

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Tuesday 18 April 2017 in the Wickham Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Sue Brewster, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Eric Layer 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 Dean Coles (personal); apology accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

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

- A quote has been requested to cut back the tree at the recreation ground.
- PCSO John Cork says that Amicus Horizon are aware of the identity of the nuisance bikers.
- Farmers have been contacted about the problem of bikers in the village but there has been no response.
- Michael Ellis (PROW) has said the bridge over the A249 that carries public bridleway is the responsibility of Highways England and is managed by their agents, it was Carillion but may have changed to Conway. The initial report from Newington Parish Council was passed on to them and Carillion were aware of the issue in the past because. The farmer who also uses the farm accommodation bridge has been contacted about the vehicles obstructions. A sign saying Private or Private Road is not considered to be a misleading sign in relation to a public right of way. It does not remove the fact that the Private Road is also a Public Bridleway and the bridleway would be presumed to be the full width of the bridge.
- Cllr Coles has removed the violin sign.
- The key to the recreation Ground has been given to the contractor.
- Sittingbourne Lions have paid to use the playing field.
- The signs and hedges at the orchards in Bull Lane have been reported.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up.

4. Public Question Time

No members of the public were present.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

No report as the PCSO is on holiday.

ii. Community Warden report

Apologies had been received from the Community Warden.

- 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 farmers 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, reported to PCSO– I 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 has not 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 etc. 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 Public Right of Way.
- 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, X-box stolen – Police aware.
- 27) Moped stolen from High Street – Police aware.

iii. To receive an update on any other ASB matter

Cllr Coles had emailed the Committee regarding the problem of litter in the village and the number and position of bins.

Cllr Jackson said there used to be an annual litter pick in the village.

Cllr Harvey said there would be a day when residents could leave out unwanted items of furniture and Swale Borough Council would collect it.

Cllr Mould said there could be a Newington Day to carry out a litter pick and to celebrate the village.

Cllr Harvey said it would be good to work with the young people’s groups.

Cllr Jackson said residents will need to be engaged in the process.

It was **AGREED** to recommend to Full Council to hold a Newington Litter Pick, item to go on agenda.

6. Recreation Ground

i. Pavilion

a) Report from the Pavilion Working Group

Cllr Jackson informed Members the Sports Club had requested a meeting and had been invited to attend the Committee meeting but no one was available. The Sports Club has requested a dedicated meeting.

Cllr Mould said it would be good to have a meeting and it could be properly minuted.

***ACTION:** Clerk to request dates the Sports Club could attend.*

b) Pavilion refurbishment

Cllr Layer reported the refurbishment is progressing well, plaster board has been put around the RSJ and the walls have been taken out making a large room. All rubbish is being cleared and the gate is being kept shut.

Cllr Harvey asked whether there has been any progress with the window grilles.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Cllr Coles.

Cllr Harvey asked if the water leak at the recreation ground had been resolved.

Cllr Layer said the stop cock has been replaced but there is a leak still.

c) To consider terms and conditions of Sports Club lease

Cllr Jackson said last year's lease was an interim measure pending refurbishment and now needs to be reviewed.

Councillors discussed the lease and suggested it would be a full repairing lease with the Club maintaining the gym. The storage space in the garage will be reviewed. Concern was raised that the Club provided free trips to members and claim to be unable to pay more for hiring the pavilion.

It was agreed to circulate and discuss amendments with a draft being finalised by Monday. A draft will be sent to the Sports Club prior to the meeting.

Councillors also heard there may be other groups in the village wanting to hire the pavilion.

d) To consider terms and conditions of Football Club lease

Cllr Mould said the issue of mud on the floor needs to be addressed with the Football Club. The facilities are being upgraded which will be beneficial to the Club.

It was suggested the rent be increased to £1250.00 unless there had been a reduction in rent to allow for lack of facilities. Pre-season usage needs to be discussed. Notice to contractor for extra cuts needs to be ascertained and for cost to cut the pitch only.

ACTION 1: Clerk to set up meeting with the Football Club at the end of May.

ACTION 2: Check rent from previous agreements.

ACTION 3: Contact contractor to request notice period for extra cuts and for cost to cut the pitch only.

ii. Additional gate update

Cllr Mould reported the contractor has been away and a quotation will be obtained soon.

7. Newington Festival 2017

Cllr Jackson informed Members the next meeting of the Festival Working Party will be held on 20 April 2017. Good progress is being made with the arrangements. Thirty stalls have been booked and no animals have been booked yet. The banner amendments have been carried out free of charge.

8. Lights

Cllr Mould said the village hall car park light is still not working.

ACTION: Clerk to report again to Swale Borough Council.

9. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Brewster said she had looked where Billy bollards could be installed near the school.

Bollards have been installed by the houses opposite the school so it might not be possible to put some on the other side of the road.

10. Village Voice

Cllr Mould reported on the progress of the next edition of the Village Voice.

11. Any Other Business

Cllr Jackson reported a quotation for a new notice board had been received for £1,283.00.

Cllr Mould said the Parish Council could not justify spending such an amount.

Cllr Harvey said it would be something else to maintain.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.34pm.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 23 May 2017

Signed as a true record of the proceedings:

Chair

Dated: 25 April 2017