



Newchurch Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting 2019-11 held in the Old Wool Store, Brooker Farm, Newchurch TN29 0DP on Monday 2nd December 2019. At 7.33 pm Chairman Cllr Apps welcomed all to the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting.

Unique Minute No	Agenda Heading	Record	Action by whom and within what timescale
2019-11-1	Persons Present	Councillors Trevor Apps (Chairman), Andrew Cragg, Deborah Ward, Alison Youd, Tony Goode, 1 member of the public, Tony Hills (Kent County Council (KCC) Ward Member), Mr Michael Sharpe (Clerk to Newchurch Parish Council)	
2019-11-2	Apologies	Mrs Valerie Denby (Responsible Financial Officer / RFO to Newchurch Parish Council)	
2019-11-3	Declarations of Interest	The Chairman reminded Councillors of their obligation to declare any interest, pecuniary or otherwise, during the course of each item as it arises.	
2019-11-4	Final Minutes of previous meeting	The printed copies of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 4 th November 2019 were examined and discussed and unanimously APPROVED. Proposed A Cragg Seconded D Ward.	ACTION Clerk to place signed copy of paper minutes in Minute Book straightaway, and update website by 20th December.
2019-11-5	Matters Arising	<p>In examining the Minutes the Council noted that all action points had been addressed as appropriate. Under <u>Minute 2019-9-10</u> Cllr Cragg reported that he and Cllr Apps had examined the Play Area and he gave out a list of remedial actions proposed. The Council then considered these and RESOLVED to undertake the remedial actions either through arranging a village working party or by engaging contractors as appropriate, proposed A Cragg, seconded T Apps.</p> <p>Under <u>Minute 2019-10-10</u> Cllr Youd reported the Speedwatch publicity had appeared on the village website. KCC member Tony Hills was able to offer the Council more information on the type and availability of the equipment, and the arrangements agreed at the Romney Marsh Forum. Cllr Goode volunteered to take part in the scheme.</p> <p>Under <u>Minute 2019-11-11</u> the Clerk reported that his investigations into responsibility for the bus shelter were continuing, and that the phone box had now been uplifted by British Telecom and the ground planted with grass seed.</p>	<p>ACTION All Councillors to consider a good date and time to gather helpers and carry out works, at earliest convenience.</p> <p>ACTION Clerk to email Tony Hills with details of the Council's concerns over speeding through the village, by 16th December, for transmission to KCC Highways Staff.</p> <p>ACTION Clerk to pursue enquiries and report to Councillors by email asap.</p>
2019-11-6	Public Interval and KCC Member report	No members of the public wished to speak at this juncture. KCC member for Romney Marsh Tony Hills explained that he wishes to help the Council in its various projects, and has a small budget remaining which may be used for top-up funding, upon proper application to KCC. He stated that he also sits as a Councillor for the Walland and Denge Marsh Ward of Folkestone & Hythe	

		District Council (FHDC - the Planning Authority) and as a Lydd Town Councillor. He is a member of the Conservative Party, but believes that Town and Parish Councils are best operated non-politically. He left his contact details with the Clerk and one of the Parish Councillors. At the close of this part of the meeting, the Council readopted Standing Orders.	
2019-11-7	FINANCIAL REPORT	Cllr Cragg reported that in Mrs Denby's absence bank balances were £16,794.63 (current) and £0.06 (deposit). Two unpresented cheques for small amounts are still outstanding. Cllr Cragg stated that he and the Treasurer had prepared the 2020/21 budget and displayed the relevant spreadsheets onscreen for all present. He answered questions on the reserves set aside for the memorial upgrade in The Spinney, and a further query about the Visitor Hub proposed for there by the Fifth Continent project. The Council then proceeded to discuss the setting of the precept to be formally set at the January meeting, and after due consideration the Council RESOLVED in principle to set it at £4350, an increase of 4.8%, to be ratified by the Treasurer when present.	<p>ACTION A Cragg to ensure that all Councillors can access the budget documents online, as soon as possible.</p> <p>ACTION Clerk to check the date by which FHDC expect to be notified of the precept amount, as soon as possible.</p>
2019-11-8	PLANNING MATTERS:	No new applications relevant to Newchurch, and all existing applications decided..	
2019-11-9	Training for Councillors	The Council noted that Cllr Youd had attended the 'Dynamic Councillor' course which Cllr Ward was due to go to on 5 th December. It RESOLVED that Cllr Goode, being newly elected, should attend a similar course when available, the cost being £60+VAT	
2019-11-10	Council email addresses for Councillors	The Clerk recommended ending the use of personal email accounts for Council business. Some councillors demurred.	ACTION Clerk to assess feasibility and report to the January meeting.
2019-11-11	Correspondence	The Clerk formally reminded Councillors he was passing on the FHDC advice on 'purdah' during the period up to the General Election declaration of results on 13 th December.	
2019-11-12	Any other business	Councillors expressed concern at the vacated property managed by English Rural Housing Association (ERHA) in Links Close, Newchurch, which is supposed to be dedicated to local needs housing.	ACTION Clerk to draft an appropriate letter to FHDC ward members Cllrs Myers and Mullard, and EHRA, copying to FHDC member Tony Hills, by 16 th December.
2019-11-13	Dates and places of next Parish Council meetings	Monday 13 th January 7.30pm Old Wool Store Brooker Farm. February 3 rd meeting 6.30pm start. March 2 nd , 6 th April, 4 th May (Village Hall).	<p>ACTION Clerk to prepare and circulate agendas by 30th December 2019.</p> <p>ACTION T Apps to book Community Room for 4th May as convenient.</p>

The Chairman declared the Parish Council meeting to be concluded at 8.58pm.