

## Newchurch Parish Council

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 2025-6 held on Monday 2nd June 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
2025-6-1	Persons Present	<u>Parish Councillors</u> Colin Woollard, Michelle Barden, Tony Goode, Scott Fielding; <u>Officer</u> , Mr Michael Sharpe (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer/RFO to Newchurch Parish Council/ NPC).	
2025-6-2	Apologies	<u>Invited speaker</u> Tony Cooper (Folkestone & Hythe District Councillor)	
2025-6-3	Declarations of Interest	The Chairman reminded all Parish Councillors to declare any conflicts of interest in the business before them. No declaration was made.	
2025-6-4	Approval of minutes of previous PC meeting	The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 were examined, discussed and unanimously APPROVED. Proposed T Goode, seconded S Fielding. The Clerk filed the signed Minutes in the loose-leaf binder immediately.	<u>ACTION Clerk</u> to update website by 15th June.
2025-6-5	Matters Arising	Under <u>Minute 2025-5-14</u> Mr Sharpe informed Councillors that the KALC EGM on LGR had changed venue to the Ashford International Hotel (AIH) because of the number of member Councils wishing to attend.	<u>ACTION Cllr Woollard</u> to attend as NPC representative.
2025-6-6	Invited speakers & public participation	District Councillor Cooper's short apology and report were read out to the meeting. No members of the public attended.	
2025-6-7	Solar Farms Enviromena proposed development	Mr Sharpe informed Councillors that Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FHDC) Planning Committee had 'called in' 25/0542/FH 'Land opp Marten Farm' ( <i>alias 'Enviromena'</i> ). That Committee was next likely to meet on Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July to discuss this application, and Councillors and residents may follow the progress online at <a href="http://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk">www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk</a> . Councillors noted two other large Solar Farm applications ('SEP' and 'SKEP') have been made, which are likely to be decided at National Infrastructure level by The Planning Inspectorate / Secretary of State. An approach from neighbouring Bilsington Parish Council was noted, aiming to foster partnership working on the applications. Newchurch Parish Council RESOLVED to call a meeting of the NPC Planning Committee for 23 <sup>rd</sup> June.	<u>ACTION Clerk</u> to book The Old Wool Store, prepare single-item agenda, summon Committee members and post public notice, by 17 <sup>th</sup> June.
2025-6-8	AGAR	Councillors reviewed the information they had received under Items 11 and 12 of the previous meeting. They set to with willing hearts, and in the following order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examined each of the assertions 1 to 8 on the Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 form, and answered 'yes' to all, (noting that assertion 9 is inapplicable as NPC is not a sole managing trustee of any local trust);</li> <li>Examined and accepted the Section 2 Accounting</li> </ul>	

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2025-6-8 (continued)	AGAR (ctd)	Statements 2024/25 which Mr Sharpe had signed before presenting them, agreeing that these were a true and fair representation of NPC finances; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed that the public inspection period should run for six weeks from 4<sup>th</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> July inclusive</li> </ul>	
2025-6-9	FINANCIAL REPORTS	<u>A.</u> Mr Sharpe as RFO informed Councillors that the monies at bank on 2nd June totalled <b>£8,406.08</b> according to the online statements. The Bank reconciliation against the NPC accounting records was duly signed by Cllr Goode. <u>B.</u> After due debate, Councillors RESOLVED to ratify payment of the following invoices between meetings, under Financial Regulation 6.6: Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd, Farnham <i>Internal Audit for AGAR</i> <b>£130 + VAT £26 = <u>£156.00</u></b> Newchurch Village Hall <i>Room Hire Annual PC Meeting</i> <b><u>£7.00</u></b> NO VAT Clear Insurance Management Ltd, Leicester <i>Parish Council Annual Insurance renewal (3 year arrangement)</i> <b><u>£475.70</u></b> NO VAT (3 cheques totalling <b>£638.70</b> )	
2025-6-10	Parish Councillor vacancy and Clerk succession	Cllr Woollard reported that he had approached likely candidates for co-option but none has yet come forward. A prospective successor for the Clerk & RFO position had been identified, with the possibility of splitting the responsibilities between the two roles once again.	<b>ACTION Clerk</b> to present a position paper on handing over to his successor(s), at July meeting.
2025-6-11	Playground	Councillors continued to consider the correct remedial works to perform around the Multi-Play Tower, with the annual safety inspection due in July. They RESOLVED to plan towards removing the woodchip and relaying turf in September.	<b>ACTION All Councillors</b> to monitor weed growth and consult users, when convenient.
2025-6-12	Mobile phone	Mr Sharpe informed Councillors of a message from the network provider that the Parish Council's 3G phone might not work in future. He advocated a change to a smartphone which would allow online banking as well, indicative price £70 purchase + PAYG subscription.	<b>ACTION Clerk</b> to bring costed options to July meeting.
2025-6-13	Correspondence:	Councillors noted the request from Age UK to display a poster. They RESOLVED to do so when Notice Board space permits, for a maximum of 3 months.	<b>ACTION Clerk</b> to arrange to display and place on website.
2025-6-14	Information-sharing	Councillors returned to the Solar Farms topic, and shared info and intel affecting Newchurch residents.	
2025-6-15	Date, time and place of next NPC Meeting	Confirmed as Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7.30pm at The Old Wool Store, Brooker Farm, Newchurch, at which the Minutes of any Planning Committee stand to be read and accepted.	<b>ACTION Clerk</b> to arrange, by Tuesday 1st July 2025.

The Chairman Colin Woollard thanked all those present for their contributions, and declared the Parish Council meeting closed at 8.36 pm. END.