

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Tuesday 24 January 2017
in the Wickham Room, Newington Village Hall

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

Also present were PCSO John Cork and Community Warden Georgina Springall.

1. Apologies for Absence

All members were present.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared

3. Public Question Time

There were no members of the public in attendance.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

It was agreed to bring this item forward.

i. PCSO report

PCSO Cork said there has been reports of incidents of anti-social behaviour in the village, problems have been caused by nuisance bikers and this is being tackled by working jointly with the Community Warden. The footpath between Playstool Close and Bull Lane is being used as a rat run by nuisance bikers. The phone box has been vandalised. A business in the High Street was burgled and the Police know who the name of the suspect. A garage at Pond Farm was broken into; criminal damage was caused by an air rifle in Cherry Hill Court and Police attended the incident. The dog warden dealt with a German shepherd dog roaming in the village.

Cllr Coles said that there is a perception, voiced on social media, that nothing is being done to tackle the problems.

PCSO Cork said he responded to the comments because the Police are responding to incidents in the village, the anti-social behaviour is just a few incidents. The nuisance bikers are known to the Police and action is being taken. There was an attempted burglary in Borden which was interrupted; it is important to double lock doors and also to lock back doors. Opportunist thieves are stealing from cars which are not being locked, it is important for people to ensure their vehicle is secure. The cars on the bridge over the A249 have been dealt with.

Cllr Harvey said there is an issue with cars parking on the path in Playstool Road.

PCSO Cork said that if a car parks on a path and a pram can get through it is not seen as an obstruction but if it is parked fully on the pavement this can be dealt with.

Cllr Jackson said there have been reports of drug paraphernalia in the village hall car park.

PCSO Cork said he has investigated but has not found anything, he has also been to the allotments but nothing has been found there.

Cllr Coles said he has seen people with lurchers early in the morning, there could be hare coursing activities.

PCSO Cork said he was aware of this in Upchurch as a farmer caught people hare coursing. Fences at Wormdale Farm have been cut down and diesel has been stolen from vehicles.

Cllr Coles said he has seen a lot of half eaten packets of food which may have been stolen and discarded.

Ms Springall said there has previously been an issue of out of date food being taken from the bins at the Co-op and the store was taking measures to stop this.

Cllr Harvey said the salt bin has been stolen from Callaways Lane.

This has been reported to KCC by the Clerk.

PCSO Cork will visit the school and give a safety talk.

ii. Community Warden report

KCC COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT – DECEMBER/JANUARY 2016/2017

- 1) Dog fouling on the pathways in Pear Tree Walk.
- 2) Excessive amount of black sacks next to bin in village hall car park – reported to SBC environmental worker who removed them.
- 3) Very successful Bingo Club Christmas party, twenty-nine members attended who all enjoyed themselves.
- 4) Thick smoke coming over from orchard area that is being cleared into residents' houses in Orchard Drive – Advised resident to report to SBC.
- 5) Motor bike travelling fast through footpath that leads from Playstool Close to Bull Lane. Resident has concerns regarding safety of children that use this footpath and suggested posts being places at entrances. I advised him to email Parish Council and SBC regarding his request. – PCSO Cork aware of motorcycle.
- 6) Legal mini motorbike speeding throughout areas of the village – PCSO Cork aware.
- 7) Youth playing with excessively noisy remote control car disturbing residents on estate – PCSO Cork aware.
- 8) Patrolled area outside school gates and moved on parents who were parking on zig zag lines.
- 9) Antisocial behaviour in Playstool Road – PCSO Cork visited culprit.
- 10) Dog fouling on pavements in Bull Lane.
- 11) Abandoned car in entrance to Brookes Place – Reported to SBC and DVLA– PCSO Cork also attended.
- 12) Dog fouling on pavements in Church Lane.
- 13) Twelve nitrous Oxide canisters and litter strewn from vehicle into Playstool Road, suspect this had not been done by local youths.
- 14) Youths gathering rear of property in Cherry Court area off Callaways Lane, shooting catapult – Police aware.
- 15) Burglary from outbuilding in Hartlip – Police aware.
- 16) Residents had concerns regarding van parked in private road that hadn't moved for several days – Checked out with PCSO Cork, all ok
- 17) Neighbour dispute regarding position of CCTV cameras – PCSO Cork aware.
- 18) Dead cat on London Road – Attempted to find owner, reported to SBC.
- 19) Power tools stolen during burglary at Thrognal Farm, Bull Lane – Police aware.
- 20) Older youths smoking cannabis and drinking in car parked in recreation ground – police aware.
- 21) Neighbour dispute regarding overgrown trees obstructing light from private residence – Advice given.
- 22) Trespassers in stable yard in Boxted Lane, taking horse out of stable and removing rugs late at night. Taking horse into sand school and then returning into stable – Suspect possible videoing/ photographing horse with a view of 'stealing to order'. I spoke to all immediate neighbours and advised ringing Police if they hear anything, also incident reported to Police.
- 23) Excessive litter in Wardwell Lane, now cleaned up by litter picker.
- 24) Resident spotted dumping black sacks of garden rubbish next to litter bin in High Street – Visited resident.
- 25) Lamp post on all the time outside 12 Orchard Drive.
- 26) Excessive litter outside rear of 26 Pear Tree Walk – Kindly removed by litter picker.
- 27) Large box containing medical training kit found on rough ground behind picnic area at recreation ground – Returned to owner.
- 28) Neighbour dispute between car wash workers and neighbour. I advised reporting to Police who have since visited.
- 29) Fly tipping in Bull Lane – Reported to SBC.
- 30) Residents complaining that they suspect road outside new Jones building site in School Lane is not being cleaned daily – checked with site office and they assured me it is definitely being swept once a day.
- 31) Attempted burglary at Thrognall Farm, Bull Lane – Police aware.
- 32) Touring caravan stolen from Keycol Hill – Police aware.
- 33) Youths riding illegal mini motorbike in Callaways Lane – Spoke to youths involved and reported details to PCSO Cork.

- 34) Excessive dog fouling in entrance and in footpath that leads from High Street to Village Hall.
- 35) Resident in Station Road reserving parking space outside her by putting dustbins in the road –advised resident that she could not obstruct the highway. If this continues it will be reported to SBC.
- 36) Lamp post shade broken of light in footpath that runs between Playstool Close and Bull Lane – Reported to Clerk.
- 37) Antisocial behaviour in Playstool Close, cars egged – Police aware.
- 38) Vehicle broken into whilst parked in Bull car park – Police aware.
- 39) Number plate stolen from vehicle parked in Bull car park – Police aware.
- 40) Antisocial behaviour at railway station during the weekend – B.T.P. attended.
- 41) Joint visit to Newington School with PCSO Cork who gave talk to year 6 students about the law concerning assault, theft, general behaviour and keeping safe.
- 42) Garage damaged by van that ran into it on estate area, no details of van taken – Police aware.
- 43) Phone box on High Street vandalised – Reported to B.T. and broken glass reported to SBC.
- 44) Garage in London Road burgled – Tool box/hedge trimmer stolen – Police aware.
- 45) Building supplies lorries going down Church Lane again to Jones building site instead of using Breach/Boxted Lane.
- 46) Male smoking cannabis and drinking parked in car during the evening in Village Hall car park – Police aware.

There has been a high increase of thefts from vehicles and burglaries from houses and outbuildings throughout Swale.

Cllr Jackson thanked PCSO Cork and Ms Springall for their reports and for their work in the village.

iii. To receive an update on any other ASB matter

Cllr Jackson said concern has been raised by another Councillor about the negative comments posted on Face Book about the Council's approach to ASB and the CCTV not working. The Parish Council made a decision not to upgrade the CCTV in 2016 for financial reasons.

Cllr Coles said the Social Media posts are by people who do not know what work is being done. Cllr Jackson said there had been activity on the former Working Men's Club site in the early hours of the morning.

ACTION: Cllr Harvey to receive details to report to SBC Planning department.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 22 November 2016

Cllr Jackson informed Members a grant has been applied for from KCllr Mike Baldock for work on the Play Area.

Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Coles and Cllr Layer for installing the swing basket.

Cllr Mould said the new swing basket needs to be reported in the Village Voice.

Cllr Harvey asked if details of the Sport Club membership numbers had been obtained.

The Clerk has made two requests for the information but has not received a reply.

Cllr Jackson said Southern Water have said the water leak in the tack by the playing field is the Parish Council's responsibility.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Southern Water for clarification.

6. Recreation Ground

i. Pavilion Working Party- to receive an update

Cllr Coles said he will measure the windows for security grilles and will liaise with the contractor to paint the windows and fit the grilles.

ii. To consider quotations for the pavilion refurbishment

Cllr Jackson said only one quotation had been received despite numerous request and reminders to contractors. Councillors AGREED, that subject to advice from KALC, to recommend to Full Council acceptance of the tenders from RJ Barnes & Sons.

iii. Sports Club PAT testing

Cllr Jackson informed Members the Sports Club has said the PAT testing has been carried out. The Clerk has made two requests for the PAT Test certificate but has not received a reply.
ACTION: Clerk to write to Sports Club.

iv. Additional gate update

Cllr Mould said Mr Ledger can supply a gate which needs to be fitted.
Cllr Jackson said the gate needs to be fitted before the Pavilion work begins.
Cllr Harvey said the Fair Ground proprietor might be able to fit the gate.
Cllr Coles said a double five bar gate is needed to allow the Fair access and also access for the Pavilion contractor.

ACTION 1: Cllr Mould to contact Mr Ledger.

ACTION 2: Full Council agenda item.

v. To consider quotations for Playing Field maintenance

Councillors considered the quotations for the Playing Field maintenance.
Cllr Harvey said the extra information received from Grasstex was impressive and the request for the Football team's fixtures showed a contractor who understands the needs of the field users.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend to Full Council to accept the quote for £1589 from Grasstex for maintenance of the Playing Field.

ACTION: Clerk to request Landscape Services to return the key.

7. Newington Festival 2017

Cllr Jackson informed Members the working group has met; Cllr Coles has contacted previous stall holders and has had a positive response; Cllr Brewster is organising a traditional games area; Cllr Mould has a draft of the programme; there is a good programme of events. There will be a rota of volunteers and prizes are being sought for the grand prize draw.

Cllr Mould said the licence for the raffle expires on 20 May 2017 and will need to be renewed. Councillors considered a quotation for the Festival toilets and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend to Full Council to accept the quotation from Four Jays for £385.50.

8. Lights

i. To receive an update on Lights

Cllr Jackson informed Members that the street lights at 52 Playstool Close, 5 St Matthew's Close, 12 Orchard Drive and 81 Bull Lane have been reported. Cllr Layer will meet the engineer in Playstool Close.

Cllr Jackson said she had been thanked by a resident for repairing a previous faulty light in Playstool Close.

ii. To consider replacement of light near school

Cllr Harvey said more details is needed with regards to the height and direction of the light.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain further details.

9. Footpaths and Bridleways

i. To consider bollards outside school

Cllr Brewster said that she has raised this matter after concerns were raised regarding traffic and parking at the school. Billy bollards have been used successfully to enhance safety outside schools.

KCCllr Baldock has made enquiries and reported that KCC does not generally promote their use on the highway for a number of reasons. Firstly, the bollards are expensive, typically around twice the price of a more standard cast bollard. The Council has a duty to ensure it makes best use of public money so there is usually insufficient justification to spend the additional money on expensive bollards without a specific case for their use. In addition, if damaged it also places an unnecessary demand on KCC's maintenance budget to replace them. The other main reason KCC do not promote their use on the highway is that they could be a distraction for drivers, especially in the dark, when drivers may think there is a child at the side of the road and brake sharply or take avoiding action which could lead to shunts or crashes.

Cllr Coles said the school needs to be consulted.

Cllr Harvey said children in Hempstead carried out a survey with the help of the Police. There needs to be evidence the bollards are effective. There could be problems with graffiti. The school should lobby KCC if necessary.

ii. Footpath ZR67

Cllr Coles reported to Members the stile is broken and motorbikes are going down the footpath.

ACTION: Clerk to report to PROW.

10. Village Voice

Councillors discussed items for the Village Voice.

11. Any Other Business

Cllr Jackson said the litter picker is clearing other areas of the village.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the litter picker to request the Council be told of areas which may need clearing.

Cllr Coles circulated drawings for new notice boards; residents have requested additional notice boards be placed in Church Lane and Playstool Close.

ACTION: Cllr Coles to obtain quote from the craftsman.

Date of Next Meeting: 21 February 2017

Signed as a true record of the proceedings:

Chair

Dated: 29 November 201