

Newington Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting held at George's Barn, Newington on Monday 19 July 2021

MINUTES

01 Present:

Councillors: John Neale (Chairman)
Kevin Golding (Vice Chairman)
Cleo Smith
Jill Sage
Kent County Councillor: Susan Carey
Co-option candidate: Sarah Wright
Clerk: Melvyn Twycross

Apologies: Folkestone and Hythe District Council Councillor: David Godfrey

02 To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and Other Significant Interests (OSI) relating to items on the agenda.

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 Co-option of Councillors

The vacancy created by the recent resignation of Councillor Craig Watt-Peters was advertised through the statutory process and resulted in a sole application from Sarah Wright. Miss Wright meets the legal and residential requirements for the role of Parish Councillor. Councillor Neale proposed, Councillor Sage seconded and Councillors voted unanimously to co-opt Sarah Wright onto the Parish Council.

04 Agree and sign the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 4 May 2021

The minutes were **agreed** as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

05 Matters arising from the previous minutes

None

06 Open session

No members of the public were present.

07 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.

08 Report from David Godfrey - Folkestone and Hythe District Councillor

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.

09 Report from Community Warden Gary Harrison

No report received

10 Planning

To note applications decided and pending since the meeting held on 4 May 2021 (see Appendix C to these minutes)

11 Peene local need housing project

The Tory Trust has asked English Rural if it may have first option to purchase the custom build plot. Councillors asked the Clerk to seek clarification of the availability for local people to purchase or rent the house built on this plot.

12 Finance

The Financial Statement (Appendix D to these minutes) detailing payments made since the 27 April 2021 was reviewed and the sums detailed therein were **agreed**

13 ElecLink

The reinstatement of the playing field surface remains in dispute. The Council's agent, Sam Snart of Hobbs Parker, is continuing to discuss with Balfour Beatty/Eurotunnel the unsatisfactory restoration of the surface following the ElecLink cable laying operations. Sam Snart has also been advised of the Council's concerns over the recent hedge planting which comprises of small saplings and not semi-mature as promised.

14 Tree planting

Councillors discussed Woodland Trust's 'The Queens Canopy – Plant a tree for the Jubilee' scheme and asked the Clerk to discuss with Griggs and Partners, our ground maintenance contractor, the species and location for one or two specimen trees to plant in the King George V Playing Field.

15 Parish Council Meetings

- a. The remaining two full Parish Council Meetings of 2021 will be held on Monday 13 September and Monday 8 November.
- b. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should reimburse the Elham Valley Line Trust for the cost of hiring George's Barn for council meetings. Councillor Golding was asked to provide the necessary costs.

16 Telephone Box

It was agreed to utilise the telephone box as a community library. Councillor Neale offered to investigate the methods of installing suitable shelving and removal of tree root in the floor.

17 War Memorial Maintenance

Councillors recorded their thanks to Ray Hill for his work in maintaining the flower bed at the War Memorial and planters around the village. As in previous years, Councillors agreed to donate £50.00 to Ray to cover the cost of plants and compost.

18 Any other business

- a. Social Media – It was agreed that the Social Media Policy be formally adopted at the next Parish Council Meeting
- b. Councillor Golding has arranged a meeting with the Environment Agency to discuss access for them to carry out maintenance of the flood alleviation ditch.
- c. It was reported that the section of public footpath behind the allotments is overgrown and the Clerk was asked to arrange for its clearance.

19 Next Meeting

Monday 13th September 2021

20 Close meeting

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Appendix A

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

Thank you for re-electing me. I received just over half the votes at the delayed election on 17 June. I've also been reappointed to my previous role as KCC's Cabinet Member for Environment and am busy catching up with both local and countywide matters.

Whilst it was disconcerting and frustrating to have the 5 week delay to the election it did mean that I had time to see many more people and the village looked lovely in the summer sunshine. It's a real privilege to represent you.

I'm sorry to report that the Department for Transport has withdrawn the temporary powers that allowed KCC to clamp illegally parked HGVs. KCC was pressing for the powers to be extended and it's deeply disappointing that the Road Haulage Industry has campaigned against this when the vast majority of clamped vehicles were foreign registered as we have very little sanction against such vehicles other than to clamp. You will see in the District Council report that we now fall back on parking fines.

There's a 2 question consultation open on a bus strategy for Kent at kent.gov.uk/busfuture As part of the Government's National Bus Strategy, local authorities are being invited to create an Enhanced Partnership Scheme (EPS) with bus operators. The EPS will set out shared aims and service standards with a view to improving bus services. Future government grants to support bus services will require an EPS be in place.

KCC launched a Reconnect programme for Kent's children in March and last month we put another £10m of our Government Covid Recovery funding towards it. It's about opportunities to reconnect with activities and friends and includes a free bus pass for young people in school years 6 to 13 for use between 22 July and 31 August. Residents and businesses in Kent are also being asked to volunteer their time or donate equipment or boost the funding available and they can do so at www.kent.gov.uk/reconnect The link can also be used to sign up for the Reconnect newsletter.

Several people have asked me about the Electoral Commission's proposals to increase the number of parliamentary seats in the Southeast to help equalise the number of voters in constituencies in England. The proposal involves the creation of a new seat which would see the Elham Valley area (which includes Newington) joined to part of the adjacent rural part of Ashford to create a new seat. This would not change the borders of the District Council so Newington would still be part of Folkestone & Hythe District Council not Ashford Borough Council and still part of Elham Valley for Kent County Council. The Electoral Commission is asking for views and you can read their full proposals and give your feedback by 02 August at: <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/node/6488>

I am very sorry that Newington's excellent clerk will be leaving us. I know he will be missed not least by me. Thank you Melvyn for your diligence and dedication in this role.

Susan Carey
(Once again) Member for Elham Valley
Kent County Council

Appendix B

Report from David Godfrey - Folkestone and Hythe District Councillor

Newington June 2021

My apologies, I had planned to join you this evening but have been asked at short notice to attend a meeting by the Leader of FHDC

Covid 19

So today is "Freedom Day". I am cautiously optimistic and will leave it at that.

KCC elections

The delayed KCC election was finally determined and I am pleased to see my friend and colleague Cllr Susan Carey returned to her seat.

HGV Parking

On instructions from the DFT KCC were obliged to cease clamping illegally parked Lorries. FHDC will continue to issue FPNs on those lorries that are inappropriately parked but I feel this will not be effective enough. I have some sympathy with the drivers and believe we should continue to lobby for more parking areas within Kent.

Household Waste Collections

I wish to add my apology to that of the District Council for the abysmal performance of Veolia under their new contract. A cross party task and finish committee has been set up to hold the Contractor to account and to ensure services is returned to previous excellent levels forthwith.

Housing Services

A comprehensive stock survey of Council homes began this month which will provide up to date information on all properties and inform us on the challenges of adapting them to reach Carbon zero targets.

Park and Ride

We are trialling a park and ride service from Jct12 on the M20 to the Harbour via Central station. Hopefully this will alleviate congestion in Folkestone and pave the way for possible further schemes. It will run at weekends and through the school summer holidays until September.

Finally, I was sorry to learn that we are losing our excellent Clerk and wish him health and happiness in the move to be near his family

Cllr David Godfrey

Cabinet Member for Housing, Transport and Special Projects.

Appendix C

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Schedule of planning applications decided and pending since the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 May 2021

A. DECIDED

- i **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: Approved
- ii **21/0657/FH:** Channel Tunnel Terminal, Ashford Road, Newington, Folkestone,
Proposal: Replacement of two signs
Status: Approved
- iii **21/0751/FH:** Parsonage Farmhouse, Arpinge, Folkestone, CT18 8AG
Proposal: Crown reduction of a Sycamore subject of Tree Preservation Order No 1 of 1998
Status: Approved
- iv **21/0835/FH:** Rivendell, School Lane, Newington, Folkestone, CT18 8AY
Proposal: Crown lift to 3.5 metres above ground level of one Beech subject of Tree Preservation Order No 8 of 2009
Status: Approved
- v **21/0836/FH:** Rickstones, School Lane, Newington, Folkestone, CT18 8AX
Proposal: Prune back overhanging branches to boundary of one Yew subject of Tree Preservation Order No 8 of 2009
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 **21/0730/FH:** Beachborough Park, Newington, Folkestone, CT18 8BW
Proposal: Proposed are 4no. glamping pods and classroom along with associated paths drainage and landscaping.
Status: Under consultation
No comments submitted by Parish Council
- iii **21/0859/FH:** 1 Dones Cottage, Beachborough Park, Beachborough, Newington, Folkestone, CT18 8BW
Proposal: Erection of single storey garage and car port.
Status: Under consultation
No comments submitted by Parish Council

- iv **21/1203/FH:** 2 Little Beachborough Cottages, Beachborough, Newington, Folkestone, CT18 8BW
Proposal: Single-storey extension to rear
Status: Under consultation
 No comments submitted by Parish Council
- v **21/1329/FH:** 1 Bargrove Farm, Bargrove, Newington, Folkestone, CT18 8BH
Proposal: Removal of existing external door and sidelight and blocking up of existing aperture. Insertion of new patio doors
Status: Under consultation
 No comments submitted by Parish Council
- vi **21/1477/FH:** St Ouen, The Street, Newington, Folkestone, CT18 8AU
Proposal: Erection of a new ground floor porch, first floor side extension, internal spatial reconfiguration at first floor, creation of accommodation at second floor and installation of dormers in the roof space.
Status: Under consultation
 No comments submitted by Parish Council

APPENDIX D

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL **Financial Statement as at 14 July 2021**

Bank balance as at 27 April 2021 = £10,326.43

Income

Date	From	Description	Value
29/04/21	HMRC	VAT reclaim	258.44

Expenditure

Date	To	Purpose	Value
30/04/21	HMRC	PAYE April 2021	62.40
30/04/21	Melvyn Twycross	Clerk's salary 28/03/21 – 01/05/21	249.60
06/05/21	KALC	Annual subscription	207.10
06/05/21	Griggs and Partners	Grounds maintenance April	180.00
06/05/21	Lionel Robbins	Audit fees	90.00
11/05/21	Melvyn Twycross	Printer ink cartridge	31.00
28/05/21	Melvyn Twycross	Clerk's salary 02/05/21 – 29/05/21	199.80
28/05/21	HMRC	PAYE May 2021	49.80
03/06/21	Griggs and Partners	Grounds maintenance May	180.00
08/06/21	BHIB Ltd	Insurance premium	421.61
16/06/21	Fasthosts Ltd	Domain name renewal	73.20
30/06/21	Unity Trust Bank	Service charge	18.00
05/07/21	Melvyn Twycross	Clerk's salary 30/05/21 – 03/07/21	249.60
05/07/21	HMRC	PAYE June	62.40
		Total	2074.51

Bank balance as at 14 July 2021 = £8,510.36