

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Tuesday 20 June 2017 in the Wickham Room, Newington Village Hall.

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

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 23 May 2017

Cllr Jackson said the Garden Watch Scheme needs to be referred to Full Council.

4. Public Question Time

No members of the public were in attendance.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO John Cork had sent apologies for being unable to attend the meeting and reported via email that Newington has been quiet. There were no reports to Kent Police about any nuisance bikes or any reports of anti-social behaviour. There had been a report about cold callers on Sunday 18th June and there were two reports of crime in the village.

Cllr Jackson said there was concern that some of the crimes on the Community Warden's report do not appear on the PCSO report. The PCSO has said that the reason his report is different is that he cannot give details of every crime in the village due to confidential reasons and the Community Warden does not have full access to crime reports only information recovered from residents. The crime report number cannot be given out, however, the crimes were reported to Kent Police.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the PCSO that contrary to his report the Community Warden has reported there are still issues with the nuisance bikers.

ii. Community Warden report

Georgina Springall, Community Warden, had sent apologies for being unable to attend the meeting and reported via email that:

- 1) Resident walking her dog in recreation ground subjected to dog attempting to attack hers – Reported to SBC. Dog warden.
- 2) Bogus workman builder knocking on doors pressuring residents to have brickwork done – Reported to PCSO who said he would attend area.
- 3) Garden rubbish being thrown over rear fences into bumpy alley -Monitoring area.
- 4) Residents in Church Lane complaining about speeding vehicles accelerating under bridge towards top of lane since double yellow lines were put in place.
- 5) Legal motorbike ridden by male youth speeding and doing tail end wheelies up and down Church Lane – Information passed on to PCSO.
- 6) Overgrown pampas and brambles obstructing pavement at entrance to The Willows – Reported to KCC Highways.
- 7) Attempted burglary in Playstool Road – Police aware.
- 8) Roadside SBC bin in Playstool Road being filled again with household rubbish – Monitoring.
- 9) Three cars regularly speeding along High Street between 17.00 and 18.00 hours – Police aware.

- 10) Excessive amount of strong cider cans dropped regularly along Mill Lane.
- 11) Large amount of dog fouling along footpath that runs between Wickham Close and Mill Lane – SBC. Penalty signs put up.
- 12) Successful bingo club afternoon, twenty-four attended. Discussed latest scams and keeping safe with members.
- 13) Pop up tent, pillows, blankets left in shrubbery in Bull Lane – Reported to SBC for removal.
- 14) Have cleaned out village planters ready for re-planting, hope to get plants this week.
- 15) Have selected list of front gardens for competition, will give list to the Chair at Parish Council meeting.
- 16) Youngsters riding bikes across rear private garden areas in Wickham Close – Spoke to them and made them aware that the area is private.

iii. Report from the KALC Swale Area Committee meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner

Cllr Jackson informed Councillors that there were many people at the KALC Swale Area Committee meeting. It was clear there are communities wishing to support the Police. A Councillor asked for protocol when dealing with travelers, there needs to be a policy in place for Councils to follow.

ACTION: To be discussed at Full Council.

Cllr Harvey said that the experience of the previous Area Commander refusing to talk to the Parish Council was raised and also the concern that the PCSO works on his own.

ACTION: Cllr Palmer to refer matter to the next KALC Swale Area Committee meeting.

iv. To receive an update on any other ASB matter

There was no other matter raised.

6. Recreation Ground

i. Pavilion

Cllr Jackson informed Members that a snagging list has been sent to the builders and if the work is completed by the Full Council meeting it will be recommended the invoice will be paid, otherwise a part payment will be made.

Cllr Coles thanked Cllr Harvey, Cllr Layer and Mr Jackson for snagging the refurbishment work during the work.

Cllr Jackson said a quote of £270 have been received to redecorate the entrance hall.

Cllr Mould **PROPOSED** to recommend to Full Council to accept the quotation to decorate the entrance hall.

Cllr Harvey said the Sports Club has suggested the area be decorated after they move their equipment into the room.

Councillors agreed the regulations for leasing the room be revised to include no cooking in the gym room, with the exception of beverages, cooking only be permitted in the Parish Room; the room will be open to inspection; room to be cleaned after use and it is not to be used for storage. The room will be referred to as the Community Sports Room.

ACTION: Clerk to check the current regulations.

Cllr Coles suggested the other room could be called the Memorial Room and be dedicated to the men who lost their lives in the First World War.

Cllr Mould said it could be called the Poppy Room in memory of the fallen.

Cllr Harvey said it might take away the focus of the War Memorial.

Cllr Jackson said that these suggestions can be considered.

ii. To consider quotations for water pipe repair

Councillors considered the quotations for the repair to the water pipe and **AGREED** to recommend to Full Council to accept the quotation from Waterlink and to ask the company for a report on the damage.

iii. To receive any other update

Cllr Harvey reported to Members that the gate has been installed at the Recreation Ground and the contractor has lent his padlock and chain. The firm which supplied the Pavilion locks recommended an Abloy PL340.

It was **AGREED** to purchase the lock as part of the gate work up to £130.

Cllr Jackson informed Members that there have been several emails from the allotment holders about the track gate not being open early in the morning. The Allotment Committee had agreed to open the gate in the morning and the neighbour had agreed to lock it in the evening. The neighbour is doing an excellent job.

7. Newington Festival 2017

Cllr Jackson informed Councillors that thirty-six stalls have been booked, the programme has generated a surplus of £1500 in advertising.

ACTION: Clerk to check Festival payments into the bank.

Cllr Mould said the programme will go to press on Wednesday.

ACTION 1: Clerk to book the Wickham Room for next Festival meeting on Tuesday 4 July at 7pm.

ACTION 2: Clerk to arrange delivery of the generator and hire a line marking spray and hand trolley to go with the generator along with red and white hazard tape.

8. Lights

Cllr Jackson informed Members that four lanterns need to be replaced. Another contractor has sent details of lights and suggested The Willows could be replaced as a trial road.

Councillors **AGREED** to replace the light in the alleyway from Bull Lane to Playstool Close.

Councillors agreed to recommend to Full Council that there should be a consultation about upgrading the lights to explain the savings which would be made.

9. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Coles said the verges in the village are all overgrown.

ACTION: Clerk to report.

10. Report of meeting with Highway Steward

Cllr Harvey reported to Members that he, Cllr Godmon and Cllr Layer had met with the Highway Steward and it was a very productive afternoon.

1) *Church Lane: double yellow lines under the railway bridge.* The expert on road markings said that this would have been done years ago if the funding had been available and he would oppose the removal of the lines which would be extremely costly to remove. An article in the Village Voice has brought a lot of correspondence in favour of keeping the lines.

It was recommended that nothing be done to remove the double yellow lines.

2) *Traffic calming in Church Lane generally:* The Highway Steward said there is natural traffic calming in the road and no further measures were needed.

3) *Verge cutting to south-west of Village where mud was left on the footpath making it very slippery:* Kent Highways apologised for this happening and will contact the contractor.

4) *A2 west of the village (the site of the recent fatal accident):* The Highways Steward was unable to comment until the coroner's report is published. Another 30mph speed limit would not be effective as the 40mph sign would be in drivers' sight.

5) *Potholes and drain/utility covers on the A2:* This is an ongoing problem and will become a serious issue when extraction of brickearth at Paradise Farm commences. The A2 will be closed for two nights in August to allow pot holes to be repaired and there would be no access to Station Road so residents must be notified.

6) *Pavements in the Village – issues of uneven surface and ingrained grit and dirt.*

7) *Missing barriers outside the Co-op; damaged barriers outside Tandoori take-away:* These will be repaired when the A2 is closed and it has been requested that KCC Highways keep the barriers in stock.

8) *Former workingmen's club site:* Nothing will be done to the path until the work has been completed.

9) *Parish Council request for barrier at end of footpath from Playstool Close to Bull Lane to prevent cyclists riding fast into traffic driving in Bull Lane:* the footpath is listed as no cycling and there is a fire hydrant at one end so it cannot be blocked.

11. Village Voice

Councillors considered the Village Voice should include Planning, Notice of High Street closure, lighting meeting, response to the yellow lines consultation, ASB and cold callers.

12. Village Litter Pick

Cllr Jackson informed Members that Swale are keen to be involved.
Item to be referred to Full Council for discussion with a date in October.

13. Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 18 July 2017

Signed as a true record of the proceedings:

Chair Dated: 27 June 2017