

[Newchurch Parish Council](#)

Minutes of Meeting 2024-10 held on Monday 2nd December 2024 in-person and in-public at The Old Wool Store, Brooker Farm, Newchurch Lane, Romney Marsh, TN29 0DT.

Unique Minute Number	Agenda Heading	Record	Action by whom and within what timescale
2024-10-1	Persons Present	<u>Parish Councillors</u> Colin Woollard, Councillor Tony Goode, Alison Youd, Michelle Barden, Scott Fielding; <u>Invited speakers</u> Lee Adams and Mark Harding as representatives of Enviromena Ltd <u>Officer</u> , Mr Michael Sharpe (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer/RFO to Newchurch Parish Council/ NPC).	
2024-10-2	Apologies	<u>Invited speakers</u> Tony Hills (Folkestone & Hythe District Councillor/Kent County Councillor), Tony Cooper (both engaged elsewhere)	
2024-10-3	Declarations of Interest	The Chairman reminded all Parish Councillors to declare any conflicts of interest in the business before them. No declarations were made.	
2024-10-4	Approval of minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting	The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 4th November 2024 were examined, discussed and unanimously APPROVED. Proposed A Youd, seconded S Fielding The Clerk filed the signed Minutes there and then.	ACTION Clerk to update website by 15th December.
2024-10-5	Matters Arising	Under <u>Minute 2024-9-9</u> Mr Sharpe stated that work on the Financial Regulations and Risk Register was still in progress. Councillors agreed to revisit at the January meeting.	ACTION Clerk to circulate supporting papers with the agenda, by 7 th January 2025.
2024-10-6	Invited speakers and public participation	Councillors expressed thanks to representatives of a planned solar farm, who had requested to attend, and who offered a printed handout and answered questions. There were no members of the public present. Councillors noted that the site, variously named as 'St Mary in the Marsh Solar Farm' and 'land opposite Martin Farm, Newchurch' is separate from the proposed South Kent Energy Park (SKEP) at Old Romney. The land for this 'Enviromena proposal' falls entirely within Newchurch Civil Parish, with road access implications for St Mary in the Marsh Parish. The proposed capacity would be 16 Megawatts, on land around 40 hectares (90 to 100 acres) in area, with 40 years of operation envisaged. Distribution is intended to be at 33 kilovolts with wooden pole infrastructure. The necessary permissions would therefore involve Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FHDC) as Planning Authority, which routinely consults NPC about applications within the parish area. After a fruitful discussion, lasting about 30 minutes, the Chairman thanked Messrs Adams and Harding from Enviromena Ltd for taking the time and trouble to provide information in person, and they left the meeting. Written reports from FHDC and Kent County Councillors were taken as read.	

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2024-10-7	FINANCIAL REPORTS	<u>A.</u> Mr Sharpe as RFO informed Councillors that the monies at bank on 1st December totalled £3,737.54 according to the online statements. The Bank reconciliation against the NPC accounting records was duly signed by Cllr M Barden. As no invoices had been received since the November meeting, there were no cheques for signature.	
2024-10-8	Parish Council Budget 2025-26	Councillors returned to their consideration of the draft budget for 25/26, begun in November. After due deliberation, Councillors RESOLVED to accept the proposed spending under the relevant budget heads. They then RESOLVED to set a precept of £6,500 for 25/26, in accordance with the statutory procedure.	ACTION Clerk/RFO to notify FHDC as collecting authority, on their new spreadsheet form, by 20 th December
2024-10-9	Playground maintenance, improvement, and grant / loan funding applications	Councillors discussed the grant offered by FHDC towards a playground extension and improvements. After due debate, they RESOLVED not to pursue this option, due to the limited application window and the funding timetable. They then authorised the marshalling of volunteer help for weed removal and surface improvement within the central area, now that the timber edging for the bark chippings has been removed. Councillors considered proposals to re-turf and to move the dog-proof fencing to allow extra apparatus to form part of the playground.	ACTION Cllr Fielding to notify FHDC as soon as convenient. ACTION All Councillors to draft a specification / wish-list for how the improved playground should look, for January meeting.
2024-10-10	Information-sharing	Councillors discussed new information about Westgate Industrial Estate businesses and hauliers causing problems for residents, by operating outside long-established planning conditions such as working hours. They also offered thanks to the Chairman for personally clearing the ivy from the Village Sign in the Donkey Field.	
2024-10-11	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 6 th January 2025, at 7.30pm	ACTION Clerk to circulate Agenda and supporting papers by Monday 29 th December.

The Chairman Colin Woollard thanked all those present for their contributions, and declared the Parish Council meeting closed at 9.08 pm. Light refreshments were then partaken of, and the compliments of the season were wished to all. END.