

Newington (Folkestone and Hythe) Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

held at The Barn, Newington on Monday 13 January 2020

MINUTES

01

Present

Councillors: John Neale (Chairman)
Kevin Golding (Vice Chairman)
Craig Watt-Peters
Clerk: Melvyn Twycross

Apologies

Councillors: Robin Peters
Sue Smith
Kent County Council Councillor Susan Carey
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.

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.

Councillor Watt-Peters declared a DPI in relation to Item 07 (vi) on the Agenda.

03

Agree and sign the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on the 9 December 2019

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

04

Matters arising from the previous meeting

None

05

Open session – Questions from Parishioners

A parishioner identified a number of potholes within the parish. The Clerk noted their locations and will report them to Kent Highways.

Concern was also expressed over the debris resulting from the hedge cutting on the west side of Newington Road which could block the drainage gullies. The Clerk will report the matter to the landowner.

06

Reports from KCC Councillor Susan Carey, SDC Councillor David Godfrey and Community Warden Gary Harrison

Councillor Carey apologised for her absence but sent the following report which was read out at the meeting:

KCC has just launched a consultation about our next 5 year plan. It's been written with input from County Councillors as well as focus groups of Kent residents. Now every Kent resident has the chance to tell us if you think we have got the balance right.

The ambition is to make Kent the best place to live, work, play, learn and invest in. The draft plan sets out seven outcomes to improve life in Kent. These are supported by a series of short and long-term objectives that we will deliver. The draft is clear about how we will work with partners and what we need from the Government. The document is, I believe, largely free of jargon and worth your attention. KCC has a track record of delivering on its 5 year plans so please go to www.kent.gov/5yearplan and tell us what you think.

The consultation is open till 17 February 2020.

You may have noticed that several trees and shrubs along the Ashford road her the entrance to Newington have been cut back. These were either diseased or in danger of obstructing the Highway and the works were authorised by KCC.

Highways England has announced that it will be removing the Operation Brock barrier in the west bound M20 between Ashford and Maidstone starting with an overnight closure of the M20 on 13 January and expecting to be complete by the end of the month. Whilst I am sure most people will welcome this it does mean that if there is any future disruption to Cross Channel trade this will now be dealt with by Operation Stack.

Councillor Godfrey apologised for his absence but sent the following report which was read out at the meeting:

Let me begin by wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful 2020. Apologies for not being with you to be with you this evening as I am making full use of my "Super Senior" Ski pass whilst my legs hold out.

General Election

The election is over and we can now move forward with the uncertainties of the seemingly endless Brexit debate behind us. I am pleased to see a strong majority government with a clear mandate and I do not hold out any fears for the future.

F&HDC Announcements

At its December meeting the Council announced that £10 million will be allocated to renovate existing Council housing stock and to increase the new build programme by an additional 1000 homes over the next 10 years. A further £10 million has been ring fenced to provide for the growing need to tackle climate change.

Housing Consultation

A public consultation into revised central government's housing targets for the district has been launched.

It is proposed to amend the Core Strategy Review to reflect a new (Government) minimum housing figure of 13,284 to 2036/37 - the equivalent to 738 new homes a year. This represents an increase by 438 houses over the plan period or an additional 24 houses a year. At present, it is considered that the difference can be met through existing allocations, in particular Otterpool Park, without the need to intensify or find additional sites.

Members of the public are now being invited to comment on the revised housing figures in a seven-week consultation which runs until 5pm on 20 January 2020.

To find out more and to take part, visit [folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/consultations/review-housing-numbers](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/consultations/review-housing-numbers)

East Kent Housing

A comprehensive report into why problems with health and safety arose at some properties managed by East Kent Housing (EKH) has prompted swift and decisive action by four east Kent councils including removing the Board and replacing it with the Chief Execs and Head of Paid services at the four Councils.

For further information, visit Folkestone & Hythe District Council Web Site <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/news/decisive-action-dismiss-EKH-board>

Play strategy

A new 10-year strategy for the Folkestone and Hythe district.

Residents are being invited to have their say on the strategy proposing further flagship play areas like those at Folkestone's Radnor Park and the Lower Leas Coastal Park which, along with the Brockhill Country Park and Royal Military Canal play areas, have the national Green Flag Award.

Faced with ageing play equipment at a time of financial constraint for local authorities, the F&HDC strategy recommends that the council prioritises its investment developing high quality play areas close to communities where there are the largest concentrations of children.

It is further proposed that F&HDC will work in partnership with parish and town councils, housing trusts and community groups to develop a network of play areas within a 15 minute walk of the majority of residents.

Consultation on the strategy begins on 20 December 2019 and comments are invited by 31 January 2020. The strategy can be found by visiting folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/consultations and clicking 'play area strategy 2020-30'.

Community Warden Gary Harrison attended the meeting and delivered a report which highlighted the following internet, telephone or doorstep scams which had been reported to Kent County Council Trading Standards Department:

Klarna scam

Doorstep Crime – Loft insulation

HMRC phone scam

Bogus People's Postcode Lottery letters

Bogus Police calls

The Clerk will post full details of all of these scams in the "News" section of the Parish Council's website www.newingtonandpeene-pc.gov.uk

Gary Harrison was alerted to a car which speeds through the village at around 8.00am every morning. More information on the identity of the vehicle will be sent to Gary who will pass it on to the police.

07

Planning

The following planning applications were reviewed:

- i. **Works to trees in Conservation Area prune two Sycamore (1 & 8), prune six Silver Birch (2, 4, 5, 6, 7), prune one Conifer (9), prune & pollard three Sycamore (3, 10, 11).**
New Pound Farm House The Street Newington Folkestone Kent CT18 8AU
Ref. No: Y19/1333/FH | Received: Mon 18 Nov 2019 | Validated: Mon 18 Nov 2019 |
Status: Registered
No objection
- ii. **Re-pollard back to last cut of one Willow subject to Tree Preservation Order No 08 of 2009.**
Rickstones School Lane Newington Folkestone Kent CT18 8AX
Ref. No: Y19/1423/FH | Received: Wed 11 Dec 2019 | Validated: Wed 11 Dec 2019 |
Status: Registered
No objection
- iii. **Submission under Channel Tunnel Act 1987 for approval of access widening and 3 additional freight tracks. The installation of a canopy over the UK freight pitstop control zone. The relocation of a staff car park to the rear of the check in control building.**
Channel Tunnel Terminal Ashford Road Newington Folkestone Kent CT18 8XX
Ref. No: Y19/1426/FH | Received: Wed 11 Dec 2019 | Validated: Wed 11 Dec 2019 |
Status: Registered
Councillors asked the Clerk to respond saying that any disturbance of the trees screening the boundary of the site be reinstated to ensure that privacy of the nearby properties is maintained.
- iv. **Felling of one Holly situated within a conservation area.**
Rickstones School Lane Newington Folkestone Kent CT18 8AX
Ref. No: Y19/1442/FH | Received: Wed 11 Dec 2019 | Validated: Wed 11 Dec 2019 |
Status: Registered

No objection

v. Listed Building Consent for the erection of single storey extension with hipped roof to existing garage.

Frogholt Manor Frogholt Folkestone Kent CT18 8AT

Ref. No: Y19/1438/FH | Received: Sat 14 Dec 2019 | Validated: Mon 16 Dec 2019 |

Status: Registered

No objection

vi. Retrospective application to replace wooden cottage style door and windows with composites of same colour (cream) and in similar style.

1 Peene Farm Newington Road Peene Kent CT18 8BA

Ref. No: Y19/1441/FH | Received: Mon 16 Dec 2019 | Validated: Tue 24 Dec 2019 |

Status: Registered

No comments

vii. Erection of single storey extension with hipped roof to existing garage.

Frogholt Manor Frogholt Folkestone Kent CT18 8AT

Ref. No: Y19/1437/FH | Received: Mon 16 Dec 2019 | Validated: Mon 16 Dec 2019 |

Status: Registered

No objection

viii. Works to trees situated within a Conservation Area to fell twenty Conifers and replace with a Beech hedge.

Wayside Cottage Frogholt Folkestone Kent CT18 8AT

Ref. No: Y19/1448/FH | Received: Wed 18 Dec 2019 | Validated: Wed 18 Dec 2019 |

Status: Registered

No objection

08 Grounds Maintenance Contract

Councillors approved the quotation received from the current contractor to carry out the grounds maintenance works in 2020.

09 Finance

The Financial Statement (see Appendix) was reviewed and the payments detailed therein were agreed.

10 Staffing matters

Following the annual staff review Councillors agreed that the Clerk be moved up to SCP 24 on the NJC Salary Scale with effect from 1 April 2020

11 Banking arrangements – change to internet banking

Councillors considered the discussion paper prepared by the Clerk relating to the Council's banking arrangements. The Clerk will investigate further options with a view to councillors reaching a decision at the next parish council meeting.

12 ElecLink

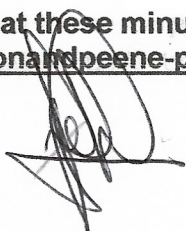
Councillor Golding agreed to contact Hobbs Parker to discuss the poor standard of recently erected fencing and the programme to completion of the cable laying reinstatement works.

13 Date of next meeting

Monday 9 March 2020 at 7.00pm in The Barn

14 The meeting closed at 8.00pm

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



24/8/20

Appendix

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL **Financial Statement as at 13 January 2020**

The following invoices have been paid since the previous Financial Statement on 11 November 2019:

Payee	Purpose	Value
Griggs and Partners	Grounds maintenance (Oct 2019)	92.50
NatWest Bank	Safe Custody Box	25.00
Fasthosts	Mail boxes	153.67
HMRC	PAYE 04/11/19 – 01/12/19	46.60
Melvyn Twycross	Clerk's salary 04/11/19 – 01/12/19	186.80
Serious Graphics	'No kite flying' signs	54.00
HMRC	PAYE 02/12/19 – 04/01/20	58.20
Melvyn Twycross	Clerk's Salary 02/12/19 – 04/01/20	233.55

Bank balance as at 13 January 2020 = £8639.70



24/8/20