Newington Parish Council Parish Council Meeting held at George's Barn, Newington on Monday 14 March 2022

Present:

Councillors: Kevin Golding (Vice Chairman) Councillor Sarah Wright Councillor Jill Sage Clerk: Sharon Westby

01	Apologies	
	Folkestone and Hythe District Councillor: David Godfrey	
	John Neale (Chairman)	
	Councillor Cleo Smith	
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 a personal interest in item 12 of the agenda.	
03	Agree and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 January 2022.	
	The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed	
	by the Vice Chairman.	
04	Matters arising from the previous minutes	
	None.	
05		
05	Open session	
	Three members of the public were present and welcomed to the meeting. Concern was raised by them regarding the Peene local needs housing project (planning application	
	ref 21/2434FH land adjoining Fairview House, Newington Road, Peene). Councillors	
	listened to the concerns raised: more village green space disappearing with the channel	
	tunnel already having impacted upon the village, additional parking needs for the	
	development and lack of communication from F&HDC.	
	Councillors explained the idea of the development is to provide the opportunity for those	
	already living in or with a connection to the parish to have access to affordable housing.	
	Councillors confirmed that they have discussed the project at length many times during	
	their meetings ensuring that care was taken by the developers when drawing up plans	
	and guidelines on who will be able to apply for the housing along with addressing	
	parking concerns.	
	Another concern raised by a member of the public was the lack of care taken by both	
	car and delivery drivers through the village. There are many ruts in banks on the	
	roadside with boulders put on the banks to stop this often being removed. A discussion	
	took place on how to address this but it was agreed that it would be very difficult to	
	resolve.	
00	Depart from Super Corey Member for Elbern Valley Kant County Occurs!	
06	Report from Susan Carey - Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council District Councillor	
	No report received.	
	No report received.	
07	Report from David Godfrey - Folkestone and Hythe District Councillor	
	Councillor Godfrey was unable to attend the meeting and the clerk read out his	
	previously submitted report, a full transcript of which can be found in Appendix A to	
	these minutes.	

80	Report from Community Warden Gary Harrison No report received		
09	Planning To note applications decided and pending since the meeting held on 10 January 2022 (see Appendix B to these minutes) No comments or concerns were raised by councillors.		
10	 Finance The Financial Statement (Appendix C to these minutes) detailing payments made since the 20 December 2021 was reviewed and the sums detailed therein were agreed. 		
11	Annual review of policies, risk assessment and statement of internal control Having reviewed the documents, Councillors agreed to adopt the documents previously circulated with some minor amendments that the Clerk will address. The clerk will double check that the council has all the correct policies in place and will draw up a programme for reviewing the documents going forward ascertaining whether all need to be reviewed annually. Councillor Wright offered her assistance with this. Documents reviewed were:- Accessibility Statement, Code of Member Conduct, Co-Option policy, Equal Opportunities policy, Privacy Notice, General Privacy Notice, Standing Orders and Asset Register.	SW Clerk	
12	Jubilee Event and Possible Tree Planting (including arboricultural report)		
	Tree Planting Colin Griggs from Griggs and Partners (the parish's current grounds maintenance contractors) was invited to give councillors a report on the work required to address the improvements needed at the playing field to ensure safety for members of the public. He advised that the eastern hedgerow had not been managed for quite some time allowing self-seeded trees to thrive within the hedgerow. In his opinion, several trees were vulnerable to winds and his recommendation would be to cut the entire hedgerow (including the trees within) to approximately 1.5 metres. This would allow the bottom of the hedgerow to thicken allowing it to become healthier. Maintenance would then be much easier. In the playing area itself, Colin advised that there are several trees that need addressing for safety reasons and proposed removing these and planting with new, healthier trees for the future which could be obtained through the Queen's Green Canopy scheme. Councillors thanked Colin for his report and asked him to send a detailed estimate via the clerk. Once received, further estimates would be obtained and a decision made at the next parish meeting. Jubilee Event	Clerk	
	Councillor Golding advised that although the Elham Valley Trust would be open over the jubilee weekend, they would not be holding a specific jubilee event due to a shortage of volunteers. Councillor Sage suggested a 'picnic in the park' type event on the playing field where members of the public could bring their own refreshments. It was suggested that the village hall could be made available for toilet facilities and shelter in the event of wet weather. Councillors were supportive of the idea but decided that although they would support and help promote an event through the Facebook page/website/noticeboards, it was something that parishioners should organise. Councillor Golding would raise the idea with the village hall committee along with potential use of the hall should an event go ahead.	KG	

14	ElecLink Councillor Golding reported that although a kissing gate has now been replaced, it is faulty and does not close properly potentially allowing livestock to escape. Councillor Golding has contacted Hobbs Parker chasing a repair advising them that the work has not been completed satisfactorily. As a result of this, the other work required has been delayed. Councillor Golding will continue to chase. Councillors agreed that the conversion of stiles to kissing gates will ultimately have to be completed but would await the outcome of these repairs along with the decision regarding grounds maintenance work as detailed in item 12 of this agenda as all costs would need to be considered.	
15	Parish Council Meetings Councillors agreed that meetings would continue to take place on the second Monday of every other month with the next meeting agreed on Monday 9 th May, 2022 at 7pm at Georges Barn. It was also agreed that the annual parish meeting would take place on the same evening. The clerk will send an email to councillors detailing meeting dates and times for the next twelve months.	Clerk
16	 Telephone box and noticeboards Councillor Sage gave an update on the progress of converting the telephone box to a community library. She has many books available to fill the space but unfortunately has been unable to arrange for shelving to be fitted. A suggestion was put forward of placing a bookcase in the space but it was agreed that this could be dangerous if it fell. Councillor Golding offered to inspect the telephone box to see if there is any way a bookcase could be fixed to the back of the structure. The clerk holds the only set of keys for the three noticeboards. As she does not live locally, it is not cost effective for her to visit regularly to keep notices updated. It was agreed that a further set of keys would be cut for Councillor Sage. If this was not possible, Councillor Sage was happy to be custodian of the keys and both she and the clerk would manage the noticeboards. 	KG Clerk
17	Allotment Parking The clerk made councillors aware that she had been contacted by a parishioner regarding problems with allotment holders parking on and obstructing the pathway outside the allotments. Bollards appear to have been removed. The clerk had reported the bollards to KCC Highways and also contacted Hinxhill Estates who will speak to allotment holders.	
18	Any other business None raised.	
19	Date of next meeting Monday 9 th May 2022 at 7pm (to incorporate the annual parish meeting).	
20	Close meeting The meeting closed at 9.25pm.	

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

Signed and Dated

APPENDIX A

From District Councillor David Godfrey Ukraine

A month ago, I was looking forward to easing of Covid restrictions and enjoying the early signs of Spring but all of my thoughts were shattered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the awful Humanitarian Crises emerging there.

The rising energy costs and other inflationary issues will impact on us all,

I can only take hope from the resilience of the brave Ukrainian people and in the fantastic response within in our District to provide Aid.

Details on how you can get involved can be found here <u>Channelling district's help for Ukraine - Folkestone</u> <u>& Hythe District Council (folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)</u>

Other news from FHDC

New lease of life for empty properties

More than 800 long term empty properties have been brought back into use in the Folkestone and Hythe district thanks to Kent's No Use Empty (NUE) run by Kent County Council with Folkestone & Hythe District Council. <u>New lease of life for empty properties - Folkestone & Hythe District Council (folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)</u>

The first of the district's new 94 charging points for electric vehicles (EV) are now up and running.

These are in car parks at Church Road, New Romney, High Knocke, Dymchurch, and The Paddocks, Hythe. From Friday 11 March, those at Tram Road, Folkestone, and Wilberforce Road, Sandgate, will be working, making a total of 20 points across the five car parks.

Work is underway at 23 more sites and it is expected all will be operational by the end of April 2022. <u>It's full</u> charge ahead for our car parks - Folkestone & Hythe District Council (folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

£2m award for social housing decarbonisation

I am particularly pleased with this news which falls within my Cabinet Portfolio

More than 100 council managed homes in the Folkestone and Hythe district will benefit from increased energy efficiency, thanks to a £2 million government grant.

The successful award is the result of a bid made by Folkestone and Hythe District Council under Wave 1 of The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF). Tenants will be individually contacted and a time arranged for the work to be carried out over the next 12 months, with the funding being used for homes with the most urgent need. £2m award for social housing decarbonisation - Folkestone & Hythe District Council (folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

Help for more businesses hit by pandemic

More businesses in the Folkestone and Hythe district affected by the growth in the Omicron variant of COVID-19 at the end of last year can now apply for funding support. Eligibility for the Additional Restrictions Grant has been extended to assist more business sectors and businesses also now have another three weeks to send in their applications as the deadline has been extended to Friday 4 March 2022. <u>Help for more businesses hit by pandemic - Folkestone & Hythe District Council (folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)</u>

A balanced budget for Folkestone & Hythe

An exciting programme of investment into the district has been agreed by councillors.

The 2022/23 budget approved last night (23 February) will see £18m spent on core council services and projects that will continue the revitalisation of Folkestone & Hythe following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Folkestone & Hythe District Council's portion of council tax equates to about 13% of the total bill. An increase of 1.96% (equivalent to less than 15p a day for an average Band D property) was agreed for 2022/23

Cllr David Godfrey Cabinet Member for Housing and Special Projects

APPENDIX B

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Schedule of planning applications decided and pending since the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 January 2022

A. <u>DECIDED</u>

None

B. <u>PENDING</u>

- Ref: 21/2434FH : Land Adjoining Fairview House, Newington Road, Peene
 Proposal: Hybrid application consisting of an outline application for the erection of a 4 bedroom detached self-build plot with all matters reserved except for access to be combined alongside full planning for the erection of three residential dwellings being one 2 bed house and two 2 bed flats and associated vehicular parking and external works.
 Status: Under Consultation
 No comments submitted by the Parish Council
- ii Ref: 21/2536FH: Frogholt Manor, Frogholt, Folkestone CT18 8AT Proposal: Installation of solar panels in the brick terrace. Status: Under Consultation
- Ref: 22/0025FH: Frogholt Manor, Frogholt, Folkestone CT18 8AT
 Proposal: Listed building consent for the installation of solar panels in the brick terrace.
 Status: Under Consultation
- iv Ref: 22/0092FH: Coombe Farm Cottage, Coombe Farm, Etchinghill CT18 8BP Proposal: Conversion of outbuilding to residential dwelling Status: Under Consultation

 Ref: 22/0281FH: Rivendell, School Lane, Newington, Folkestone, CT18 8AY
 Proposal: Works to trees in a Conservation area comprising of canopy thin and reduction of one Cherry tree by 3 metres in height and 2 metres laterally
 Status: Under Consultation

APPENDIX C

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Financial Statement as at 01 March 2022

Bank balance as at 20 December 2021 = £8946.33

Income

Date	From	Description	Value

Expenditure

Date	То	Purpose	Value
29/12/21	Mrs Sharon Westby	Clerks Salary December 2021	217.53
31/12/21	Service Charge	Unity Bank	18.00
19/01/22	Mrs Sharon Westby	Clerks Expenses Nov 21-Jan 22	48.02
28/01/22	Mrs Sharon Westby	Clerks Salary January 2022	217.53
28/02/22	Mrs Sharon Westby	Clerks Salary February 2022	217.53
		Total	718.61

Bank balance as at 01 March 2022 = £8227.72