

# Newington Parish Council

## Parish Council Meeting

Held remotely via Zoom on Monday 8 March 2021

### MINUTES

- 01 Present:**  
Councillors: John Neale (Chairman)  
Kevin Golding (Vice Chairman)  
Craig Watt-Peters  
Cleo Smith  
Jill Sage  
Kent County Councillor: Susan Carey  
Folkestone and Hythe District Council Councillor: David Godfrey  
Clerk: Melvyn Twycross
- Apologies:** None
- 02 To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and Other Significant Interests (OSI) relating to items on the agenda.**  
*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.*  
None declared
- 03 Agree and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 11 January 2021**  
The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and will be signed by the Chairman.
- 04 Matters arising from the previous minutes**  
None
- 05 Open session**  
No members of the public were present.
- 06 Report from Susan Carey - Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council District Councillor**  
Council Carey was welcomed to the meeting to which she gave a verbal report on behalf of Kent County Council, a full transcript of which can be found in Appendix A to these minutes.
- 07 Report from David Godfrey - Folkestone and Hythe District Councillor**  
Councillor Godfrey was welcomed to the meeting to which he gave a verbal report on behalf of Folkestone and Hythe District Council, a full transcript of which can be found in Appendix B to these minutes.
- 08 Report from Community Warden Gary Harrison**  
No report received
- 09 Planning**  
To note applications decided and pending since the meeting held on 11 January 2021 (see Appendix C to these minutes)

## 10 Finance

- a. The Financial Statement (Appendix D to these minutes) detailing payments made since the last meeting on 11 January 2021 was reviewed and the payments detailed therein were agreed
- b. Authorisation of payments – All councillors are now able to authorise payments through the Council's bank account. It was agreed that the Clerk will nominate two specific councillors to authorise each payment. The remaining councillors will also receive details of the payment to ensure transparency of the process.

## 11 Highways and Public Rights of Way

- a. Access to public rights of way – The clerk tabled a discussion paper (previously circulated) setting out ways of improving access on public rights of way in the parish by replacing stiles with gates. The paper recommended liaising with landowners/occupiers and KCC's Countryside Access Service to achieve these outcomes. Councillors agreed to support this initiative. Material and installation costs were considered and the Clerk will investigate possible sources of funding.
- b. Dog Fouling – It was reported that the accumulation of dog poos at the stile on the public footpath behind the allotments has become a health hazard. Councillors agreed that the temporary bin and plastic sacks be removed, and a sign erected requesting that dog poo be deposited in the rubbish bin adjacent to the village notice board.

## 12 ElecLink

There were no further reports from ElecLink's contractors on the outstanding remedial works required to the playing field surface, or proposals for carrying out a community project in the village.

## 13 KALC Shepway Area Committee Meeting

Councillor Smith remotely attended the above meeting on the 18 February 2021 and reported that it gave her the opportunity to get to know everybody and where they were from.

An F&HDC Officer gave a very informative update on proposals for the development of Otterpool Park.

The full minutes of the meeting can be found in the 'Meetings' section of the Parish Council's website.

## 14 Any other business

- a. Facebook – It was suggested that, in line with many other parish councils, Newington should set up a Facebook account. Councillor Smith offered to investigate both the practical and policy aspects of this initiative and report back to Council
- b. Chairmanship training – Councillor Neale reported that he recently attended a remote 'Introduction to Chairmanship' training event hosted by KALC. Councillor Neale found the training quite informative but would have been far more beneficial if it were held in the traditional face-to-face setting.
- c. Flytipping – On behalf of the Council, Councillor Golding would like to record his thanks to Sean and Adam Howard who cleared away and disposed of the flytipped material around the parking area on the Peene railway embankment
- d. Sewer overflow behind the Village Hall – The Clerk reported that he met a representative from Southern Water last week and was informed that the tanker pumping operation would last for at least another fortnight. Although this would be dependant on future rainfall levels.  
KCC Highways had been advised that the road edge is breaking up south of the entrance to the Village Hall as a result of the pumping operation. They agreed that as soon as the pumping operations are complete, they will carry out the necessary repair works.

Concern was registered that the pipe used by the pumpout tanker is left where it can be accessed by children and could present a health hazard.

Councillors also requested clarification on how and when the decontamination measures will be carried out.

The Clerk will raise the above points with Southern Water and report back.

- e. Village Evacuation Volunteers – Councillor Neale has received a request from the Channel Tunnel Contingency Planning Officer for volunteers from Newington and Peene who would agree to assist in evacuation of villagers in case of an incident on the Channel Tunnel Site. Councillor Neale asked if interested persons could send him their contact details so that he could forward them on.

**15 Next Meeting**

Monday 10th May (Annual Parish Council Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Meeting)

**16 Close meeting**

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

**Please note that these minutes can be viewed on the Parish Council's website at [www.newingtonandpeene-pc.gov.uk](http://www.newingtonandpeene-pc.gov.uk)**

**Chairman's signature**

**Date**

6/5/21

## Appendix A

### **Report from Susan Carey - Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council District Councillor**

The snowploughs and gritters worked round the clock to keep the main road network open when snow hit Kent last month. There was drifting on Stone Street (B2068) and both Crete Road East and Crete Road West were blocked by abandoned cars. Kent Highways has a fleet of 64 gritters/snowploughs, four mini gritters and over 100 farmers who help as needed. There are over 5,000 miles of road in Kent but not all can be ploughed. Some traffic calming features that make it impossible to use the ploughs or they are sensitive environmental areas (SSSI) and can only be hand dug. Around 30% of Kent's roads are on gritting routes which can be seen on the Kent website. There is consultation every year about these routes but we only have so much money for this purpose so if a road gets added another must be removed.

Which is a good introduction to the KCC Budget meeting held on 11 February. Our budget is over 1 billion pounds with around half devoted to social care – the elderly, people with learning disability, children in care etc. Most of what we do is a legal requirement such as waste disposal, the coroners' service, trading standards etc. and we also have some discretionary services such as our KCC Member Grants. Every budget is a balance between the services that we need and we want and how much money we have. Winter services are just one of the important things we need to fund.

There were 9 opposition amendments tabled on budget day and all but one involved spending more (the amendment that didn't involve extra spending was the only one passed). The final vote on our budget means the KCC share of your council tax will rise by just under 2% plus another 3% which can only be used for social care. Our budget consultation had shown support for a rise and that social care was the area that most people wanted protected. At the same time there will be an automatic £50 reduction in council tax for anyone receiving council tax support and a special fund has been agreed for those struggling to pay their bills. The KCC share of your council tax bill will rise by £67.50 a year (£1.30 a week) for a Band D house. The other parts of your bill cover the Fire Authority, Kent Police, the District Council and the Parish Council who all set their own level of tax.

The Kent Resilience Forum (KCC, Kent Police, Highways England and other public sector partners) confirms that all is working well for the arrangements for road traffic to and from the ports and Eurotunnel with most HGV drivers having their papers in order and their Covid tests done. In the first 28 days of operation, KCC's parking enforcement contractors have clamped 693 HGVs parked illegally (nearly 100 in our district). 82% of these were foreign registered vehicles and 18% from the UK. We are hopeful the clamping will prove a real deterrent to the longstanding problems caused in Kent by illegally parked HGVs.

As elections to KCC are due to take place on 06 May I won't be writing my regular KCC report for Newington News in April or May. Covid restrictions permitting, I hope to deliver a leaflet to you all. However, I am available for 'normal' business during the campaign. You can also still find me on Facebook at **The Elham Valley** and on twitter @susanjcarey. If I'm re-elected (do please vote!) then I will be writing again from the June issue.

Susan Carey

## **Appendix B**

### **Report from David Godfrey - Folkestone and Hythe District Councillor**

#### **Covid 19**

The Council moved very quickly to open its newly acquired FOLCA building as a Mass Vaccination Centre which has provided a huge boost to the National vaccination programme. This together with the drive through vaccination facility at the Civic Centre, Oaklands in Hythe, Lydd Airport and New Romney Old school as well as some Chemists is rapidly providing protection to our Districts residents. Our staff and volunteers working with the Health services have been truly amazing and deserve a huge thank you from all of us.

In addition, The Community Hubs at Three Hills Sports Park, Age UK Hythe & Lyminge and Romney Marsh Day Centre continue to provide excellent support and the Asymptomatic Testing facility at Hawkinge Community Centre has played an important role.

Hopefully we will see life returning to a normal or "new normal" in the near future.

#### **Waste Services**

The collection delays caused by the recent cold snap have almost all been caught up with and we continue to be one of the few Authorities to maintain normal services through the lockdowns.

#### **Travellers Incursion**

Our enforcement officers were quickly on the scene to help the Police at a recent incursion at Frogholt and assisted with a swift resolution to a very unpleasant situation for our Frogholt residents which is the subject of a Police investigation.

#### **District Council Budget**

Throughout the Pandemic the Council and its staff have continued to provide Front Line services and more. The Council approved a 1.99% increase in the Districts element of Council Tax at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February. This is in addition to the KCC, Police and Crime Commissioners contributions and Parish Precepts.

#### **Climate change**

The Council has approved an Action plan aiming for zero carbon emissions by 2030 which can be read here. [Go ahead for action plan to reduce carbon emissions - Folkestone & Hythe District Council \(folkestone-hythe.gov.uk\)](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

#### **KCC Elections**

I would encourage everyone to vote in the forthcoming Kent County Council elections

Cllr David Godfrey

Cabinet Member for Housing, Transport and Special Projects.

## Appendix C

### Schedule of planning applications decided and pending since the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 January 2021

#### **A. DECIDED**

- i **Y18/0029/SH:** Land at Rear of Fairview House, Newington Road, Peene, Folkestone, Kent, CT18 8BD  
**Proposal:** Erection of 5no. two-storey dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping.  
**Status:** Withdrawn
- ii **20/1781/FH:** Pine Lodge, The Street, Newington, Folkestone, CT18 8AU  
**Proposal:** Felling of a Purple Plum subject of Tree Preservation Order No 11 of 2003  
**Status:** Approved
- iii **20/1977/FH/PA:** Sycamore Cottage, land adjacent to farm buildings at Parsonage Farm, Arpinge, Folkestone, CT18 8AG  
**Proposal:** Determination as to whether the prior approval of the Local Planning Authority is required for the erection of a steel portal frame building to replace storm damaged building that will be demolished.  
**Status:** Prior approval not required
- iv **20/2043/FH:** Channel Tunnel Terminal, Ashford Road, Newington, Folkestone, CT18 8XX  
**Proposal:** Construction of additional freight and passenger vehicle lanes, including the installation of two passport checking booths and one canopy over the additional passenger lanes.  
**Status:** Approved

#### **B. PENDING**

- i **20/1450/FH & 20/1462/FH:** Beachborough Park, Beachborough Park Estate, Beachborough, Newington, CT18 8BW  
**Proposal:** Listed building and planning consent for renovation and refurbishment of Gardeners Cottage including the rebuilding of the first floor and provision of a new roof as part of the renovation and refurbishment of Gardeners Cottage. Re-submission of 20/0594/FH.  
**Status:** Under consultation  
No comments submitted by Parish Council
- ii **20/1596/FH:** Manor Barn, Teddars Leas Road, Etchinghill, CT18 8AE  
**Proposal:** Retrospective application to convert the stables within the Manor Barn into a home cinema room, convert part of the ground floor and loft space of the Machine/Hay Store building into a pool/gymnasium, convert the loft over the detached stables block into tack rooms and horse feed storage, replace a number of external lamp standards around the site with new ornate lamp standards and provide a report for the eradication of Japanese Knotweed.  
**Status:** Under consultation  
Comments submitted by Parish Council
- iii **20/1950/FH & 20/1954/FH:** Magpie Cottage, Frogholt, Folkestone, CT18 8AT **Proposal:** Erection of new garden room structure. Replacement of existing timber glazed french doors to kitchen with new painted white timber doors with glazing bars. Replacement of existing softwood panelled front door with enhanced security mechanisms.  
**Status:** Under consultation  
No comments submitted by Parish Council
- iv **21/0064/FH:** Stewart Cottage, Frogholt, Frogholt, CT18 8AT  
**Proposal:** Retrospective application for the erection of a car/van port  
**Status:** Under consultation  
Comments submitted by Parish Council

**APPENDIX D**

**NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Financial Statement as at 3 March 2021**

**Bank balance as at 6 January 2021 = £7,991.16**

**Income**

<b>Date</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Value</b>
			0.00

**Expenditure**

<b>Date</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Value</b>
12/01/21	KALC	"Dynamic Councillor" course	60.00
25/01/21	Fenland Leisure	Cradle swing seat and fittings	171.84
02/02/21	KALC	"Introduction to Chairmanship" course	60.00
04/02/21	Melvyn Twycross	Clerk's salary 03/01/21 – 30/01/21	196.00
04/02/21	HMRC	PAYE January 2021	48.80
02/03/21	Melvyn Twycross	Clerk's salary 31/01/21 – 28/02/21	196.00
02/03/21	HMRC	PAYE February 2021	48.80
		<b>Total</b>	<b>781.44</b>

**Bank balance as at 3 March 2021 = £7,209.72**