

Newchurch Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting 2024-7 held on Monday 2nd September 2024 in-person and in-public at The Old Wool Store, Brooker Farm, Newchurch Lane, Romney Marsh, TN29 0DT. At 7.30 pm the Chairman Colin Woollard welcomed all present and opened the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting.

Unique Minute Number	Agenda Heading	Record	Action by whom and within what timescale
2024-7-1	Persons Present	<u>Councillors</u> Colin Woollard, Alison Youd, Tony Goode; Michelle Barden, Scott Fielding; 1 member of the public; Tony Hills (Kent County and Folkestone & Hythe District Councillor). <u>Officer</u> , Mr Michael Sharpe (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer/RFO to Newchurch Parish Council/ NPC)	
2024-7-2	Apologies	Invited speaker Tony Cooper (Folkestone & Hythe District Councillor) – elsewhere committed.	
2024-7-3	Declarations of Interest	The Chairman reminded all Parish Councillors to declare any conflicts of interest in the business before them. No declarations were made.	
2024-7-4	Approval of minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting	The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 1st July 2024 were examined, discussed and unanimously APPROVED. Proposed T Goode, seconded S Fielding. The Clerk filed the signed Minutes there and then.	<u>ACTION Clerk</u> to update website by 15th September.
2024-7-5	Matters Arising	Under Minute 2024-6-4 Councillors Barden and Fielding reported a successful online training session on ‘The Nuts and Bolts of Parish Councils’ on 22 <sup>nd</sup> July.	
2024-7-6	Invited speaker and public participation	KCC member Tony Hills presented his verbal report, previously circulated to Councillors, and invited questions. Parish Councillors were interested in the KCC Highways Improvement Plans (HIPs), which each parish may choose to develop; water quality and flooding issues within Newchurch and on the nearby coastline; and the retention and improvement of the 11A bus service which serves Newchurch. District Cllr Tony Cooper’s report was read out to the meeting. The member of the public made representations to Councillors about the planning matter of Item 8 (below), for which he is the applicant.	
2024-7-7	FINANCIAL REPORTS	<p><b>A.</b> Mr Sharpe as RFO informed Councillors that the monies at bank on 2<sup>nd</sup> September June totalled £5,031.13, according to the online statements. The Bank reconciliation against the NPC accounting records was duly signed.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Previous payments of invoices were then ratified under Regulation 6(6) of the NPC Financial Regulations:  Playsafety Ltd, Swindon <i>Annual playground safety report July 2024</i> £98.00+VAT£19.60=<b>£117.60</b>  Michael Sharpe, Clerk <i>Reimbursement of online antivirus renewal</i> <b>£74.99</b> NO VAT</p> <p><b>C.</b> Cheques were then signed for the following invoices /note:  Warren IT Services Ltd, Folkestone <i>Domain Name renewal and Web hosting 2024-25</i> £115+VAT£23=<b>£138.00</b>  Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC), Dover <i>Councillor online Training 22nd July 2 places</i> £100+VAT£20=<b>£120.00</b>  Information Commissioner, Wilmslow <i>Annual Data Protection Registration fee</i> <b>£40.00</b> NO VAT</p>	

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2024-7-8	Planning Matters	<b>24/1148 &amp; 1149/FH CARTER BUNGALOW, NEWCHURCH, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 0DH</b> <i>Demolition of outbuildings etc and variation to conditions 4 (parking), 5 (hard &amp; soft landscape), &amp; 10 (windows or openings)etc</i> After due debate, Councillors RESOLVED to support the composite proposal in full. Proposed C Woollard, seconded T Goode.	<u>ACTION Clerk</u> to submit Parish Council support comments online to FHDC that same evening.
2024-7-9	Jubilee Playground	Having read the Playsafety Ltd report (47 pages, dated 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 and circulated by email), Councillors discussed the findings and previous feedback from residents and users. They agreed that the major hazard of the decayed timber surrounds of the bark chippings area should be removed forthwith. Mr Sharpe reported on the costings obtained for the other recommended remedial works, with a view to making further applications for grant funding. Councillors considered the removal of the ‘Spring Rocker’ without replacement (within the bark chippings area), and the replacement of the bark chippings with an adequate safety surface for the ‘fall heights’ of all apparatus. They also took into account the problem of the unsightly weeds growing within the bark chippings. After due debate, they RESOLVED that a number of the issues identified in the report would be addressed from the existing budgetary provision for the handyman contractor to carry out minor works; and that visual defects not identified in the report would be addressed by DIY action. They also RESOLVED to inform users of the plans to improve the condition of the playground generally.	<u>ACTION Colin Woollard</u> to approach local volunteers to carry out swift remedial action. <u>ACTION Alison Youd</u> to check with inspector about the ‘grass surfacing’ option, as soon as possible. <u>ACTION Clerk/RFO</u> to contract with handyman for minor works on the Junior Swing, by end September.
2024-7-10	Litter Bin in The Pound, by the Church Pond	Following an informal request from the churchwardens, Councillors debated the siting of a new litter bin for use by residents and visitors especially, in the area in Parish Council ownership. They RESOLVED to obtain and install such a bin, to be emptied by the churchwardens as required. Proposed C Woollard, seconded A Youd.	<u>ACTION Colin Woollard</u> to make enquiries about low-cost bins from trade sources and residents, by 15 <sup>th</sup> September.
2024-7-11	Correspondence	Councillors considered a circular email from KALC highlighting efforts in Kent to address national issues of ‘conduct in public life’. They noted it for future reference.	
2024-7-12	Information-sharing	Alison Youd updated Councillors on the type of events expected for ‘VE-Day 80’ commemoration / celebration on 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2025. Mention was also made of the possibility of similar commemoration on 15 <sup>th</sup> August (VJ-Day 80 and the XIVth Army under General Bill Slim).	
2024-7-13	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 7 <sup>th</sup> October, at 7.30pm.	<u>ACTION Clerk</u> to circulate Agenda and supporting papers by 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2024.

The Chairman thanked all those present for their contributions, and declared the Parish Council meeting to be closed at 8.54 pm. END.