Newchurch Parish Council

Minutes of Annual and Ordinary Meeting 2026-6 held on Monday 1 June 2026 at The Community Room, Newchurch Village Hall, Newchurch, Romney Marsh, Kent TN29 0DP.

Unique Minute Number	Agenda item	Record	Action
2026-6-1	In attendance	**Parish Councillors** Colin Woollard (Chair), Scott Fielding (Vice Chair), Michelle Barden & Valerie Denby **Clerk & Finance Officer**, Alison Prentice There were no members of the general public present.	
2026-6-2	Declarations of Interest	The Chair reminded all Parish Councillors to declare any conflicts of interest in the business before them. None noted	
2026-6-3	Approval of previous minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed Valerie Denby, seconded Michelle Bardon.	ACTION **Clerk** to file/update notice board & website.
2026-6-4	Matters Arising	The Chair advised he had been in consultation with the Chair of Burmarsh Parish Council to join forces in advertising/recruiting a new clerk.	ACTION: **Chair** to advertise role for replacement Clerk
2026-6-5	Invited speakers & public participation	Cllr Tony Hills tendered his apologies and provided the following report. "Matters I have been engaged with, Romney Marsh ward. **Water Quality** I'm chasing officers at F&H DC to move at pace on the motion passed recently on water quality improvement. The EA water testing started again this month I will be monitoring it on a weekly basis. I have checked the first two results on the .gov website for bathing water quality. Sadley this is the worst start in five years for Dymchurch, let's hope this improves. At the recent 'water users meeting' at the Varne Boat Club, Southern Water supplied an immense amount of data, we were informed that the spend in the district will increase from £11 million to £42 million over the next five years but I can't see how that will help Dymchurch this year. Regrettably the EA was not present, this is not acceptable, I will take this up with the EA. **Solar Farms** The second round of consultations have started with the 'South Brookes' scheme a 'webinar' was held last week to give an overview of the consultation process. https://southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk/ I will attend the meetings, it appears at first glance that there have been substantive changes, I will report back. Unitary Councils Again, as last month we are still awaiting the decision from Government on which direction will be taken, it shouldn't be long now, once announced F&H DC are ready to swing into action and the real work will begin.	

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		Sea defences I'm still Chasing for a site meeting with the EA and NE to look at the Shoreline Management Plan No. 11 to get it changed to 'Hold the line' for section 4C-14. I took our MP down to Galloways to get his support for the 'Hold the line' change. If a 'set back sea defence would be required under the current plan it could cost 50 million pounds. I think our MP now has a better idea of the real scale of flood threat to the Romney Marsh. **Climate Change** I was very pleased to hear from KCC the good news that funding had been agreed by the Southern Region Flood & Coast Committee to finance over two years a 'deep dive' on how we can protect the Romney Marsh against more extreme weather and rising sea levels. Concerns over the 'mud' I have had disturbing reports from local people who are sinking into the mud. From Dymchurch to Greatstone reports of more sinking mud than usual. So, F&H DC is to place warning signs where the public access the beach. Problems with cyclists On Saturday 23rd of May a two year old child was hit on the seawall by a cycle. Thankfully the child had no broken bones but suffered possible concussion. I will speak to F&H to see if we can what can be done to make the sea wall safer for all. Tony Hills, F&H District councillor for Romney Marsh Ward. Home Telephone 01797 321246 Mobile 07860 295730	
2026-6-6	FINANCIAL REPORT	**<u>Current & Deposit account</u>** The Chair had obtained access to the Santander current/deposit account and printed off 2 statements. These would be used for the upcoming Audit. AGAR documentation to be signed and submitted to internal auditors pre 19 June check and general public viewing notification issue No transfer of funds would be made to the new current account with HSBC given the change in Clerk to ensure no issue in making payents. A new current business fee free account with HSBC was open and would be utilized once the new Clerk was appointed. Internal Auditors Mulberry had been signed up for a 3 year deal @ £80 per hour plus vat from 26/27 – 28/29 period.	

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		Cheques for payment: Clerk Alison Prentice clerk wages £322 (May) plus £14 Land Registry plan fee Pound cheque 000815 (to pay own tax direct to HMRC) Dunne and Dunne for pond dig and 6 month grass cut/hedge cut £590.00 cheque 000816 **(2 cheques in total value £926.00**	
2026-6-7	Newchurch Parish Council Website/email account project	Clerk reported she had chased Parish online for an update.	
2026-6-8	Planning	Two applications were considered and supported: 26/0522/FH Vincent Farm Barn and 26/0808/FH Wills Farm Bungalow	
2026-6-9	Highways	Cllr Denby reported the water meter cover broken at end of Mill Lane and The Street to South Easter to fix. Situation regarding the garden outside Newchurch Lodge along the road edge with The Street was discussed. The property owners have sadly died and maintenance ceased whilst a probate matter. Situation to be held under consideration if impacting the highway in The Street. Items outstanding for resolution: New Mill Lane street sign, replacement 6ft 6" width restriction sign on entry into The Street from Clarklands. Both with FHDC to resolve.	
2026-4-10	Jubilee Fields & pond	**The pond –** thanks to Cllr Fielding and his wife wildflower seeds had been scattered on the new soil. Quotes had been reviewed for new fencing. Lack of funding at the present time prevented new fencing installation, however the chair would review/install supports for existing fence posts for safety assurance. Thanks were extended to Cllr Barden for cleaning all the play equipment on Jubilee Fields, in addition to reinstating the dog poo bag dispensers which had been removed by persons unknown!	ACTION: Chair review/install remediation of existing fencing for safety.
2026-4-11	AOB	Shepway Solar Farm Project Manager has left and no replacement has been advised as a liaison contact person which is a statutory requirement.	
2026-4-12	Date, time & place of next meeting	Monday 6 July 2026 at 7.30pm in the Community Room, Newchurch Village Hall.	

The Chair thanked all those present and declared the Parish Council meeting closed at 8.30pm.