

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish held on 30 May 2017 in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Tony Mould (Vice Chairman), Cllr Sue Brewster, Cllr Steve Godmon, Cllr Mel Harris, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Elaine Jackson, Cllr Eric Layer, and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were KCCllr Mike Whiting, SBCllr John Wright and two members of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Mould took the Chair.  
Cllr Mould welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Debbie Haigh, Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Richard Palmer and SBCllr Gerry Lewin; apologies accepted.

## 2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 31 May 2016

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harvey to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting on 31 May 2016; **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Mould duly signed the minutes as a true record.

## 3. Matters Arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## 4. Report of the Chairman of Newington Parish Council

Cllr Mould read the report from Cllr Haigh:

*Firstly, I would like to thank all our volunteers for their contribution of time in delivering the Village Voice. Also, our contractors who work to keep the environment safe and pleasurable for all.*

*It was a sound year financially with the Council attaining very good internal Audits and leaving the bank balance in a healthy position, recovering nearly to the point recommended by NALC & KALC. Despite ever increasing financial burdens placed on us by Government:*

- We paid back a debt to Haven Power;*
- Started on the long overdue refurbishment of the Pavilion to provide both a Community Gym and a meeting room to be used by the wider community.*
- Administered over £1700 to mend street lights*
- Replaced the hanging swing at the recreation ground*
- Put double yellow lines down Church Lane*
- Planted flower beds at the cemetery*
- Not to forget Health & Safety inspections at the Recreation Ground; street litter picking and maintaining of the cemetery and churchyard*

*Much of the above was only made possible by kind additional grants provided by County Councillor Mike Baldock and our two ward representations Cllrs Gerry Lewin and John Wright. Within our financial management we must not forget Wendy and her dogged apprehension of the monies owed to Council under the Community Infrastructure Levy from the Solar Farm.*

*Planning Applications have created a lot of tension within the Community with people quite rightly extremely agitated by the persistence to utilise our green spaces. The effort put into fighting the Gladman's application and appeal was truly astounding. Persimmon continues to take time as do the ordinary applications that we receive. The Paradise Farm outcome was disappointing to all and I believe the Community does feel that KCC let us down along with our neighbouring parishes.*

*Looking forward on the planning horizon I don't see things getting much easier but on the bright side there is another Community Infrastructure Levy due from Jones Homes which will help us to continue to make otherwise unaffordable improvements in the coming year.*

*Council works very hard to deliver the Newington Festival which is a great family day out and grows from strength to strength every year. Rightly said to be the biggest volunteer based event of its kind in Swale.*

*The Village fun fair put on by the Smiths brothers is also popular and co-ordinated by Councillors.*

*The down side to village life is Anti-Social Behaviour. Council works on a regular basis with our Community Warden, Georgina and our PCSO John, both of whom I have to thank for their tireless effort in supporting Councillors and assisting the Community. We always report on ASB in the Village Voice and are pushing KCC and the Local Senior Police in Kent to give us more help. For example, we are asking for money to put in railings at the end of the alley between Playstool Close and Bull Lane, to deter wrong doers using this as an escape route when being apprehended but also to provide parents with added peace of mind when using the alley way especially with small children.*

*Lastly each and every Councillor generously gives a considerable amount of time making sure the Parish runs smoothly, I thank them for their dedication, energy and collegiate manner. Working together with the support of Wendy we will be as successful next year for the Community.*

## **5. Financial report of the Parish Council**

Cllr Harris said the accounts balance and the out turn will be circulated. Income was up and expenditure was down on the previous year leaving a very healthy balance being carried forward. The Community Fund money made a considerable increase in the Council's income. Expenditure on administration was down. The budget for the Recreation Ground and Pavilion have either been over-estimated or did not start in the last financial year. A bad safety inspection report would prove costly so it is important to budget for that eventuality. Overall expenditure was down £18,000 and the income was £20,000 better although part of this is due to the £12,000 brought forward. The final summary will be produced for the August meeting. Cllr Mould thanked Cllr Harris for his report.

## **6. The Wickham Trust**

Cllr Mould said the Parish Council has a nominative trustee on the Wickham Trust and it has been agreed for Dave Fagg to continue as the Council's nominative trustee.

## **7. To receive reports from local organisations**

There were no other reports

## **8. To receive questions and comments from parishioners.**

No questions or comments were raised from the floor.

**9. Any Other Business**

No matters were raised.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.16pm.

DRAFT