Newchurch Parish Council

Minutes of Annual and Ordinary Meeting 2026-5 held on Monday 11 May 2026 at The Community Room, Newchurch Village Hall, Newchurch, Romney Marsh, Kent TN29 0DP.

Unique Minute Number	Agenda item	Record	Action
2026-5-1	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.	
2026-5-2	Appointment of Chair & Vice Chair	**Cllr Colin Woollard and Cllr Scott Fielding both stood down from post and were appointed unopposed as Chair and Vice Chair for 2026/2027.**	
2026-5-3	Declarations of Interest	The Chair reminded all Parish Councillors to declare any conflicts of interest in the business before them. None noted	
2026-5-4	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.
2026-5-5	Matters Arising	The Clerk tendered her resignation owing to personal family and work commitments, leaving after the meeting on 6 July – minutes would be undertaken and all equipment handed over to the Chair, pending appointment of a new Clerk.	ACTION: **Chair** to advertise role for replacement Clerk
2026-5-6	Invited speakers & public participation	Cllr Tony Hills was welcomed to the meeting and gave his 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 last month on water quality improvement. Water testing starts again this month I will be monitoring it on a weekly basis. I have submitted a water quality improvement concept to the Environment Agency utilising 'citizen science' volunteers. We had some good news this week Southern Water have agreed to increase their spend on wastewater improvements from 11 million to 42 million pounds over the next few years within our district. **Solar Farms** No change, we are still awaiting the second round of consultation, as I said last month the threat these NSIP's mega farms would be a disaster to local business, communities and the ecology of Romney Marsh. We should hear about the next round of consultations before summer; this should have more detail for us to consider. **Unitary Councils** Again, 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. **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	

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		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. Tony Hills, F&H District councillor for Romney Marsh Ward. Home Telephone 01797 321246 Mobile 07860 295730	
2026-5-7	FINANCIAL REPORT	**Current & Deposit account** The Clerk reported submitting the required information for Santander to reinstate ability to view the current account online, receive paper copies of accounts etc. In the interim the Chair was able to discuss the account with Santander and would obtain new bank statements for ratification. Cheques can still be raised for undertaking payments. A new current business fee free account with HSBC was in process. **Cheques for payment:** Clerk Alison Prentice clerk wages £322 (April) cheque 000813 (to pay own tax direct to HMRC) Clear Insurance payment 2026 £484.45 (£383.44 plus £46.01 vat) cheque 000814 Hopkins AED Defib 2026 maintenance payment £249.48 (£207.90 plus £41.48 vat) cheque 000812 **(3 cheques in total value £1055.93)**	ACTION: **Chair to contact Santander for bank statements**
2026-4-7	Newchurch Parish Council Website/email account project	Clerk reported that Parish online had been appointed to create an independent parish council .gov.uk website domain which they would manage on behalf of the Parish Council, entitled **Newchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk.** This included migration of documents from existing newchurchvillage.org website, provision of up to 20 mailbox with 5gb storage each and Clerk email upgrade with additional storage and cloud storage 30gb mailbox and 10gb file storage at £42 plus vat. Yearly subscription of £350 plus vat. First year less £100 offer as switching to .gov.uk domain. So £250 plus vat. They would provide ongoing maintenance/upgrades and hosting services. 4-6 week timescale for action completion. Once created a link to the Parish Council website would feature on newchurchvillage.org in place of existing Parish Council information.	
2026-4-8	Planning	None for consideration	

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2026-4-9	Highways	Cllr Denby reported fly tipping in Gammons Farm Lane to Folkestone & Hythe District Council to remove. Clerk reported other items in the parish on the KCC Highways portal which had been addressed – including installation of a new Newchurch sign on entry to the village from St Marys in the Marsh, new street signage or Church View. Items outstanding for resolution: New Mill Lane street sign, replacement 6ft 6" width restriction sign on entry into The Street from Clarklands and water meter cover replacement in The Street.	
2026-4-10	Jubilee Fields & pond	**The new climbing frame scramble net** had been installed by the Chair. **The pond** dig had been undertaken to improve drainage in the area in addition to undertaking routine maintenance, ensuring appropriate risk mitigation for wildlife (none present, nor eggs in situ), no nests etc. The area was generally tidied up and mown, in addition to soil levelling. Outstanding issues – wildflower sewing and replacement fencing (posts found rotten along the road edge). Quote to be received for review at a future meeting **Village Pound** adjacent to pond – Land Registry documentation obtained (£14.00 owed to the Clerk) to confirm ownership by the parish/parish council.	ACTION: Wildflower sewing on soil, rotten fence replacement. £14.00 expenses for Clerk to be repaid.
2026-4-11	AOB	None	
2026-4-12	Date, time & place of next meeting	Monday 1 June 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.