

**Newington and Peene
Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2026
at Georges Barn, Newington**

Attended by: Cllr. John Neale MBE (Chair)
Cllr. Sarah Wright (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. David Gilbert
Cllr. David Godfrey

Clerk: Jean Gilham

1	Apologies received – Cllr Stephen Scoffham	
2	Declaration of Interest – to declare a disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or Other Significant Interest (OSI) relating to items on this agenda – None received	
3	Minutes of Previous Meeting – AGM held on 11 th May 2026 circulated prior to meeting. Proposed as a true record by – Cllr. Sarah Wright Seconded by - Cllr. David Gilbert Signed by Cllr. John Neale	
4	Matters arising from previous minutes - 4.1 Ground Maintenance, the contract has been reviewed by the PC and it was agreed that it would remain unchanged, subject to quotes received. The contract will remain for a term of 3 years. The clerk to ask other local P/Councils for details of the contractors they use. The contract will send 3 companies and their quotes will be discussed at the next meeting. 4.2 Local Government Reorganisation – is out for consultation it is expected that the PC will receive details of decision during July 2026. 4.3 Bollards in Peene – no changes have been noted regarding parking. A meeting will be arranged with the Anti-social team and PC George Brace will be contacted regarding the situation. 4.4 Rugby Club – the Rugby club are leading a project to make the road safer for those using the club. The average speed has been noted as 39 mph which is just inside the speed limit of 40mph. The Parish Council will be kept informed on the progress of this matter. 4.5 Overgrown Footpath – Natalie Benville from Eurotunnel has visited the site and agreed that the pathway will be cut back as soon as nesting season is over. Eurotunnel have agreed to maintain the pathway moving forward. 4.6 Road Surface from Teddars Leas Road to Arpinge – some of the potholes have been repaired however, the road was re-reported by the clerk, latest information on KCC website is as follows Fault category: Potholes Fault type: Multiple Potholes Street name: Teddars Leas Road to Arpinge Status: Works being programmed	JG SW JN JG

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	Logged date/time: 28/05/2026 14:40:30 4.7 Broken Gates – the gates have been opened with the bridle way and edges being cut back. The gates have been secured together. The latest information on KCC website is as follows Enquiry Number: PROW78920 Submitted: 27 Sep 2024 17:09:12 Problem type: Gate Sub-type: Gate/Out of repair Status: This fault is awaiting processing 4.8 Soft Verge Damage – Reported to KCC on 28.05.26 number: 965726 Fault category: Verge Fault type: Soft Verge Damaged Street name: NEWINGTON ROAD Town name: PEENE Status: awaiting allocation Logged date/time: 28/05/2026 14:08:01	JG JG
5	Public Participation/open session – Kirsty Howard a parishioner was in attendance at the meeting and requested to bring an item to the attention of the Parish Council regarding a Grade 2 listed area of land known as The Pound which is attached to Pound Lodge. Kirsty asked if the Parish Council would be able to take back this area for the residents of Newington and Peene when the sale of Pound Lodge is completed. The Chair informed Kirsty that the difficulty for the PC was financial, there would be a cost of upkeep of the area and insurance. Kirsty was asked to seek advice from the Listed Buildings and the Solicitor acting on behalf of the seller. It was suggested that the Planning Dept at FHDC are aware of this area.	
6	Reports as available – Cllr. Stepehen Scoffham – appendix A KCC Cllr. Chris Hespe – appendix B	
7	Planning - 7.1 ref 26/0975/FH – no objections raised 7.2 ref 26/0948/FH/TCA – no objections raised 7.2 ref 26/1036/FH – no objections raised	
8	Finance – 8.1 Parish Online Mapping service – Cllr. S Wright has reviewed the service and has asked all PC members and the Clerk to review the content. This will be added to the next agenda for discussion. 8.2 Accounts for May 2026 – bank statement and reconciliation signed by Cllr. J Neale & clerk J Gilham (circulated prior to meeting) 8.3 Accounts for June 2026 – bank statement and reconciliation signed by Cllr. J Neale & clerk J Gilham (circulated prior to meeting)	all P/cllrs and clerk

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	8.4 Bank Signatories – have been returned to the required amount of 3 signatories – the first being the clerk who creates the payment and two parish councillors who authorise payments. 8.5 Payments falling due in July and August were agreed as known (circulated prior to meeting) total £1349.97 Payments falling due in August (circulated prior to meeting) as known total £377.00 additional invoices will be received when work is carried out. 8.6 Precept information – all budgets and the total precept must be discussed and agreed at the November 2026 meeting in order to meet the earlier deadline set by FHDC.	JG
9.	Policies and Procedures 9.1 Co-option policy – agreed 9.2 General Privacy Notice – agreed 9.3 Privacy Notice (staff & councillors) – agreed 9.4 IT Policy – agreed 9.5 Policy Review timetable – Cllr. S Wright has set out a new timetable to review all policies and procedures. Two Policies/Procedures are annual, the rest are biennial. All Policies and Procedures can be subject to earlier review if requested by P/Councillors or to reflect legislative changes	JG
10	A.O.B 10.1 ROSPA inspection – due to take place during July no specific date given. 10.2 Defibrillator – Correspondence has been received from the Village Hall Committee who have agreed to fund payment of ongoing costs of a de-fib device if the parish council are in a position to pay for installation. Currently the PC are unable to fund this request. However, the PC will visit this should funds become available. The clerk will email the village hall committee. 10.3 Laptop – the clerk uses the Parish Council owned laptop. The laptop is now 3 years old and messages are being received relating to the upgrades. It was agreed that the clerk should seek assistance with these matters to ensure the safe and secure running of the machine. The clerk will seek guidance/upgrades from Shepway Computers as soon as practicable. 10.4 Correspondence from a resident seeking help/advice for project funding – unfortunately due to budget restraints the PC are unable to offer any financial help, however, following discussion the clerk will pass on a number of sources that may be of help.	JG JG JG

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.10pm

The next meeting will be on

7th September 2026

At Georges Barn starting at 7pm

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Appendix A

Newington and Peene Parish Council 13th July 2026

District Council Report – Cllr. Stephen Scoffham

This month my report has a particular focus on environment action and initiatives.

Tree planting

The Shepway Tree Project is an emerging campaign to plant trees across all parts of the Folkestone-Hythe District over the coming year. Environmental groups, council officers and interested parties attended an inaugural meeting on 16th June to consider setting up a Steering Committee to co-ordinate activities, led by George Kirby (Kent Men of the Trees). One of the main aims is to support local initiatives which have community support. This will be crucial as maintaining trees once they have been planted is a key issue. If the PC has land they where they would like to plant trees or there is a local environment group that would like to get involved, please let me know.

Nailbourne project

I have been having early discussions with South East Rivers Trust and community representatives about the Nailbourne. The Nailbourne is in poor condition ecologically and heavily canalised which means that flood waters are not delayed upstream in heavy rain. It also creates a very special environment as creatures and organisms can survive when the river is dry, waiting for periods when the water starts to flow again. As a first step it is envisaged that wardens will adopt a section of the Nailbourne and survey the plants and creatures as a 'citizen science' project.

UNESCO Geopark bid

The inspectors from UNESCO and now in the process of assessing the Geopark submission and visited the Warren recently. It is understood they will report informally in the autumn and that the outcome will be announced publicly in the spring. Folkestone-Hythe is at the heart of the geo-park which stretches from the outskirts of London to St Omer in France and it makes sense to start building up our offer. I have been in discussions with the Kent Downs National Landscape team about the potential for a geo-walk between Folkestone and Dover which would include the museums in both towns. I am also working closely with councillor James Butcher on plans for sustainable tourism which would align with the Geopark status and bring visitors to our area.

Recycling

This year's recycling rate is broadly similar to previous years. However, the figures for food recycling across the district remain very positive. We have also been working on increasing recycling in bins from communal properties with some success. Special arrangements are in place for litter clearance when large crowds are attracted to local beaches. Coping with this surge in demand is a significant challenge.

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Appendix B

Kent County Councillor Update Report for Parishes, 13 July 2026

Local Government Reorganisation

The government has pledged to announce the future for local government in Kent by mid-July 2026. It is possible that devolution through the establishment of regional strategic authorities will return to the government's agenda. Five options for local government reorganisation were submitted from the County, however there was no consensus on the best option amongst the local authorities. KCC has prepared extensively (including submitting a detailed proposal and assessing 165 of its services for disaggregation), although matters of resilience of services is a great concern for elected Members.

KCC Budget Consultation

KCCs consultation on its budget for 2027/28 is open to 7 September 2026. The public's views are being sought on which services matter most to them, where savings should be made and Council Tax. In 2025/26, the Council made £100 million of savings, reduced long-term debt by 20%, set a balanced budget with no additional borrowings and a net increase to reserves, and increased spend in Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Growth, Environment and Transport. KCC set a percentage Council Tax rise lower than 89% of County, Unitary and Metropolitan Authorities in England. Your views are welcome at www.kent.gov.uk/budget

Fly-Tipping

KCC, through the Leader Linden Kemkaran, organised Kent's first-ever conference on Fly-Tipping on 10 July 2026, bringing together local authorities, enforcement agencies, central government representatives and landowners to explore ways that these agencies could work better together to address this blight on our towns, villages and countryside.

A plan of action is being prepared following the conference.

Solar Generation

KCC has produced a position statement outlining its view on solar farm developments in the County. There are numerous proposals under consideration currently and in the position statement KCC states its objection to excessively large proposals, developments on our best countryside, and concerns with battery storage developments. KCC believes that solar development can be positioned best on rooftops and old industrial sites.

Water Resilience Partnership

In the past 12 months, Kent has experienced significant and disruptive water supply issues. KCC believes that this situation is not acceptable and has pledged to establish a Water Resilience Partnership for Kent. In order to do this, KCC is calling all major players (government, local authorities, water providers, developers, farming and businesses, water management, and campaign and interest groups) to gather for the inaugural meeting and workshop on 8 October 2026. KCCs view is that a framework for collaborative action is required, and that will be the outcome from this inaugural meeting.

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Summer Reading Challenge

The theme for this year's Summer Reading Challenge for 4 – 11-year-olds is 'Read to the Beat' and will involve music, rhythm and storytelling. There will be free events and workshops held at libraries. Signing up for the challenge can be done at libraries or online. Last year, 18,000 children took part in Kent. See www.kent.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge

Member Community Grants

Small grants in the region of £250 to £500 are available for community events and activities. Applicant organisations must have a bank account and be non-profit-making. To get the ball rolling, please send short details of your project to Christopher.Hespe@kent.gov.uk

Short Film on First Year

If you would like to watch a short film on the first year of the Reform UK administration at KCC, please search the following on You tube: Reform UK Kent: 1 year in Control of KCC/What We've Achieved for Kent.

Chris Hespe, Kent County Councillor for Elham Valley and Cabinet Member for Local Government Efficiency and Reorganisation