

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Newington Parish Council held on Tuesday 28 March 2017 in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Debbie Haigh (Chair), Cllr Tony Mould, Cllr Sue Brewster, Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Mel Harris, Cllr Eric Layer, Cllr Richard Palmer and Cllr Helen Walker; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were KCCllr Mike Baldock and nine members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Steve Godmon (holiday), Cllr Stephen Harvey (personal), and Cllr Elaine Jackson (holiday); apologies accepted. Apologies had also been received from SBCllr Gerry Lewin and SBCllr John Wright (at another meeting); apology noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Harris declared a pecuniary interest in item 7v. Application: 15/508683/OUT
Cllr Walker declared a pecuniary interest in Parsonage Farm

3. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2017

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Brewster to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting; **SECONDED** by Cllr Coles: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Haigh duly signed the minutes as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Haigh informed Members that Swale Borough Council is unable to insist more secure temporary fencing be erected around the former Working Men's Club but they will pass on the Parish Council's concerns and ask if it can be secured better.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

#1- I would like an update on the application for the land off 99 the High Street.

Cllr Palmer said he will be speaking at the Planning Committee Meeting at Swale Borough Council on Thursday.

#2- I am concerned that the environmental report states it will only make a 1% difference in the air quality. The developer claims the traffic on the A2 will be free running and the traffic will turn left out of the development. The developer also says traffic will travel an average of 30mph and this is wrong as the speed limit is 30mph. Medway Council has objected and has challenged Swale's figures for air quality. Medway environmental health officers have asked Swale to look at the model again.

#3- It is claimed the road will only be blocked occasionally but lorries will be unable to pass at this point. Newington is the narrowest part of the A2.

Cllr Palmer said CPRE will be speaking on the issue of air quality as they have the expertise. At the Gladman appeal, even the Secretary of State was concerned about air quality issues. The road was not built to the safety standards of today.

#4- The application claims the effect of any pollution will be mitigated by installing cycle sheds and electric points for cars, this may be dismissed in time. There is no mention of the drainage problems or the number of HGVs which use the road. How will air quality be monitored?

#5- It will be difficult for traffic to turn right, the developers have said it will turn right but have no evidence, if cars turn left and do a u turn down the road there will be accidents.

#6- The application for the land behind 148 High Street will directly affect this as the access will be directly opposite.

#7- *What does affordable housing mean? The problem is that these developments are of luxury houses which are unaffordable to residents.*

Cllr Haigh said that over a certain size of development, 30% of houses have to be social housing.

Cllr Harris said that affordable housing also includes co-ownership.

Cllr Palmer said Kent Highways and Highways England have stated that the roads in swale will not cope with extra houses unless the roads are improved.

Cllr Haigh thanked everyone for their comments and for attending.

6. VISITORS

County Councillor

KCCllr Baldock said the double yellow lines had been installed. KCCllr Baldock informed Councillors that he has been on the select committee dealing with rural bus provision and it is hoped there will be a consultation with the parishes. There are areas which do not have a bus service and KCCllr Baldock said he hopes to get the service extended so those areas will get buses at least three days a week.

Cllr Haigh thanked KCCllr Baldock for his help in getting the yellow lines installed and also for his report.

7. PLANNING

i. Application: 17/501019/FULL

Address: Cranbrook Farm Callaways Lane Newington Kent ME9 7LU

Proposal: Removal of a derelict boundary fence and erection of a new 1.8m high Brick boundary wall. Renovation of existing 340mm high brick garden retaining wall.

Councillors considered the application and had no comments to make.

ii. Application: 17/501072/LBC

Address: Wardwell Farm, Wardwell Lane Lower Halstow ME9 7ER

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for replacement of existing timber casement windows and 1 no. door

Councillors considered the application and had no comments to make.

iii. Application: 17/501134/FULL

Address: 141 Bull Lane Newington Kent ME9 7NB

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear orangery extension with light lantern, removal of front canopy, erection of front porch and three bay garage with accommodation above, widening of drives and landscaping works.

Councillors considered the application and had no comments to make.

iv. Application: 17/500946/FULL

Address: Land Rear Of 148 High Street Newington Kent ME9 7JH

Proposal: Demolition of existing garage, erection of 2 replacement garages for 146 and 148, erection of 3 dwellings to include new access with associated parking and landscaping and a summer house/studio.

Councillors considered the application and were concerned that there was little detail on the planning portal about the proposal. Concern was raised about concerned the access point onto the A2 and the effect of the extra traffic through the village. Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the application.

v. Application: 15/508683/OUT

Address: Land At The Tracies Newington Kent ME9 7TQ

Proposal: Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of 4 four bedroom dwellings with double garages.

Change of description of proposal

Cllr Harris took no part in the decision of this item.

Councillors considered the application and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the proposal as it is beyond the 'built-up area' of the Village; it was rejected as a site in the Local Plan; it is on grade 1 agricultural land; the layout of the development leaves a significant gap which makes it possible for a future application to turn the close into a road - with access through to the adjacent field, joining to the land beyond it which is currently subject to a planning application; any loss of farmland through the extension of the built-up area is unacceptable; the outline application gives no indication of the design or alignment of the proposed development. It does not address the important issues of the effect of increased traffic on Callaways Lane or of increased air pollution in the Village centre.

Application: 17/501013/FULL Oak Hill Farm, Iwade Road, Newington, ME9 7HY

Proposal: Proposed rear/side extension and ancillary buildings

Application received: Thursday 23 February 2017

Application validated: Thursday 2 March 2017

Status: awaiting decision (comments due 27 February)

Councillors considered the application and had no comments to make.

8. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

i. To receive the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 21 March 2017 and consider the recommendations

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Coles to accept the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Brewster: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Haigh duly signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Cllr Haigh said it has been agreed for the the Sittingbourne Lions Football Club under 9s team to practise on the playing field starting the first Thursday in April. The club will pay a peppercorn rent of £25 to be reviewed in September. They may want to practise on Saturday mornings when the clock changes as it will be too dark in the evening.

ii. To consider quotation for Pavilion Grilles

Cllr Haigh said **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation for window grilles from Kejan Precision Engineering Co Ltd for £1121.00, **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Councillors were informed the Sports Club has not moved all the gym equipment out of the pavilion as requested.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** for Mr Heavey to repair and paint the window frames and fit the grilles.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Sports Club.

iii. To consider quotation to replace Church Lane lamp

Cllr Haigh said the replacement of the lamp in Church Lane should be put on hold as KCC are replacing their street lights with LED light.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KCC for details of when the street lights will be changed.

iv. To consider contractors ID badges

Councillors considered whether to issues ID badges for its contractors and decided not to pursue the matter.

9. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Mould circulated a draft of the Village Voice which was near completion. There will be an article on planning included after the Swale Committee meeting.

10. FINANCE

i. Cheque list: to consider invoices for payment

| Payee | Expenditure | Amount | £ | Cheque No. |
|-------|-------------|--------|---|------------|
|-------|-------------|--------|---|------------|

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--|------------------|------|
| Mrs P Rowe | Litter Picking Recreation Ground and sight checking equipment Mar 2017 | £110.00 | 2588 |
| Mr MJ Marshall | Cemetery and Churchyard cutting Mar 2017 | £490.00 | 2589 |
| Mrs W Licence | Salary and expenses | £569.53 | 2590 |
| HMRC | PAYE | £21.00 | 2591 |
| Ms L Wright | A Heavey Litter picking | £255.00 | 2592 |
| Ms D Haigh | Spray paint | £15.92 | 2593 |
| Swale Borough Council | Open Spaces maintenance | £3,074.74 | 2594 |
| Mr S Godmon | Land Registry searches | £12.00 | 2595 |
| PFL Electrical Ltd | Street light repairs | £181.20 | 2596 |
| DCK Beavers Ltd | Payroll fee | £18.00 | 2597 |
| SLCC | Local Government Administration 10 th edition | £76.60 | 2598 |
| Mr C Brewster | Festival Expenses | £76.60 | 2599 |
| Mr D Buckett | Interim Internal Audit fee | £236.70 | 2600 |
| Profile Business Supplies | Village Voice- February and March | £120.00 | 2601 |
| Southern Water | Cemetery water supply | £26.68 | 2602 |

Councillors considered the cheques raised and Cllr Haigh **PROPOSED** the signing of the cheques, **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

BACS PAYMENTS

28.02.17: £65.00 NatWest Safe Custody Hold

01.03.17: £179.00 Haven Power Ltd

03.03.17: £563.00 Haven Power Ltd

RECEIPTS

10.02.17: £829.17 HMRC VAT refund

23.03.17: £15.32 Doddington PC share of Local Government Administration 10th edition

23.03.17: £15.32 Eastling PC share of Local Government Administration 10th edition

23.03.17: £15.32 Tunstall PC share of Local Government Administration 10th edition

ii. Update on reserve account

Cllr Haigh reported an account has been set up with the Skipton Building Society.

iii. Interim Audit report

Cllr Haigh said the format of the internal audit report has changed. The report has highlighted:
a) The issue that documents have been lost from the website as EiS has upgraded to Wordpress.

ACTION: Clerk to email KC Cllr Baldock details.

b) Filming and recoding of meetings- it must be made clear to people attending the meeting that this may take place.

ACTION: Clerk to put notice on the door and add to agenda

c) Annual review of financial risks and controls.

Cllr Haigh said this was carried out in 2016 when the procedure was reviewed to see if it was fit for purpose. The Council's financial risks are low and are overseen by the Finance Working Group.

d) The Parish Council has no laptop.

Cllr Haigh informed Councillors the matter has been considered and it is not seen as a risk as data is backed up on a monthly basis and stored off site.

e) Fireproof safe for burial records.

Cllr Haigh informed Members that the Clerk has found a safe for £377 at Brook Security which is cheaper than one previously seen for £600. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to purchase the safe.

iv. Staff pensions

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press left the meeting during the consideration of Staff Pensions

The meeting returned to open session.

v. Any other finance matter received by 28 March 2017

There were no other matters to consider.

11. CHURCHYARD AND CEMETERY

Cllr Haigh reported that one of the flowers beds has been dug out and there will be three in total. The next session of the working party will be on Tuesday 4 April at 1pm.

Cllr Mould asked if consideration could be given to a memorial for still births.

Cllr Harris said parents would be able to place a stone in the children's area.

12. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update of roads and pavements

ii. To consider 20mph limit in residential roads

Cllr Palmer said this has been discussed by the Swale Joint Transportation Board and there is some evidence that it does make a difference and it has been proved to save lives. However, it does not reduce air pollution. It is easier to implement a scheme boroughwide.

Cllr Coles said that consideration needs to be given as to how slow down and ultimately reduce traffic.

Cllr Walker raised concerned about traffic and parking problems at the school.

Cllr Palmer said there needs to be a crossing near the school and KCC and Swale Borough Council should be asked to provide one.

Cllr Mould said he has asked if Kemsley's Field could be used for parking at the Festival and it could be asked if it can be used for school parking.

Cllr Haigh said the problem with a zebra crossing is the zig zag lines would take up too much of the road.

Cllr Coles said a crossing with a crossing person could be further up Church Lane, there is one crossing in the High Street and apart from that there are no official crossings for children or adults.

Cllr Palmer said that KCC should be contacted for their advice.

Cllr Haigh said the 20mph Faversham trial should be followed up.

13. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Walker said her car had been broken into when it was on her drive.

Cllr Palmer said the Police and crime Commissioner will be attending the next KALC Swale Area Committee meeting on 12 June.

Cllr Haigh said concerned has been raised that KCC will not install railings at the Playstool Close end of the alleyway to deter antisocial behavior from motorbikes. Alternative funding needs to be researched.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Police and Crime Commissioner's office for details of the grant scheme.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 10.03.17- Wheelabrator Technologies consultation

2. 10.03.17- KCC Highways response to request for railings at the end on the alleyway in Playstool Close

3. 13.03.17- KALC Clerks Conference 7 June

It was agreed that the Clerk can attend.

4. 14.03.17- KALC Councillors Conference 8 July 9am - 4.30pm at Downwood Community Centre, Maidstone

Cllr Godmon is attending

5. 14.03.17- JTB minutes have been published

6. 14.03.17- SBC Disabled Parking bay application

Cllr Harris said this would be off the A2.

7. 17.03.17- Temporary Road Closure – Iwade Road, Newington, Sittingbourne – 3-5 April 2017

8. 22.03.17 email forwarded by Cllr Wright regarding lower bus fares- *circulate*

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Brewster said Cllr Mould has taken information to the school about Billy bollards and the school is in favour of this.

ACTION 1: Clerk to contact County and Borough Councillors to request funding.

Action 2: Circulate the email from KCC regarding Billy bollards.

Cllr Harris reminded members he has changed his email address.

There be no further business, the meeting closed at 9.14pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 25 April 2017

Signed as a true record of the proceedings:

Chair

Dated: 25 April 2017