

# Newington (Folkestone and Hythe) Parish Council

**Parish Council Meeting**  
**held at The Barn, Newington on Monday 24 August 2020**

## MINUTES

### 01 Present

Councillors: John Neale (Chairman)  
Kevin Golding (Vice Chairman)  
Craig Watt-Peters  
Folkestone and Hythe District Council Councillor: David Godfrey  
Three applicants for co-option to the vacant Councillor positions  
Clerk: Melvyn Twycross

### Apologies

One applicant for co-option to the vacant Councillor positions

### 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.*  
None declared.

### 03 **Agree and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 13 January 2020**

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

### 04 **Co-option of Councillors**

- a. In response to a motion put before Council, Councillors resolved to **adopt** the Co-option Policy. A copy of the document will be placed on the Parish Council's website.
- b. Resignations were recently received from Councillors Sue Smith and Robin Peters. Following the expiry of the statutory 'Notice of Vacanc'y period, the District Council gave permission to the Parish Council to fill the posts by co-option.  
Four parishioners completed application forms for the vacancies. In accordance with the procedures set out in the Parish Council's Co-option Policy, Cleo Smith and Denise Miller were selected to serve as Members of the Parish Council.  
The Chairman thanked all the applicants for the interest that they had shown in the vacancies.

### 05 **Matters arising from the previous minutes**

It had been minuted that a particular car had been seen speeding through the village at around 8.00am every morning. Recent reports are that this is no longer a problem. Thanks go to our Community Officer, Gary Harrison, for helping to resolve this issue.

### 06 **Open session**

No members of the public were present.



## 07 Report from District Councillor

Folkestone and Hythe District District Councillor David Godfrey was welcomed to the meeting to which he gave a verbal report which is summarised below:  
It's good to with you in person as we gradually ease out of the awful lockdown caused by COVID-19. I hope you and your families have managed to avoid any problems and that recovery can continue.

At FHDC we have had numerous virtual meetings and our staff have worked hard to keep things moving.

As you will know the District experienced a significant increase in visitor numbers during the recent hot spell with antisocial behaviour by some notably over litter which our officers , assisted in some areas by community initiatives worked hard to clean up. As the weather has turns fresher, we do not expect as many visitors but are working with partner agencies to monitor the situation and setting up weekend rosters.

On the subject of litter, we have recently renewed our waste collection service with Veolia. You may be aware that we were one of the few Districts to maintain our normal waste collections during the lockdown.

### Portfolio activity

Much of my portfolio activity has been around preparing for the return of the control and management of the Councils housing stock from East Kent Housing on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. This is a complex project and we are busy developing structure and staff recruitment which is moving ahead at pace. We will shortly be publishing our Vision for the future of our housing service.

In addition, we are currently consulting on a revised homeless strategy and have submitted a funding bid to government to assist with providing further accommodation.

There are challenges ahead for us all but I remain confident that we will all come through this difficult period.

David Godfrey  
Cabinet Member for Housing, Transport and Special Projects

## 08 Planning

The following planning application was reviewed:

**Proposal: Erection of 5No two-storey dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping**

**Location: Land at rear of Fairview House, Newington Road, Peene, Folkestone**

**Ref. No: Y18/0029/SH**

**Status: Under consideration**

The Parish Council formally objected to the proposals on 5 February 2020 on the grounds that the application does not contain a clear protocol which offers tenancy of the affordable units to the families of local residents in the first instance.

On the 12 June 2020 a meeting to discuss the Council's concerns was arranged by Hume Planning Consultancy and was attended by Adrian Hammond (Folkestone and Hythe District Council Housing Manager); Charles Evans (The Tory Family Foundation); John Neale, Kevin Golding and Melvyn Twycross (Newington Parish Council) and Alister Hume and Holly Chapman (Hume Planning).



The Council found the meeting positive and constructive and were pleased to see that the allocation of the affordable housing will ensure that priority will be given to local residents and their families. On the basis of this, Newington Parish Council is prepared to withdraw its objection to the application. Minutes of this meeting will be placed on the 'Meetings' section of the Parish Council's website

[www.newingtonandpeene-pc.gov.uk](http://www.newingtonandpeene-pc.gov.uk)

It was **agreed** to withdraw to Council's objections to the application

**09 Finance**

- a. In response to a motion put before Council, Councillors resolved to **agree** the proposal to switch from the National Westminster Bank to the Unity Trust Bank. This will give greater flexibility in payment methods whilst maintaining the requirement for multiple authorisation of transactions.
- b. Council **approved** and signed the the 2019/20 accounts and Certificate of Exemption. The 'Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Annual Governance & Accountability Return (exempt authority)' will be displayed on the notice boards and website
- c. The Financial Statement (see Appendix) was reviewed and the payments detailed therein were **agreed**.

**10 King George V Playing Field**

- a. A vote of thanks was recorded to Councillor David Godfrey for providing grant funding of £551.28 for the replacement of the seating in the children's play area.
- b. Work to reduce the width of the hedge bordering the eastern side of the playing field is due to commence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September

**11 ElecLink cabling works**

Councillor Golding reported that following a meeting with Balfour Beatty, the following reinstatement work is in progress or will be carried out in the next few weeks:

- Fencing along the southern edge of the playing field
- Reseeding along the route of the cable laying
- The planting of a semi-mature hedge along the western edge of the playing field
- A new stile to be constructed in the south west corner of the playing field

**12 Any other business**


- a. Balfour Beatty expressed an interest in undertaking a community project in the parish. Councillor Golding suggested that the post and rail fence on the eastern side of Newington Road opposite the playing field was in need of repainting. It was suggested that parishioners may be willing to lend a hand as well. Councillor Golding will take this matter forward.
- b. The roadside hedge on the western side of Newington Road between the Village Hall and Wick Wood Lodge is becoming overgrown and obscuring the road signs. The Clerk will contact the occupier and request that the hedge be trimmed back.

**13 Date of next meeting**

Monday 9 November 2020 at 7.00pm in The Barn

**14 The meeting closed at 8.35pm**

Please note that these minutes can be viewed on the Parish Council's website at [www.newingtonandpeene-pc.gov.uk](http://www.newingtonandpeene-pc.gov.uk)

  
18/11/20



## **Appendix**

### **NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

#### **Financial Statement as at 24 August 2020**

The following invoices have been paid since the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Statement at 30 June 2020:

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Value</b>
Union Trust Bank	Service charge 3 months@£6/month	18.00
BHIB Ltd	Insurance premium	415.54
Griggs & Partners	Grounds maintenance (July 2020)	133.00
Melvyn Twycross	Clerk's salary 28/06/20 – 01/08/20	238.35
HMRC	PAYE 28/06/20 – 01/08/20	59.40
ROSPA Playsafety Ltd	Annual playground inspection	82.20
Online Playgrounds	Nuts and washers for swing repairs	13.80

**Bank balance as at 24 August 2020 = £8611.94**