

Newchurch Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting 2024-3 held on Monday 4th March 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 Alison Youd welcomed all present and opened the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting.

Unique Minute Number	Agenda Heading	Record	Action by whom and within what timescale
2024-3-1	Persons Present	<u>Councillors</u> Alison Youd, Antony Youd, Deborah Woollard; Invited speaker Kent County Councillor Tony Hills <u>Officer</u> , Mr Michael Sharpe (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer/RFO to Newchurch Parish Council/ NPC) The meeting was quorate, with 3 Parish Councillors.	
2024-3-2	Apologies	Parish Councillors Colin Woollard, Tony Goode; Invited speaker Kent Police PC Steve Putland.	
2024-3-3	Declarations of Interest	The Chairman reminded all Parish Councillors to declare any conflicts of interest in the business before them. No declarations were made.	
2024-3-4	Approval of minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting	The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 5th February 2024 were examined, discussed and unanimously APPROVED. Proposed Deborah Woollard, seconded Antony Youd. The Clerk placed the signed copy in the Minutes Book straightway.	<u>ACTION Clerk</u> to update website by 15th March.
2024-3-5	Matters Arising	Councillors noted that the action points had been achieved.	
2024-3-6	Invited speakers and public participation	No members of the public were present. KCC member Tony Hills presented his report verbally (previously circulated by email to Parish Councillors), addressing : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the forthcoming 17-week closure of Coast Road Littlestone / Greatstone to repair an ageing gas main; recent surface water flooding on Romney and adjoining Marshes; Kent's 'Plan Bee' to encourage pollinating insects and other wildlife. Early butterflies have been noted on the Marshes. Cllr Hills in his role as KCC Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment then answered Councillors' concerns on potholes, and kerb damage caused by bin wagons. All Parish Councillors thanked him for attending and sharing this information. The written short report of invited speaker District Cllr Tony Cooper, who was unavoidably absent, had been circulated by email to Councillors and was taken as read. Councillors noted Kent Police's use of the 'My Community Voice Kent' platform to disseminate up-to-date reports.	
2024-3-7	FINANCIAL REPORT	Mr Sharpe as RFO informed Councillors that the monies at bank on 4 th March totalled £1,464.99, according to the online statements. The Bank reconciliation against the NPC accounting records was duly signed. A previous payment of a cheque following the February meeting was then ratified: D Woollard <i>Reimbursement of Coronation art materials</i> (late payment of claim from June last year) £60.61. In reviewing the budget set for the coming Financial Year FY 24/25 Councillors indicated a priority for the further remedial works at the Jubilee Field children's playground.	<u>ACTION Clerk</u> to obtain estimates for phase 2 works from preferred contractor, and report to April meeting.

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2024-3-8	Recent Foul water Flooding within the Parish	Parish Councillors have been made aware of a failure of the small sewage treatment works (STW) belonging to Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FHDC), leading to foul water ingress into 4 residents' gardens and one resident's utility room and garden. Affected residents have correctly contacted FHDC Ward Councillor Tony Cooper. Three FHDC vans were seen on site on the day of the meeting. Tony Hills has now been elected also to FHDC, and being present was able to reassure Parish Councillors that he too is aware of the background and current issues with this incident.	
2024-3-9	D-Day 80 commemoration	The Chairman updated Councillors on the opportunity to purchase special flags for the commemoration, costs being in the region of £62 including VAT. National arrangements are for these flags to be flown on 6 th June and for one week afterwards. After due debate, Councillors RESOLVED to purchase a flag of the correct size with fixings, and arrange for it to be flown at the Spinney War Memorial as appropriate.	ACTION Alison Youd to check measurements and place order online, with invoice to be directed to RFO, when convenient.
2024-3-10	Correspondence	1. Within the 'My Community Voice Kent' platform (see Item 6 above), Kent Police had notified NPC of a successful 'Local Engagement Meeting' at Lydd on 28 th February. Since meetings are held quarterly in different locations, Councillors made a note of the Police and FHDC personnel involved in case future LEMs are held nearby.	
2024-3-11	Information-sharing	Chairman Alison Youd reported on her attendance at the rearranged Romney Marsh Forum (RMF) meeting in New Romney on Thursday 8 th February. PC Steve Putnam had been present at that occasion, and it was agreed by the small number of attendees that he has done a good job in raising the policing profile in the locality. RMF is looking at holding remote meetings in future, for the convenience of volunteer attendees.	
2024-3-12	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 8 th April, at 7.30pm. Looking ahead, the Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held at The Village Hall on Monday 13 th May.	ACTION Clerk to circulate April Agenda etc. by 2nd April.

The Chairman thanked all those present for their contributions, and declared the Parish Council meeting to be closed at 8.15 pm. END.