

Newchurch Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting 2023-9 held on Monday 11th September 2023 in person in The Old Wool Store, Brooker Farm, Newchurch Lane, Romney Marsh, TN29 0DT. At 7.30 pm the Vice Chairman Tony Goode took the chair in the absence of the Chairman, and opened the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting.

Unique Minute Number	Agenda Heading	Record	Action by whom and within what timescale
2023-9-1	Persons Present	<u>Councillors</u> Tony Goode, Colin Woollard, Deborah Woollard, 1 member of the public, 1 invited speaker District Councillor Tony Cooper <u>Officer</u> , Mr Michael Sharpe (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer / RFO to Newchurch Parish Council / NPC).	
2023-9-2	Apologies	Chairman Alison Youd, Cllr Antony Youd, invited speaker KCC Councillor Tony Hills (elsewhere engaged).	
2023-9-3	Declarations of Interest	The Chairman reminded each Councillor to declare any conflicts of interest in the business before them. No declarations were made on this occasion.	
2023-9-4	Approval of minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting	The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 25th July 2023 were examined and discussed and unanimously APPROVED. Proposed C Woollard, seconded T Goode. The Clerk placed the signed copy in the Minutes Book forthwith,	<u>ACTION Clerk</u> to update website by 22 <sup>nd</sup> September.
2023-9-5	Matters Arising	None.	
2023-9-6	Invited speakers and public participation	<p>Cllr Tony Cooper has been representing Romney Marsh Ward of Folkestone &amp; Hythe District Council (FHDC) since the May 2023 election. He spoke in support of Parish councils, and made NPC aware of various funding sources available through FHDC channels, including his Member Ward Grant and the Rural Prosperity Fund. He sits on the FHDC Planning Committee and has 'called in' several Romney Marsh planning applications for decision soon at Committee level. He has been appointed to the Joint Transportation Board, which links Romney Marsh issues to FHDC and Kent County Council (KCC) decision-making. The Chairman thanked Cllr Cooper for attending the meeting and imparting that information. Councillors questioned him on the amount of funding available (possibly £500 at present), its uses (could be for the Jubilee Field playground or a Village Hall project, subject to early and correct grant application forms being submitted). Lastly Cllr Cooper invited Parish Councillors and all residents within his Ward to his regular Saturday morning surgeries from 10am to 12 noon: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays St Mary's Bay, 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays St Mary in the Marsh and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays Dymchurch.</p> <p>In the absence of the Kent County Councillor, Mr Sharpe read out Cllr Hills' short report headed 'September 2023':  <u>Highways</u> – encouraging residents to use the online reporting system to help KCC as Highways Authority focus its efforts on keeping roads as safe as possible; <u>NHS</u> - Work continues to bring a 'Primary Care Hub' to New Romney; <u>Climate Change</u> – Cllr Hills had visited the beach protection dredging site at Jury's Gap on 15<sup>th</sup> August; <u>Dungeness</u> there is an intention to bring Small Modular Nuclear Reactors to the existing nuclear power sites.  The member of the public present offered his knowledge</p>	

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2023-9-6 (ctd)	Public Participation (ctd)	and experience in the area of grants associated with new nuclear developments, and expressed an interest in staying in touch with the Parish Council on planning matters. Councillors thanked him.	
2023-9-7	FINANCIAL REPORTS	<p>A. Mr Sharpe as RFO informed Councillors that the monies at bank on 11<sup>th</sup> September totalled £4,570.81, according to the online statement. The Bank reconciliation was duly signed.</p> <p>B. Councillors considered the payment of the following three cheques:  Warren IT Ltd <i>Website hosting 12 months renewal</i> £114 + VAT £22.80 = <b>£136.80</b>  Information Commissioner's Office <i>Data Protection registration 12-month renewal</i> £40 no VAT  Mulberry &amp; Co <i>Internal Audit for Financial Year 22/23 and AGAR certificate</i> £180 + VAT £36 = <b>£216</b>  <b>(TOTAL £392.80)</b></p> <p>and RESOLVED to approve the payments made.  Proposed T Goode, seconded D Woollard.</p>	ACTION Clerk to post cheques as soon as possible
2023-9-8	Planning matters	All present took part in a discussion of the Planning system. Mr Sharpe reminded Councillors of 2 applications received whose closing date for online comments had passed prior to this meeting. District Councillor Tony Cooper made no comment on any individual planning application, to forestall any hint of predetermination in advance of his attendance at FHDC Planning & Licensing Committee at 6pm on Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October.	
2023-9-9	Internal Auditor	After due debate, Councillors RESOLVED to re-appoint Mulberry & Co as Internal Auditor for 12 months, and to incorporate the likely costs in the budget for Financial Year 24/25. Proposed T Goode, seconded C Woollard	ACTION Clerk to renew contractual relations immediately and arrange interim audit by end November 2023
2023-9-10	Defibrillator	Councillors noted the emailed report from the defib contractor, and that some replacement parts were still awaited. After due debate, they RESOLVED to liaise further with Hopkins+ and purchase the Infant/Child electrode replacements as soon as available.	ACTION Clerk to email Hopkins+ and regularise the situation, by 13 <sup>th</sup> September
2023-9-11	Information-sharing	Councillors noted the repairs to the Youth Shelter in the Jubilee Field playground were in progress. They also expressed dismay at the ambiguous wording of the 'Road Closed / Road Closed Ahead' signage appearing regularly around the parish area.	
2023-9-12	Date, time and place of next NPC Meeting	The Council RESOLVED to hold the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting at The Old Wool Store, Brooker Farm, Newchurch TN29 0DT on Monday 2nd October, at 7.30pm	ACTION Clerk to circulate Agenda etc. by 26th September, and book Old Wool Store.

Cllr Tony Goode, as person presiding, declared the Parish Council meeting to be closed at 8.18 pm. END.