

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Tuesday 21 March 2017 in the Wickham Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Sue Brewster, Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Stephen Harvey and Cllr Tony Mould; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were two representatives from the Sittingbourne Lions Junior Football Club.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Eric Layer (holiday); apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

4. Public Question Time

It was agreed to bring this item forward and the meeting was adjourned.

#1- The Sittingbourne Lions Football Club would like permission to use the recreation ground for Year 4 boys to practise in the summer months on Thursday evening and occasionally on Saturday mornings. The children are from Newington and other local villages. Matches are played on another site. Currently, there are ten children and they play seven-a-side and we are trying to encourage them.

#2- We have our own goals and it would be just for training for about one and a half hours. One of our parents lives opposite and we can use their facilities. The club is willing to pay to use the recreation ground.

Cllr Mould said parking is a sensitive issue.

#2- The club will tell parents not to park near.

Cllr Jackson thanked the representatives for attending.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 21 February 2017

- The 'edging up' of verge on pavement in London Road/High Street – The Highways Steward has said that KCC have simply done some siding out to the footway. She has checked the job and is happy with what the team has done.

- Water leak near Rec Ground- Southern Water are due to replace the water meter.

ACTION 1: Clerk to ask Swale Borough Council if the water pipe is their responsibility as it is on their land.

ACTION 2: Clerk to inform allotment association of the date the work will be carried out.

- Tree in Recreation Ground- Amicus has been contacted but there has been no response.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotation to cut back the tree.

- ASB at the station- The PCSO has said it will be on the station CCTV and British Transport Police must be contacted.

ACTION: Clerk to contact British Transport Police.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO John Cork had sent apologies for his absence and sent the following Crime Report for the area between 19/02/2017 to 19/03/2017:

1. *Window of house damaged Callaways Lane,*
2. *Burglary dwelling Playstool Road.*
3. *Theft of pedal cycle, Playstool Close.*

4. *Moped stolen from rear garden*
5. *Car damaged in Bull Lane.*
6. *3 theft of motor vehicle.*
7. *Car damaged Church Lane,*
8. *Nuisance bikes in the area which is being dealt with from the help of the KCC Warden and the support of residents.*
9. *I have been patrolling the area and anything seen by residents are to report it to Kent Police on the 101 number.*

Cllr Coles said she was concerned about the number of burglaries and attempted burglaries and also the continued problem of the nuisance bikes in the village. It has previously been reported that Amicus Horizon has a strict policy on anti-social behaviour and tenants have two warnings.

ACTION: Clerk to ask if the problems have been reported to Amicus Horizon.

ii. Community Warden report

Community Warden Georgina Springall had sent apologies for his absence and sent the following report:

- 1) *Two cars parked in St. Mary's View area had their tyres slashed overnight – Police aware.*
 - 2) *Neighbour dispute regarding dogs barking in back garden.*
 - 3) *Very young dead foal dumped in farmer's field adjacent to Mill Lane - Removed by Kent Horse Watch.*
 - 4) *Metal railing pulled out at entrance to footpath in orchard area – reported to KCC footpaths.*
 - 5) *Blue bin in Pear Tree Walk being used to dump scrap metal car parts and other rubbish in – Reported to SBC. for removal.*
 - 6) *Rear window smashed of car parked overnight in Church Lane – Police aware.*
 - 7) *Graffiti on teen shelter and play equipment about young girl in village, reported to PCSO – I personally went and cleaned it off.*
 - 8) *Two youths riding off road motorcycle over farmer's field at rear of London Road (North side) – checking areas where they are entering field – PCSO aware.*
 - 9) *Concerns from resident regarding vehicle parked in Wickham Close which hasn't moved for over a week – checked, taxed and mot.*
 - 10) *Large highway lorry travelling down Church Lane towards 'Jones' building site – Information /photo from resident forwarded to Clerk.*
 - 11) *Mini bus taxi driver taking children to Newington school in the mornings and picking up in the afternoon driving dangerously – Information passed on to KCC.*
 - 12) *Graffiti on railway arch, Church Lane – Reported to Network Rail.*
 - 13) *Vehicle parking on grass area corner of School Lane – monitoring area.*
 - 14) *Two youths on separate off road motorbikes, no crash helmets and seen travelling down Iwade Road into Church Lane – PCSO aware.*
 - 15) *Plumber tools stolen from work van in Playstool Close – Police aware.*
 - 16) *Cash and sat nav stolen from School Lane.*
 - 17) *Residents complaining about new owners of orchards (Bull Lane) who have pulled down footpath signs, grubbed out hedges and obstructed footpath entrances with logs – Reported to KCC Right of Way.*
- ACTION:** Clerk to ascertain what action is being taken.
- 18) *Quad bikes in wooded area off Callaways Lane.*
 - 19) *Youth riding illegal off road motorbike around village areas – Reported to Police at time of incident.*
 - 20) *Vehicle being regularly driven without any tax, mot or insurance – Police aware.*
 - 21) *Sack of rubble causing obstruction in rear footpath access to residence on estate area – Resident visited.*
 - 22) *Wing mirrors stolen from truck parked in Orchard Drive – Advised reporting to Police.*
 - 23) *Rowdy youths in recreation ground during evening – PCSO aware.*

24) *Vehicles parking on pavement in Church Lane causing visual obstruction – Resident visited.*

25) *Dead badger on pavement in London Road – Reported to SBC..*

26) *Burglary in Playstool Road, Xbox stolen – Police aware.*

27) *Moped stolen from High Street – Police aware.*

Cllr Coles said it is the biggest report of anti-social behaviour in the village the Council has seen. The Council appreciates the work that PCSO Cork and Community Warden Ms Springall are doing. There are up to ten nuisance bikers in the village.

Cllr Jackson informed Members that a request to KCC to install railings at the end of the alleyway between Bull Lane and Playstool Close has been rejected as KCC is re-active in road safety improvements. The issue was drawn to the Parish Council's attention by the PCSO, Community Warden and also residents who are concerned about the danger the bikes are posing to people using the alleyway.

Cllr Jackson asked whether the problem of rowdy youths at the recreation ground would be resolved if the lights were left off.

Cllr Coles said the problem would be where would the youths go? A teen shelter was installed at the recreation ground to give them somewhere to go.

Cllr Jackson said a meeting with Matthew Scott, the Police and Crime Commissioner, has been requested to discuss the problem of anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Coles said the local farmers should be contacted to see if they have had problems with the nuisance bikers.

ACTION: Clerk to write to the local farmers.

6. Recreation Ground

i. Request from Football Club to practise on the Recreation Ground

Cllr Jackson informed Members that Bredhurst Junior Football Club have said another club practising on the recreation ground would not be a problem.

Cllr Coles said the children are the youngest group the Club has and it would be good to encourage the children.

Councillors agreed the club could use the playing field, not the pitch, for the under-9's group; the session would be for one and a half hours on Thursday evenings; Saturday use by prior agreement with Bredhurst Junior Football Club, Clerk to liaise with the clubs; no more than twenty children; car parking to be on the hard area by the allotments; £25 payment now and reviewed in September.

ACTION: Clerk to inform Bredhurst Junior Football Club that an agreement has been made with another club giving due respect to their usage.

ii. Pavilion

a) Report from the Pavilion Working Group

Cllr Jackson reported to members that the Pavilion Working Group had met. A list of equipment has been requested from the Sports Club.

Cllr Harvey said that some equipment had been bought with a grant from SBCllr Wright and clarity needs to be sought as to whether it was given for the Sports Club or for the Pavilion.

Cllr Jackson reported the Group discussed the disabled access issue and this has been checked and it is not necessary; fire exits are also complaint with current legislation. Permission needs to be obtained from Swale Borough Council to put an additional gate in the fence as access crosses their land.

Cllr Harvey said that it has been confirmed that planning permission is not required to refurbish the Pavilion.

b) Pavilion refurbishment

Cllr Jackson said that there will be a meeting with the Sports Club to inform them of the schedule for refurbishment. The Sports Club has been asked to clear the Pavilion and will be

asked if six blue tables can be left for the Parish Room. The builders will be asked to keep the Pavilion secured and they will be asked to put a new lock on the door.

Cllr Mould said that a letter has been delivered to the neighbours informing them of the work. Cllr Jackson said the Community Warden and PCSO need to be informed of the refurbishment.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the Community Warden and PCSO of the pavilion refurbishment.

Cllr Mould said it would be good to have plaques made with "Parish Room", "Community Gym" and "Changing Rooms" when the work has been completed.

Cllr Jackson said that Cllr Layer will be the point of contact for the builders.

c) To consider quotation for grilles for Pavilion windows

Cllr Jackson said the grilles need to be installed soon and **PROPOSED** to recommend to Full Council to accept the quotation for the grilles from Kejan Precision Engineering Co Ltd for £1121.00; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend for Mr Heavey to paint the windows and fit the grilles.

iii. Additional gate update

Cllr Mould informed Members he will be meeting a contractor to discuss the additional gate.

iv. Fun Fair

Cllr Harvey said the date has been arranged and rent agreed and that he was disappointed the rent is in the Council's budget as this could have been extra funds for the pavilion.

v. To receive any other update

Cllr Jackson reported Bredhurst Junior Football Club has said the grass is getting long and has asked when it will be cut again. Grasstex will need a key to access the recreation ground but Landscape Services have not returned their key.

ACTION: Cllr Jackson to get a key cut for Grasstex.

7. Newington Festival 2017

Cllr Jackson reported to Members that the Festival planning is progressing well, there is an agenda for the day. There are twenty-three stalls confirmed and good progress has been made selling advertisements in the programme. Kent Classic cars are sending ten cars; there is a good community area and Mr Golding is making sign posts.

Cllr Mould said the school caretaker is retiring and there will be a new caretaker in place when the festival is held. The school is happy to have a petting zoo and more animals are needed.

Cllr Jackson said that the litter picker will be asked to work on the day of the Festival from 12 noon to 6pm. There will be a general litter pick of the school playing field on the Sunday.

8. Lights

i. To receive an update on Lights

66 Bull Lane –the lamp and photocell have been changed. The lantern is in poor condition and PC may wish to have it replaced.

76 Bull Lane –lamp changed, the inside of the fitting cleaned and the bushes have been cut back so hopefully this will allow more light.

104/102 Church Lane – Requires a new fitting- Church Lane for £368.00 + VAT.

Between 64/66 Pear tree walk – PFL say they have replaced the lamp and left working

21 Playstool close – both lights were working when tested.

5 St Matthews PFL could not get close enough in their vehicle and were to return with a different method of access.

Also reported - the light the end of St Stephens Close is out.

Cllr Mould said the car park light is still out.

ACTION 1: Clerk to report again.

ACTION 2: Clerk to ask predecessor for list of Parish Council owned lights.

Cllr Coles said the light outside 33- 35 Bull Lane is not working and it is very dark, the light has been reported. There is a light leaning in Playstool Road and a sign and light on the London Road, near Playstool Road, have been damaged. The bollard and light at the bottom of Boyces Hill has been damaged and this has been reported to KCC.

9. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Brewster said the fencing on the bridge still has not been repaired and there is a sign which says it is a private road.

ACTION 1: Clerk to request the fence to be repaired.

ACTION 2: Clerk to inform the Highway Steward of the sign

ACTION 3: Clerk to contact Bobbing and Borden Parish Councils about the problems on the bridge.

Cllr Jackson said it would be good to talk to walkers about the footpaths.

Cllr Harvey said he was concerned about the application to put a disabled bay in Keycol Hill Bobbing as it would legitimise parking on an arterial road.

10. Village Voice

Cllr Mould circulated the first draft of the Village Voice.

ACTION: Cllr Jackson to write an article about anti-social behaviour.

11. Any Other Business

Cllr Harvey said that when the litter picker cleared the broken glass in the telephone box the Police thought he was responsible for the damage. Would it be possible to issue identity badges to Council contractors?

ACTION: Refer to Full Council

Cllr Coles said some residential areas are having 20mph limits imposed and wondered if it would it be possible to have this in Newington.

Cllr Harvey said research has shown this does not work and in some areas the restrictions are being removed.

ACTION: Refer to Full Council.

Cllr Coles said when the upgrade of the CCTV system was being considered the parish Council offered to remove the violin sign. The fixings are rotten and the sign needs to be removed.

ACTION: Clerk to contact resident to inform them the planned works are not going ahead and to ask if they want the sign removed.

Cllr Mould said he has spoken to the school about Billy Bollards and the school thinks it is a good idea.

Cllr Harvey asked if there is sufficient space now a new pavement has been put in.

Cllr Jackson said the width of the path needs to be measured.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm

Date of Next Meeting: 18 April 2017

Signed as a true record of the proceedings:

Chair

Dated: 28 March 2017