NEWCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

*MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (APM) HELD AT 8 PM ON MONDAY 14 MAY 2019 IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM AT NEWCHURCH VILLAGE HALL*

1. Persons PRESENT

Chairman Cllr Trevor Apps

Vice Chair Cllr Andrew Cragg

Cllr Alison Youd

Cllr Neale Waters

Cllr Deborah Ward

Mrs Katie Waters

Mr Michael Barclay (representing Newchurch Parochial Church Council)

Mr Peter Dunning

Mrs Diana Dunning

Mrs Gillian Apps

PCSO Ferenc Zsinko (representing Kent Police)

Mr Michael Sharpe (minutes) 12 ATTENDEES

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Received from Mrs Valerie Denby

3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN and VICE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman then vacated the chair and Cllr Cragg conducted the election for the appointment of Chairman. Cllr Apps was duly re-elected unopposed as Chairman - proposed by Cllr Waters and seconded by Cllr Ward. Cllr Cragg was re-elected unopposed as Vice Chairman - proposed by Cllr Ward and seconded by Cllr Waters.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL MEETING 7 May 2018. Paper copies of the draft minutes were distributed to attendees, and these minutes had been on the website for public inspection over the previous 11 months. They were agreed as a true record, proposed D Dunning, seconded M Barclay

5. MATTERS ARISING - none

6. CHAIRMANʼS REPORT

The Chairman then read out his written report on the previous notable happenings in 12 months in the village. Full text is available on [www.newchurchvillage.org](http://www.newchurchvillage.org) under the ‘Club Reports 2019’ tab.

7. TREASURER’S REPORT.

On behalf of Mrs Denby Cllr Cragg presented a single-page summary spreadsheet to the Meeting to cover the Parish Council’s financial year from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. He explained that the Annual Governance and Audit Review (AGAR) documents for public inspection in June and July will present the same information in a different format. The surplus for year of £3568.28 and closing balance of £15610.32 represent reserve funds of around £11000 for the memorial upgrade in the Spinney, the playground fencing project and the possibility of an expensive election. A question from those present was asked about the Hall Hire figure being £0 for two consecutive years. Cllr Apps indicated that this category was in the accounts for payment for the Community Room for the Annual Meetings, but the Parish Council had yet to receive an invoice for the previous years’ hirings. Cllr Apps then proposed that the Meeting approve the report, seconded by Cllr Ward, and this was AGREED by all present voting in favour.

8. COMMUNITY & CLUB REPORTS:

PCSO Zsinko read out a report from himself and his colleague PCSO Gorham covering Romney Marsh and Newchurch and then answered questions from those present. The text of his report is available on [www.newchurchvillage.org](http://www.newchurchvillage.org) under the ‘Club Reports 2019’ tab. He gave the contact email [csu.shepway@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:csu.shepway@kent.pnn.police.uk), and also recommended reporting online on the Kent Police website. There is likely to be a public engagement day at Maidstone Control Room in June, which is a very interesting visit for those wishing to understand the current call-handling arrangements. A resident asked about an individual whose tractor driving was known to be erratic, and PCSO Zsinko outlined the procedure for a vehicle to be seized if it has been involved in three instances of causing alarm and distress, under section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002. A report should be made online under the ‘harassment’ tab in order to generate a crime number. Another resident asked about submitting dashcam footage to the police, and PCSO Zsinko said that contact could be made online or by ringing 101 to arrange for the micro SD card to be given to the police, downloaded at their premises, and returned. Regarding flytipping, PCSOs have in the past caught such criminals in the act, and the responsibility for pursuing this major local issue is shared between Kent County Council, Folkestone & Hythe District Council, and Kent Police.

The Meeting thanked PCSO Zsinko for taking the time to attend, and reminded him that he and PCSO Gorham would be welcome at the Saturday morning tea and cakes fundraiser sessions, 10.30 to 12.30, which would give a further opportunity to meet and mingle with Newchurch residents.

*The Chairman then presented the following organisations’ reports (unless otherwise stated):*

Newchurch Village Hall Management Committee

The Newchurch Parochial Church Council report was presented by Mike Barclay, and it appears that changes are on the way within the Benefice, possibly in 2020.

Newchurch Social Club

Short Mat Bowls Club

Newchurch WI (celebrating nearly 30 years, with several fish’n’chip suppers!).

All reports are available to view on newchurchvillage.org under the ‘Club Reports 2019’ tab. The Meeting thanked Cllr Apps for composing, obtaining and reading out these reports, which indicate the healthy community spirit alive in Newchurch.

9 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2019-20

The internal auditor for 2019-2020, Lesley Bruce of Ham Street, was confirmed to the Meeting.

10. WEBSITE [www.newchurchvillage.org](http://www.newchurchvillage.org). Cllr Cragg explained that a Steering Group meets twice a year to revise and update content, and the site is maintained on a daily basis by Sandi Starling, to whom praise and thanks were given by the meeting. Kent Police messages are covered very well, and a full list of Saturday fundraisers is given too.

11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS An attendee wondered if the new owners of the Westgate warehouse/industrial site on the eastern edge of the village envelope had made their intentions clear, and the Parish Council was enjoined to keep a watching brief. Another resident criticized the lack of information on candidates who had stood in the May 2019 District Council elections, and the Meeting concurred that election literature from candidates’ parties had been patchily distributed.

12. DATE AND TIME OF 2020 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (APM) - Monday 11th May 2020 7pm, in the Community Room, Village Hall, if available.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the Meeting closed at 8.57pm.

**END**