

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Newenden held on 23 March 2010 in the village hall at 7.30 pm

Present

Councillors

Mr M Berry (chairman)
Mrs R Edmonds
Mr A Nilson
Mr C Turnbull
Mrs J Eldridge

Kent County Councillor Mr M Hill

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Members of the Public

There were thirty two members of the public present.

Apologies for Absence

1. Apologies were received from Mrs Bourne and Mr H Edmonds.

Declarations of interest

2. None.

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2009

3. It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on 26 March 2009 having been circulated be signed as a correct record. Proposed Mr B Livsey, seconded Mrs Morton-Jack.

Matters arising from minutes of meeting on 26 March 2009

4. None.

Report from Kent County Council

5. Kent County Councillor Mike Hill gave a report on some of the most important work of the County Council. The Council had recently set a very low Council Tax increase of 2.1% and with the squeeze on expenditure services were very vulnerable to cuts. The Council was however spending an additional £1 million on the repair of pot holes in the roads caused by the recent severe winter weather. Councillor Hill then explained the improvements in road transport links in the East and North of the

County that it was pressing to be implemented. These included a Third Thames crossing and better links to allow traffic from the channel ports to move quickly through the County.

6. Finally, Councillor Hill mentioned an initiative to establish neighbourhood forums throughout the County to deal with local issues.

Report from Newenden Parish Council

7. The chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Mike Berry, reported that the Parish Council had continued to press Kent Highways to improve the junction of the A268 and A28. The Council had obtained accident statistics from Kent Highways showing that in the last three years there had only been six accidents involving personal injury and no fatalities. Residents living close to the junction knew that there had been many more accidents than this and it appeared that if they involved damage then they were not being recorded. The clerk would be asking Kent police if they held anything more comprehensive. Councillor Hill said he would ask Highway Services to look again at the problem junction. In relation to road safety the Council had also been asking landowners with road frontage on the A268 to keep their hedges cut in order to ensure motorists had good visibility.

8. The Parish Council had remained in close touch with the Selmes Trust throughout the year and was pleased to see that the river and river bank had been almost entirely cleared of boats. In consequence it was now very tidy.

9. The Council had been advised by English Heritage that the red telephone kiosk in the village would be listed. However, it was likely that British Telecommunications would remove the telephone equipment as the box was not commercially viable.

10. Councillor Berry said that he had recently moved out of the village to live in Rye and had effectively retired. He had therefore decided to step down from the Parish Council. Residents expressed their thanks for his hard work.

Parish Council Financial Statement 1 April 2009 to 23 March 2010

11. The clerk reported that the Parish Council had received an income of approximately £5,400 and had had expenditure of about £5,700. Councillors had taken the decision to finance the deficit from reserves which at the beginning of the financial year amounted to a year's precept. The Council still had a significant reserve and Councillor's proposed to run a similar deficit in 2010-11 enabling the precept to be frozen again. The clerk then explained items of expenditure in detail.

Village Hall committee: Report and Accounts for 2010-11

12. Councillor Nilson, speaking as a member of the village hall management committee, reported that they had had some good fund raising events during the year and the fireworks display had been successful. The windows in the hall had had to be replaced by double glazed units and Mr Gould had fixed leaks in the roof and the blocked chimney.

13. The committee had been required to apply to Ashford Borough Council for an entertainment licence. Following inspections by representatives from the Council a licence was expected to be issued very shortly. There would be no charge. Councillor Nilson explained that the licence restricted the playing of music from 9.00 am to 11.00 pm except on Friday and Saturday nights when there was an extension to midnight. Some improvements works were also going to be required to the hall namely emergency lighting. The management committee were re-elected for a further term en-bloc.

14. Councillor Nilson then went on to provide an update on the latest position on the new village hall. The recent severe winter weather resulting in flooding of land close to the river Rother had shown that the land offered by the owners of the Oast was likely to be unsuitable. This offer had in any case been withdrawn as the owners were moving out of the village. Another possibility was a field owned by the church (not the Selmes Trust) with a boundary on the Tenterden road. This was slightly out of the village but the land was suitable for building. An approach had not yet been made to Ashford Borough Council about the site.

15. Councillor Nilson rehearsed the problems with the site of the existing village hall. The chief problem was that it was small and there was no parking provision. The hall was also in very close proximity of houses on Lossenham Lane. It was now very old having been built in 1924 and was structurally deteriorating. However, the committee had no choice if the hall was to remain open, other than to keep undertaking essentially repairs even though this was not very economic. Councillor Nilson proposed holding a meeting of the village in the Summer to discuss the situation and possible alternative sites.

Samuel Bishop Foundation Report and Accounts 2009

16. The Samuel Bishop Foundation had made eight grants to village children at secondary school for such items and activities as rugby and physical education shoes, text books, visit to the Science Museum and computer software.

Report from Friends of St Peters

17. Councillor Nilsen reported that the Friends of St Peters had paid for a new path to be laid to the church door. New gates to the church would also soon be installed. Fund raising events were planned for later in the year including the annual duck race from Newenden bridge.

Report from the Selmes Trust

18. Mrs Butler explained the origin and purpose of the Selmes Trust. Land owned by the Selmes Trust amounting to about nine acres, could be used by the village for sport and enjoyment. However, the land had to be maintained with trees and hedges being regularly cut.

19. The Environment Agency required boats to be removed from moorings between end September and beginning of April. A few boats remained and action would be taken to remove these. Mr Goad said that these boats belonged to him and he would be removing them. The new moorings would not be open until all of the boats on the bank had been removed and this was expected to be in early April. There had to be a charge for mooring boats and this was £110.00 per boat for residents of Newenden. The Selmes Trust were now requiring boat owners to launch their boats from Scotts quay. There was a brief discussion of dog fouling on the river bank.

Village Cricket Club

20. Mr Bourne reported on the village cricket club.

Chairman.....

Date.....

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

NEWENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

1 April 2009 to 23 March 2010

	Income £	2009-10 £
Balance brought forward 31 March 2009		5,702.6
		5
Add receipts		5,402.2
		6
Total Funds		11,104.9
		1
Less payments to 23 March 2010		5,697.5
		4
Balance carried forward		5,407.3
		7
Expenditure		
Parish clerk salary		1,301.64
Parish clerk admin allowance		26.00
Postage		9.91
		1,072.9
Insurance		7
Audit fees		188.00
Village hall discretionary grant		1,959.31
Grass cutting childrens' playground		428.00
Repairs childrens' playground		200.00
Rent children's playground		50.00
Litter collection		461.71
Total		5,697.54
Balances at Bank on 26 March		
Current Account		595.51
Reserve Account		4,721.88
Plus petty cash balance		89.98
Total carried forward		5,407.37

Newenden village hall management committee accounts year ending 23rd March 2010

Opening balance £1839.89

Income

Village hall bookings £2,864.00
Donations & fundraising £2,258.00
Village hall insurance grant £1,959.30

Total £7081.31

Expenses

Replacement windows £2,499.25
Water £70.90
Sewerage £86.89
Electricity £1,044.85
Caretaking £385.20
Fireworks £1,005.00
Insurance £1,959.31
Advertising £214.88
Rates £167.67

Total £7,433.75

Balance as at 23rd March 2010 £1,488.15

Cash £96.74

Total Balance £1,584.89

Samuel Bishop Foundation
(Registered Charity No. 1101307)

Accounts for year 1 January to 31 December 2009.

Income			Expenditure		
2008	£	2009	2008	£	2009
Dividends					
39.32 Jan.	Charinco	39.32			
84.21 Feb.	Charifund	84.21			
39.32 Mar.	Charinco	39.32			
134.34 May	Charifund	134.34			
39.32 Jun.	Charinco	39.32			
134.34 Aug.	Charifund	108.27			
39.32 Sept.	Charinco	39.32			
245.81 Dec.	Charifund	130.49			
			4 @£80.00	£320.00	4 @£70.00
			4 @£60.00	£240.00	4 @£90.00
					£280.00
					£360.00
13.04	Jun Interest	0.66			
13.38	Dec Interest	0.07			
821.72	Total		£560.00		Total
					£640.00

Building Society balance at 1 January 2009 £1,045.53

Building Society balance at 31 December 2009 £1,020.85

Assets

Nationwide Building Society, Treasurers Account

802 Units M & G Charifund

1,572 Units Blackrock Charinco