

[Newchurch Parish Council](#)

**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 2025-2** held on Monday 3rd February 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
2025-2-1	Persons Present	Parish Councillors Colin Woollard, Tony Goode, Scott Fielding, Michelle Barden; <u>Invited speaker</u> Tony Hills ( <i>arrived 7.34pm</i> ) (Folkestone & Hythe District Councillor/Kent County Councillor); <u>Officer</u> , Mr Michael Sharpe (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer/RFO to Newchurch Parish Council/ NPC).	
2025-2-2	Apologies	None received	
2025-2-3	Declarations of Interest	The Chairman reminded all Parish Councillors to declare any conflicts of interest in the business before them. Cllr Woollard declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in the planning matter at Item 8.	
2025-2-4	Approval of minutes of previous Parish Council meeting	The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 6th January 2025 were examined, discussed and unanimously APPROVED. Proposed A Goode, seconded M Barden. The Clerk filed the signed Minutes in the loose-leaf binder immediately.	<b>ACTION</b> <b>Clerk</b> to update website by 15th February.
2025-2-5	Matters Arising	Under <u>Minute 2025-1-9</u> Cllr Woollard reported that enquiries about turf supplies are still in hand.	
2025-2-6	Invited speakers and public participation	<p>KCC &amp; FHDC Councillor Tony Hills attended in person to present his short report, and covered the following topics: <u>Local Democracy</u>, and the forthcoming changes to all Councils with the possible creation of a Mayor for Kent - much uncertainty about the process. <u>Bus Services</u> - the dial-a-ride 'Marsh Bee' taking residents to hospital appointments etc. is faring well. <u>Groundwater Flood Risks</u> - long-term thinking and action are required. <u>Seawater Quality</u> - discussions and action-planning with the Environment Agency are in progress. <u>Solar Farm Plans</u> - because the National Critical Infrastructure (NCI) decisions will be taken by Secretary of State Ed Miliband, the emphasis is on ensuring 'planning gain' for Marsh communities affected, through funding for infrastructure and possible householder compensation. <u>Dungeness Power Stations</u> Defuelling and dismantling are likely to take several years, and Cllr Hills has been pressing for Small Modular Nuclear Reactors at the site as replacements. This again depends on NCI and Government policy. <u>Climate Change</u> This has affected the Kent fishing fleet, tourism and local angling enthusiasts. Cllr Hills espouses support for this way of life. Councillors posed various questions and made various comments on Cllr Hills' report. Chairman Colin Woollard thanked Cllr Hills for attending in person.</p> <p>The written report from FHDC Councillor Tony Cooper had been circulated prior to the meeting as was taken as read. No members of the public attended.</p>	

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2025-2-7	FINANCIAL REPORTS	<u>A.</u> Mr Sharpe as RFO informed Councillors that the monies at bank on 3rd February totalled £3,294.71 according to the online statements. The Bank reconciliation against the NPC accounting records was duly signed by Cllr Woollard. <u>B.</u> Mr Sharpe recommended a transfer from current to deposit account of £612. This will allow the contingency reserve to be identified easily at year-end. After due debate, Councillors RESOLVED to make this transfer ('virement'), and the relevant signatories completed the written request. (Note: no cheques at this meeting)	
2025-2-8	Planning matters	Cllr Woollard declared an interest and vacated the Chair. Vice-Chairman Tony Goode presided for this item. Councillors considered <b>24/1479/FH/PA</b> Brooker Farm Yard East, demolition etc. and noted the Parish Council has already commented favourably on this application.	
2025-2-9	Casual vacancy for Parish Councillor	Cllr Woollard resumed as person presiding. Councillors had been informed by email that no poll has been called. They therefore RESOLVED to move on to the active co-option phase including publicising the vacancy through various electronic channels and word of mouth.	<u>ACTION</u> <b>Cllr Woollard</b> to re-contact previous co-option prospect.
2025-2-10	Village Notice Board	Cllr Barden accessed the Notice Board recently and noted some ergonomic usability defects. After due debate, Councillors RESOLVED to rationalise the list of key-holders, develop a 'posters on the board' policy and provide for emergency and routine maintenance of this valuable example of local craftsmanship.	<u>ACTION</u> <b>Clerk</b> to circulate draft policy by 20 <sup>th</sup> February, for agreement at March meeting. <u>ACTION</u> <b>Cllr Woollard</b> to check handyman capability and availability, when convenient.
2025-2-11	Correspondence:	Councillors noted recent emails received from FHDC and KCC regarding grant opportunities.	
2025-2-12	Information-sharing	Cllr Woollard recently attended an online Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) meeting, which was beneficial. Mr Sharpe reminded the meeting of a recent report of lasers being directed at HM Coastguard helicopters, with reference to the Parish Council's duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 section 17.	
2025-2-13	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 3rd March 2025, at 7.30pm	<u>ACTION</u> <b>Clerk</b> to circulate Agenda and supporting papers by Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February.

The Chairman Colin Woollard thanked all those present for their contributions, and declared the Parish Council meeting closed at 8.25 pm. END.