	30	0		
0	Bus Shelter	0	0	0	0		
175	Hall Fees (Meeting Room)	70	0	70	-105		6
150	Bank Safety Box & Bank Charges	18	132	150	0		
470	Insurances	422.16	0	422.16	-47.84		4
0	Election Expenses	0	0	0	0		
120	Audit Fees	60	0	60	-60		2
150	Conferences	0	150	150	0		
50	Conference Expenses	0	50	50	0		
100	Clerk's Expenses	51.03	48.97	100	0		
2868	Clerk's Salary (including PAYE)	1279.42	1951.85	3231.27	363.27		3
100	Stationary and Postage	0	100	100	0		
200	Clerk and Councillor's Workshops	0	200	200	0		
150	Web Hosting and Mailboxes	0	150	150	0		
250	VAT Paid	35.81	214.19	250	0		
					0		
7133	Total Expenditure	3187.68	4202.01	7389.69	256.69		
	Current Account Reconciliation						
	Balance at 1 April 2022	7973.20					
	Add Receipts to	4372.19					
		12345.39					
	Less Payments up to	3187.68					
	Balance as at 30 August 2022	9157.71					
	Notes						
	1. Additional £125 to clear storm damage						
	2. Audit Fees predicted at £120 - actual is £60						
	3. Clerk Salary increase effective from 01 May 2022 (includes £100 non taxable working from home allowance)						
	4. Insurance £47.84 less and KALC £18.74 less than predicted						
	5. Ward Budget Funding Telephone Box £295/Kissing Gates £480						
	6. Meeting room donation £70						