

Newchurch Parish Council

Photo Coronation Postbox 2023

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 2025-3 held on Monday 3rd March 2025 in-person and in-public at The Old Wool Store, Brooker Farm, Newchurch Lane, Romney Marsh, TN29 0DT.

At 7.30pm Chairman Colin Woollard opened the meeting.

Unique Minute Number	Agenda Heading	Record	Action by whom and within what timescale
2025-3-1	Persons Present	<u>Parish Councillors</u> Colin Woollard, Tony Goode, Scott Fielding, Michelle Barden; <u>Officer</u> , Mr Michael Sharpe (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer/RFO to Newchurch Parish Council/ NPC).	
2025-3-2	Apologies	<u>Invited speaker</u> Tony Hills (Folkestone & Hythe District Councillor/Kent County Councillor), engaged elsewhere.	
2025-3-3	Declarations of Interest	The Chairman reminded all Parish Councillors to declare any conflicts of interest in the business before them. Cllr Woollard himself declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in the matter at Item 10 on the development of solar farms, as he is leading the 'Hands Off Our Marsh' campaign group.	
2025-3-4	Approval of minutes of previous NPC meeting	The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 3rd February 2025 were examined, discussed and unanimously APPROVED. Proposed S Fielding, seconded A Goode. The Clerk filed the signed Minutes in the loose-leaf binder there and then.	<u>ACTION</u> <u>Clerk</u> to update website by 15th March.
2025-3-5	Matters Arising	None	
2025-3-6	Invited speakers and public participation	KCC & FHDC Councillor Tony Hills provided a 4-page illustrated written report circulated prior to the meeting, which was taken as read. No members of the public attended.	

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2025-3-7	FINANCIAL REPORTS	<p><u>A.</u> Mr Sharpe as RFO informed Councillors that the monies at bank on 3rd March totalled £3,295.52 according to the online statements. The Bank reconciliation against the NPC accounting records was duly signed.</p> <p><u>B.</u> Cheque to be paid: Hopkins+, St Mary's Bay <i>Periodic replacement adult electrodes for Newchurch Village Hall defibrillator</i> £156.42+VAT £31.28=£187.70</p>	
2025-3-8	Family Memorial Bench on Jubilee Field	Councillors examined and debated the placing of a new bench, and were generally in favour of granting such permission. The arrangements for purchase and basing of the item will be the subject of negotiation with the family members of the long-time village resident.	<u>ACTION</u> Clerk to draw up individual agreement and general policy.
2025-3-9	Newchurch Parish - new Councillor	Councillors reported no direct applications for co-option to them. The Clerk advised that the vacancy is legally required to be filled 'as soon as practicable'.	<u>ACTION</u> Cllr Woollard to cast the net wider.
2025-3-10	Solar Farms in Kent	Councillor Woollard vacated the Chair because of his OSI (see Minute 2025-3-3 above), and took no part in the discussion. He remained in the room as would a member of the public, and the 3 remaining unconflicted Councillors discussed news of the several projects mooted. Dismay was widespread. A local resident is to appear at a Parliamentary meeting to amplify the numerous objections.	
2025-3-11	Information-sharing	<p>* Cllr Woollard resumed the Chair and informed others that the flag on the Village Sign may be in need of replacement.</p> <p>* Mr Sharpe noted he had received a feedback request from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).</p>	
2025-3-12	Date, time and place of next NPC Meeting	The Council RESOLVED to hold the next NPC Ordinary Parish Council Meeting at The Old Wool Store, Brooker Farm, Newchurch TN29 0DT on Monday 7th April 2025, at 7.30pm . The Annual Parish Council meeting (APCM) in May was pencilled in for Bank Holiday Monday 5 th May at 7.30pm at the Community Room, Newchurch Village Hall.	<u>ACTION</u> Clerk to circulate Agenda and supporting papers by Monday 31 st March.

The Chairman Colin Woollard thanked Councillors for their unsung time and efforts, and declared the Parish Council meeting closed at 7.56 pm. END.