

Newington (Folkestone and Hythe) Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting held at The Barn, Newington
on Monday 11 November 2019

MINUTES

01 Present

Councillors: John Neale (Chairman)
Kevin Golding (Vice Chairman)
Sue Smith
Craig Watt-Peters

District Councillor David Godfrey
Four members of the public

Clerk: Melvyn Twycross

Apologies Councillor Robin Peters
KCC Councillor Susan Carey

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 Golding declared an interest (OSI) in Item 8 on the Agenda

03 **Agree and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9 September 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 raised

05 **Open session – Questions from Parishioners**

- a) A Parishioner asked why the vegetation in the flood alleviation ditch had not been cut this year. Councillor Golding explained that our contractor had been unable to access the ditch due to the ongoing ElecLink cable laying works. Councillor Golding also said that it was his understanding that future maintenance of the flood alleviation ditch would be carried out by the Environment Agency.
- b) A Parishioner highlighted the problem of flooding in Newington Road between Newington and Peene. Another Parishioner pointed out a similar problem in Peene near the old railway bridge. The Clerk will report these matters to KCC Highways.
- c) A Parishioner reported that the A20 footway adjacent to the allotments is frequently obstructed by piles of bark chippings. The Clerk will contact the organisation who manages the allotments to see if they have any control over this activity.

06 Reports from Local Authorities

a) Report from KCC Councillor Susan Carey

Although unable to attend, Councillor Carey asked that the following information be presented at the meeting:

KCC has a new leader, Roger Gough. I'm pleased to report that I continue to serve in the KCC cabinet with a new portfolio responsible for Environment. This includes waste, flooding, heritage and much more.

You have until 25 November to let KCC know your priorities for our 2020/21 budget. Do please read the consultation and let us know your views.

b) Report from Folkestone and Hythe District Councillor David Godfrey

Councillor Godfrey reported on the following initiatives and activities in and around the Parish as follows:

Remembrance Day

Although today is Remembrance Day yesterday there were many services around the District. I chose to take my grandchildren to watch the 750,000 poppies being dropped by a WW" Dakota flanked by two Spitfires over the Battle of Britain memorial at Capel. It was a spectacular event and certainly helped to etch in their memories why we always "remember them"

Westenhanger Castle

An important site in our district dating back to medieval times - was bought by Folkestone & Hythe District Council (F&HDC) in the summer as part of our progressive plans for the area and ensure its future as a community asset. Members of the public are being invited to see this fantastic historic asset for themselves on Saturday 30 November between 10am and 2pm

Folkestone Town Centre

A large number of people voiced their opinions on the current offering and its future prospects during the first phase of the research work commissioned by Folkestone & Hythe District Council (F&HDC). You can add your input on line at <https://watermelonsurveys.com/wix/3/p1878200673.aspx>

Christmas Parking

Charges in all of our pay and display car parks and on-street parking bays across the district will be waived on the three Saturdays leading up to the big day as we look to encourage shoppers into our fantastic shopping areas.

This means parking will be free on Saturday 7 December, Saturday 14 December, and Saturday 21 December.

Some car parks are privately run and will still be charging, so drivers are urged to check signs before they park.

Princess Parade

Folkestone & Hythe District Council's (F&HDC) planning decision has been upheld by the High Court with the judge - Mr. Justice Lieven - rebutting the arguments for judicial review in turn. He has awarded up to £5,000 to the council in costs. The applicant has seven days in which to ask for the decision to be reconsidered.

Contraband

illegal cigarettes and tobacco have been seized during a multi-agency visit in Folkestone

The products were found in a town centre shop during an operation led by Kent County Council's (KCC) Trading Standards team - and supported by Folkestone & Hythe District Council (F&HDC) and Kent Police. The teams were assisted by sniffer dogs during the visit last Thursday (24 October).

In total, 10,720 illegal cigarettes were confiscated and 12.55 kilograms of illegal hand-rolling tobacco was seized - which has a combined street value of around £10,380.

Officers found they had been smuggled into the country from Europe and Russia, while they also discovered other unlawful counterfeit products. Enquiries are ongoing into the identified illegal supply of tobacco.

07 Planning

- a) Update on Peene housing development planning application – no further information
- b) Recent planning applications and decisions:
 - I. Y19/0073/FH
Creation of a wildlife pond for Great Crested Newts
Beachborough Park, Beachborough, Newington, Kent, CT18 8BW
Approved
 - II. Y19/1089/FH
Re-pollard back to previous cuts of a Maple tree situated within a conservation area.
Rivendell School Lane, Newington, Folkestone, Kent, CT18 8AY
Approved
 - III. Y19/1061/FH
Proposed Re-roofing of garage.
Church House, School Lane, Newington, Folkestone, Kent, CT18 8AY
Registered – No objection by Parish Council
 - IV. Y19/1044/FH
Certificate of Lawful Development (proposed) for the installation of Solar PV Panels and single Air Source Heat Pump.
Foxlair, Bargrove, Newington, Folkestone, Kent, CT18 8BJ
Registered – No objection by Parish Council
 - V. Y19/1126/FH
Listed Building Consent for erection of a replacement conservatory on south elevation, replacement of two external French doors to the south-east elevation and two French doors at the internal division with the existing conservatory.
Magpie Cottage, Frogholt, Folkestone
Registered – No objection from Parish Council

08 Grounds Maintenance Contract

- a) Councillors considered a discussion paper prepared by the Clerk which examined increasing the contract term from the current one year to three years. In addition, Councillors considered that future contracts should run from January to December rather than the current April to March.
The effect of the above changes would be to overcome the difficulty of finding contractors prepared to tender for the contract on an annual basis and advantages in financial planning.
Councillors **agreed** to increase the term of the grounds maintenance to three years running from January 2021 to December 2023 and tender quotations would be sought for that period.
- b) To accommodate these adjustments, Councillors **agreed** to ask the current contractor to submit a quotation for the grounds maintenance contract for the period January 2020 to December 2020.
- c) Councillors **agreed** the cost of additional grass cutting to the Church bank, School Lane and recreation ground in October.
- d) Councillors **agreed** to the cost of reducing the thickness of the hedge along the eastern boundary of the recreation ground. These works are intended to reduce maintenance costs in future years.

09 Finance.

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

10 Highway Matters

Hedge Cutting – Eurotunnel will be reminded that the hedges along the east side of Newington Road need cutting back.

The Clerk will contact the owners of the land bordering the west side of Newington Road to remind them that their hedges also need cutting back.

11 King George V Playing Field

- a) The Clerk will seek quotations for two 'No kite flying' signs for installation on the gates accessing the playing field.as requested in the recent ROSPA safety report
- b) Councillors accepted the lowest of three quotations for the repairs, descaling and repainting works to the play area climbing frame (£560 ex VAT) as recommended by ROSPA

12 Office Matters

In order to provide security of data as required by GDPR legislation, it is recommended that gov.uk mailboxes be created for each Councillor and the Clerk rather than using personal email addresses.

Fasthosts, who registered the gov.uk domain name for the Council's website, can provide these mailboxes for a total cost of £128.04 ex VAT per annum.

Councillors agreed to proceed with the creation of these mailboxes

13 ElecLink

The Council has no further information on the progress of the cable laying works or the completion date of reinstatement work

14 Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2020

Parish Council Meetings will be held in The Barn, Newington Road, commencing at 7.00pm on the following dates:

Monday 13 January

Monday 9 March

Monday 11 May (Annual Parish Council Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Meeting)

Monday 13 July

Monday 14 September

Monday 9 November

15 Any other business

The Chairman reported that he had noticed a rough sleeper in the A20 bus shelter on a number of occasions. District Councillor David Godfrey said that he would report this matter to the appropriate officer in F&HDC who will investigate and offer assistance where necessary.

16 Date of next meeting

Monday 13 January 2020 – 7.00 at The Barn, Newington

17 Close of meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm



Appendix A

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL **Financial Statement as at 11 November 2019**

The following invoices have been paid since the previous Parish Council Meeting on 9 September 2019:

Payee	Purpose	Value
Currys	External hard drive	46.00
Royal British Legion	Poppy wreath	20.00
Ray Hill	War Memorial maintenance	50.00
Griggs and Partners	Grounds maintenance (Sept 2019)	160.00
Melvyn Twycross	Clark's Salary 02/09/19 – 06/10/19	233.55
HMRC	PAYE 02/09/19 – 06/10/19	58.20
Melvyn Twycross	Clerk's Salary 07/10/19 – 03/11/19	186.80
HMRC	PAYE 07/10/19 – 03/11/19	46.60

Receipts since previous Parish Council Meeting on 9 September 2019

Source	Purpose	Value
HMRC	VAT reclaim	738.23
Folkestone & Hythe DC	Precept (2 nd instalment)	3412.50

Bank balance as at 11 November 2019 = £9682.02