

Newnham Parish Council Meeting Minutes,
Thursday 10th November 2022

Present: Cllrs Elworthy, Turner, Wickenden, Gunner,

In attendance: Louise Bareham Parish Clerk,

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted from Cllrs Chesson and Crampton and SBC Cllr Simmons

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded by Cllr Chesson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of Newnham Parish Council Annual Meeting dated 13th October 2022.***

It was noted that apologies would be sent for the KALC AGM

4. Open Session

Cllr Lehmann reported that buses would run until February as three months' notice had been given the bus companies. He had met with KCC officers to look at the financial justification versus cost of providing transport for school children, but it still showed a cost saving. There will be a right of appeal if parents/carers have no way of getting their children to school. Cllr Lehmann also plans to meet with Chalkwell Buses.

KCC only has a statutory obligation to get children to their nearest school, so for Newnham that would be to Abbey School and not QE or Sittingbourne schools. There will be a 'spare seat scheme', assuming there is room in the school bus, parents will be able to pay £400 a year. Low income families will be provided with transport to their 3 nearest schools. It was noted that a bus service is still running from Eastling, although it was felt impracticable for anyone to get there on foot.

Cllr Lehmann also noted the Green Doctors will be at the Village Hall on 8th December between 10am – 12 noon to give energy saving advice.

5. Planning

5 Wineycock, Newnham It was proposed by Cllr Wickenden, seconded by Cllr Turner and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to support the planning application for 5 Wineycock***

6. Bus Service

Discussed in full in open session

7. The Street Layby

The Clerk noted that she had been reporting the flooding and mud on a regular basis and the road was due to be cleaned. The gullies had previously been cleaned and it was felt the main issue was the run-off of water and mud coming from Seed Road area which collected where the camber of the road met. It was agreed to continue to report issues on a regular basis.

8. **EV Points**

Cllr Elworthy had recently met with Giles Hilton and John Barnes, who said he was waiting for the parish council to contact him, but was positive about the prospective of EV charges in the pub car park.

9. **Items for Report**

Cllr Turner noted that 11 people attended the defibrillator training and all found it very helpful.

Cllrs Elworthy and Turner attended a meeting with other parish council chairs regarding The Retreat and the lack of enforcement by Swale Borough Council.

Concerns were raised regarding the churchyard, which had been mowed severely and was no longer an area for biodiversity. Other issues noted included lack of insurance, if stones were to hit windows etc.