

Newington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting Parish Council Meeting held at Newington Village Hall on Monday 12 March 2018 at 7.00pm

20.18 Present:

Chairman Mrs S Coleman
Councillors Mr K Golding, Mr J Neale, Mrs S Smith, Mr R Thornby
Kent County Councillor Mrs S Carey
Shepway District Council Councillor Mr D Godfrey
Kent County Council Community Warden Gary Harrison
Rural Community Development Officer - Action *with* Communities *in* Rural Kent
Cathy Bugden

21.18 Declarations of interests

None

22.18 The Coffee Caravan

Following a meeting with the Chairman and Clerk, Cathy Bugden, the Rural Community Development Officer for Action *with* Communities *in* Rural Kent, gave a presentation on an initiative to address loneliness in rural communities.

The Coffee Caravan Project uses a campervan with volunteers who set up a pop-up café for two hours/month. The project has been visiting villages throughout the county during the past year with great success.

Cathy explained that over 1000 people have visited the Coffee Caravan last year. Two thirds of the visitors are older residents, the remainder come from younger family groups with children.

In addition to providing an opportunity for residents to enjoy each others company over coffee and cakes, the project promotes local clubs, groups and societies.

Cathy explained that there is no charge for visiting the Coffee Caravan or enjoying the refreshments on offer.

Councillors gave their full support for the Coffee Caravan to set-up in the village hall car park on the following four Fridays between 2.00 and 4.00pm: 4th May, 1st June, 29th June and 27th July.

Promotional material would be sent to Councillor Smith who will distribute around the parish. Flyers will be posted on the village notice boards and an article will be published in The Sentinel.

The Clerk will confirm the dates with the village hall booking secretary.

23.18 Minutes of the Parish Council held on 8 January 2018

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2018 were agreed as correct and signed and dated by the Chairman.

24.18 24.18a Item 09.18a – 2018/19 Grounds Maintenance Contract

The 2018/2019 Grounds Maintenance Contract has been placed with Colin Griggs.

Councillors agreed that the outstanding hedge cutting around the King George V Playing Field will be carried out by Colin Griggs. Clerk to inform Harmers that this work has been deleted from their contract.

24.18b Item 13.18 – Options available for the appointment of a Data Protection Officer to be discussed at the next meeting.

24.18c Item 04.18d – Peene Notice Board

The Chairman recorded a vote of thanks to Norman Hall who generously donated his payment of £50 for erecting the new notice board to the War Memorial Fund.

25.18 **Open session for public questions and comments**

There were no members of the public present.

26.18 **Report from KCC Councillor Susan Carey**

The period of snow caused considerable disruption but it would have been worse without the efforts of Kent Highways staff who were out day and night keeping the main road network open. As well as KCC's fleet of 65 gritters there were 117 tractors fitted with snow ploughs operated by farmers.

Thank you to everyone who looked out for their neighbours, cleared snow and generally helped everyone cope.

Kent Highways are now busy making repairs to the potholes caused by bad weather and are concentrating their efforts on the busiest roads so it would really help if everyone would report potholes especially those on the C roads (preferably via www.kent.gov.uk) so that they get programmed for repair.

KCC agreed its budget for 2018/19 on 20 February. As well as an increase of just under 3% (the current level of inflation) there is a separate 2% social care levy which will go some way to meeting the increased demand for care from adults in Kent.

Councillor Carey also mentioned the Silent Soldier campaign where a silhouette sculpture could be erected in the period leading up to Remembrance Sunday each year. Councillor Neale agreed to investigate the various forms of the sculpture and report at the next meeting.

27.18 **Report from SDC Councillor David Godfrey – Cabinet Member for Special Projects**

Having got off reasonably lightly during the recent Siberian blast it is good to see the signs of Spring around our gardens and the countryside.

One unfortunate legacy from the snow and ice is the unwelcome appearance of potholes in our roads, please do report any to KCC at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

There have been some significant changes at the District Council starting with the change of name from Shepway to Folkestone and Hythe from the beginning of the 2018/19 Financial year. This will not cost the sort of sums that some have been reporting and will more than pay for itself by increased inward investment from outside the District simply because interested parties know where Folkestone and Hythe are whereas few have any idea where Shepway is.

Our Chief Executive Officer, Alistair Stuart, is stepping down after 13 years of invaluable service during which he was instrumental in turning the Council from one rated as underperforming to a successful one by working closely with a stable and strong administration.

This has been demonstrated recently by our Revenue and Benefits, Customer Service and Business Support teams clinching first place in a national awards scheme.

They took the Gold award in the Public Sector Transformation Awards ceremony on Tuesday evening, organised by iESE, which works with public sector organisations to help them answer the biggest challenge facing Britain's public services today - delivering better outcomes, at a lower cost to the public.

The Council recently approved a continuing Transformation programme which will enable us to maintain services whilst reducing costs despite further cuts in government funding.

We continue to produce a balanced budget and unlike many Councils, were able to keep the District share of Council Tax within inflation at 2.88% which includes

parish and Town precepts. I would remind residents that although the District Council is the collection body for Council tax the largest proportions of your overall Council tax go to KCC and the Police.

The Council is quite clear that it strongly supports government policy to provide much needed new homes for all levels of our local populations through further acquisitions by Opportunitas. The Council owned company enabling such commercial activities, and by continuing to pursue ambitious plans for Princess Parade and Otterpool. All of these developments will provide a mix of homes and only by pressing on with these will we be able to meet the demand and help future generations to share in the benefits of home ownership which many of our population of so called "baby boomers" have enjoyed

There is still time to comment on the Councils Places and Policies local plan which shows possible development sites excluding Otterpool.

To comment go to <http://shepway-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/>

I think that is enough from me this month and I look forward to seeing some of you at various local events during the forthcoming Spring and Summer.

27.18a Report from KCC Community Warden Gary Harrison

Gary Harrison said that there has been little to report in the parish recently, although there are still the usual banking scams going the rounds in which people are asked to set up direct debits.

Gary reported that the level of fly tipping appears to have decreased recently.

28.18 Planning – Recent applications and decisions.

28.18a To note any new applications.

Listed Building Consent for the removal of C19th ceiling to former open hall and construction of partition within roofspace.

Old Kent Cottage Frogholt Folkestone Kent CT18 8AT.

Ref. No: Y17/1644/SH | Received: Fri 29 Dec 2017 | Validated: Mon 12 Feb 2018 | Status: **Registered**.

28.18b To note the Parish Council's responses to current applications.

None

28.18c To record any decisions received.

Erection of a detached garage following demolition of existing, together with extension to existing hard-standing and felling of an Apple tree within a conservation area. (Resubmission of Y16/1235/SH)

Frogdene Frogholt Folkestone Kent CT18 8AT

Ref. No: Y17/1483/SH | Received: Mon 20 Nov 2017 | Validated: Wed 06 Dec 2017 | Status: **Approved**

Retrospective application for the erection of a covered walkway between existing garden cabin and dwelling

2 Bargrove Cottages Bargrove Newington Folkestone Kent CT18 8BH

Ref. No: Y17/1548/SH | Received: Thu 30 Nov 2017 | Validated: Tue 02 Jan 2018 | Status: **Approved**

29.18 Finance

11.18a Financial Statement to the end of February 2018

The Financial Statement had been circulated with the agenda (see Appendix A).

The current balance stood at £4895.84. It was **agreed** to accept the statement.

11.18b To authorise payments since last meeting

Payments since the last meeting:

Cheque No 656 - £20 – Poppy wreath

Cheque No 658 - £484.00 – Peene notice board

Cheque No 659 - £72.00 – GDPR training for Chairman and Clerk

Cheque No 660 - £407.44 – Clerk's salary

Cheque No 661 - £144.86 – Clerk's salary

Cheque No 662 - £810.00 – Painting telephone box

30.18 Correspondence since last meeting

15/01/2018 – Letter to SDC with precept request

31.18 Highways and Public Rights of Way updates

31.18a Councillors reported that the 30mph sign at the A20 entrance to village has been damaged and is obscured by overhanging vegetation. Clerk to write to adjacent householder asking them to trim back their hedge and to Kent Highways to repair the sign.

31.18b Councillors reported that litter originating from lorries on the bridge crossing the A20 near the entrance to the village was accumulating on the verge below. Clerk to write to John Keefe of Eurotunnel asking for the litter to be cleared up.

31.18c Councillor Smith reported that Mayday Plumbing could clear the culvert from the flood alleviation ditch at a cost of £65.00. It was agreed the this work should be carried out and asked Councillor Smith to arrange

32.18 Items of general interest from Councillors and Items for the next Agenda

32.18a It was agreed that the Parish Council will purchase the poppy wreath which will be passed to Helen Vincent about three weeks prior to Remembrance Sunday. Mrs Vincent will organise the laying of the poppy wreath at the War Memorial this year. Donations will be invited from residents and passed to Mrs Vincent (Clerk to post notice on the parish notice boards to this effect). Councillor Smith offered to co-ordinate the collection of donations and purchase of wreath.

32.18b Alister Hume of Hume Planning Consultancy would like to give a presentation of the proposed housing scheme opposite Underhill Cottage. It is hoped that this can be arranged for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 9 April 2018.

32.18c We have been advised by ElecLink that the laying of the new high voltage electricity cable across the King George V Playing Field will now not take place until after the Summer Fete.

It was agreed that Councillor Golding would oversee the legal work associated with the ElecLink scheme on behalf of the Parish Council.

32.18d A discussion took place to decide which organisations will be invited to give a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting. Clerk to send out formal invitations

33.18 Confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 9 April 2018 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

34.18 Close of meeting

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.35pm. A closed discussion then took place regarding the recruitment of a new Parish Clerk

APPENDIX A

Financial Statement as at 28 February 2018

Bank balance as at 31 March 2017 = £3741.60

Income received 1 April 2017 to 28 February 2018

| Date | From | Total |
|------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| 01/04/2017 | Precept | 2600.00 |
| 18/09/2017 | Precept | 2600.00 |
| 30/11/2017 | ElecLink | 850.00 |
| 08/01/2018 | SDC (grant for notice board) | 547.80 |
| 12/01/2018 | PKF Littlejohn (overpayment) | 30.00 |
| | Total | 6627.80 |

Expenditure 1 April 2017 to 28 February 2018

| Cheque No | To | Total | VAT element | Net |
|------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------|--------|
| 640 | Clerks salary | 178.48 | | 178.48 |
| 640 | Clerks expenses | 2.50 | 0.50 | 2.00 |
| 641 | KALC subscription | 186.84 | 31.14 | 155.70 |
| 642 | Clerks salary | 144.86 | | 144.86 |
| 643 | Clerks salary | 144.86 | | 144.86 |
| 643 | Clerks expenses | 11.50 | 2.30 | 9.20 |
| 645 | Clerks salary | 181.08 | | |
| 644 | AON Insurance | 460.74 | | 460.74 |
| 647 | Harmers | 756.00 | 126.00 | 630.00 |
| 646 | Newington Village Hall | 56.00 | | 56.00 |
| 649 | Clerks salary | 144.86 | | 144.86 |
| 648 | Playsafety Ltd | 79.80 | 13.30 | 66.50 |
| 651 | Clerks salary | 144.86 | | 144.86 |
| 651 | Clerks expenses | 38.00 | 7.60 | 30.40 |
| 650 | Harmers | 132.00 | 22.00 | 110.00 |
| 652 | Harmers | 198.00 | 33.00 | 165.00 |
| 653 | Clerks salary | 181.08 | | |
| 21/11/2017 | NatWest (Safety Box) | 25.00 | | 25.00 |
| 654 | PKF Littlejohn | 36.00 | 6.00 | 30.00 |
| 655 | Harmers | 402.00 | 67.00 | 335.00 |
| 657 | PKF Littlejohn | 30.00 | | 30.00 |
| 656 | J Neale (Poppy Wreath) | 20.00 | | 20.00 |
| 658 | Notice Board Company | 484.80 | see note 1 | 484.80 |
| 659 | KALC | 72.00 | 12.00 | 60.00 |
| 660 | Clerks salary | 407.44 | | 407.44 |
| 661 | Clerks salary | 144.86 | | 144.86 |
| 662 | PDC Ltd | 810.00 | 135.00 | 675.00 |
| | Total | 5473.56 | | |

Bank balance as at 28 February 2018 = £4895.84

Note 1 - VAT not recoverable (see terms of SDC grant)