

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Tuesday 23 May 2017 in the Wickham Room, Newington Village Hall.

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

Also present was Community Warden Georgina Springall.

1. Apologies for Absence

All members were present.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 18 April 2017

- Extra cuts of football pitch only will be £26 per cut and needs two to three days notice,
- Hall car park light was reported on 20 April
- Rubble on footpath: Public Right of Way are inundated with foot path issues and will act in due course.

4. Public Question Time

No members of the public were present.

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 the only problems in the village are nuisance bikes riding around Callaways Lane, Bull Lane and Orchard Drive. PCSO Cork has spoken with some of the youths and warned them if he sees any bikes that are not road legal, the bikes will be taken. He has also had help from one resident who has sent photos of the youths riding the bikes.

Ms Springall said that the addresses of the nuisance bikers are known to the Police and residents are advised to call the Police if there is a problem.

Cllr Jackson said the crimes on the Community Warden's report do not appear on the Police report.

ACTION: Clerk to send Community Warden report to the PCSO and ask for the crime numbers.

Cllr Coles said railings at the end of the alleyway opposite Callaways Lane would be a deterrent.

ACTION: Clerk to chase KCC for a quote.

ii. Community Warden report

1) *Youths sleeping camping overnight on recreation ground, signs of smoking cannabis – Tent taken down and left next to pavilion.*

2) *Older man still urinating early mornings on a regular basis in bus shelter, opposite old Wheatsheaf.*

3) *Excessive litter in Wardwell Lane.*

4) *Youths rebuilt camp in woods between orchards and recreation ground (site where several Nitrous Oxide capsules, balloons and alcohol previously found) - Took it completely down.*

5) *Fly tipping in Wickham Close – Reported to SBC.*

6) *Youth carrying Stanley knife on school bus – Visited parents.*

Ms Springall said the girl was showing the knife rather than brandishing it in a threatening manner, the father will discuss the matter with the girl.

- 7) *Metal bird feeders stolen from garden in Iwade Road – Advised reporting to Police.*
- 8) *Works van broken into in London Road - £1000.00 worth of tools stolen – Police aware.*
- 9) *Car scratched whilst parked in Station Road – Police aware.*
- 10) *Nuisance youths in Wickham Close – Reported to PCSO Cork*
- 11) *Bench stolen from front garden in Station Road – Advised to report to Police.*
- 12) *Laptop, mobile phone stolen by 'walk in' burglary in Bull Lane.*

Ms Springall said this report came in from Neighbourhood Watch.

- 13) *Fly tipping in layby in Bull Lane – Reported to SBC.*
- 14) *Keys handed to me found in Playstool Road – Returned to owner.*
- 15) *Keys found in recreation ground returned to owner, (via Councillor).*
- 16) *Checked out complaint regarding car parked in Callaways Lane that had not moved for some time – Local owner and taxed.*
- 17) *Fly tipping on verge in Bull Lane – Reported to SBC.*
- 18) *Stables broken into in Wardwell Lane, nothing stolen – Police aware.*
- 19) *Chimney pot stolen from front garden in Church Lane – Advised to report to police.*
- 20) *Two chimney pots stolen from rear garden in Iwade Road.*

Ms Springall said there was a significant increase in thefts from front gardens last summer, unfortunately this does not usually get reported to the Police.

- 21) *Nuisance youth on motorcycle in Station Road – Police aware.*
- 23) *Elderly female resident conned out of £800.00 cash to bogus workman for roof repairs – Police attended.*

Ms Springall said she has given a talk at the church coffee morning and distributed leaflets about bogus workmen.

- 24) *Illegal motorbikes congregating in car park area outside allotment area – Police aware.*
- 25) *KCC Right of Way Officer attended recreation ground and stated that small side gate at entrance of recreation had to be kept unlocked.*

Ms Springall explained neighbours had locked the gate to deter the nuisance bikers. The PROW Officer said the gate must be left unlocked but he will put a bollard in so that the bikes cannot get through.

- 26) *Gave brief presentation to residents who attended 'Cornerstone Meet and greet' at the Church this month on keeping safe, latest Scams and bogus workmen.*
- 27) *Fatal vehicle accident on London Road.*
- 28) *Concerns from resident regarding vans seen driving around the village during the early hours of the morning.*

Ms Springall said her dog mess campaign has been successful in Church Lane, Bull Lane and the Iwade Road.

Cllr Harvey asked if it could be raised with the Police & Crime Commissioner that it is very difficult to report crimes on 101. The Police were not interested in the keys lost on the recreation ground.

Cllr Coles said there had been a previous initiative called Garden Watch where residents could report thefts of garden items. This could be coordinated locally and will help build up a picture of crime in the area to present to the Police.

Cllr Jackson said this still needed to be reported to the Police as well. The matter would be referred to Full Council and legal advice be taken as to whether it was permitted to gather the information.

Cllr Jackson thanked Ms Springall for her attendance and for her report.

6. Recreation Ground

i. Pavilion

Cllr Jackson said the contractors should finish the refurbishment this week.

Cllr Harvey said the builders had a list of extras the Council might like to consider.

ACTION: Clerk to contact builders for finish date and also for the list of extra work recommended.

Cllr Coles said there would need to be a final inspection of the work prior to payment and no one should be permitted to go into the pavilion until the work has been signed off.

Cllr Coles said the grilles have been ordered and he will liaise with the contractor about fitting the grilles.

Cllr Jackson said there had been a good meeting with the Sport Club and the Club has requested having a formal opening of the pavilion jointly with the Parish Council following the refurbishment of the Community Gym.

Councillors agreed that there could not be a formal opening of the pavilion until the whole building had been refurbished. The Sports Club would not be allowed to use the Pavilion until the lease has been signed and the rent has been paid.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Sports Club requesting the return of the lease and rent.

ii. To consider quotation for additional gate

Councillors considered the quotation from the contractors and agreed unanimously to recommend to Full Council acceptance of the quote from Mr Belsom.

iii. To consider quotation for tree work

Councillors considered the quotations for work to the tree in the recreation ground. The tree survey conducted two years ago did not highlight any problem with the tree and the only issue is a branch over-hanging an adjacent property.

Councillors agreed to recommend to Full Council that no work be carried out and that the resident is perfectly within their right to trim back the tree if necessary.

iv. To consider quotation for water pipe repair.

Cllr Jackson said seven contractors had been asked to quote for the work but none will do so unless the pipe has been exposed.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Morrisons directly for a quotation.

v. Fun Fair

Cllr Harvey reported the Fun Fair was successful although there was one less ride than previously. There were no complaints from neighbours and the recreation ground was left in a clean state.

7. Newington Festival 2017

Councillors discussed the issue of stall holder insurance.

ACTION: Clerk to draft a letter to stall holders requesting insurance and giving details of possible brokers to contact.

8. Lights

The contractor has been out to the following lights:

36 The Willows - Lamp replacement

13 The Willows - New lantern required

4 St Matthews - New lantern Required

Alleyway between Playstool Close and Bull Lane - New lantern required

64/66 Pear Tree Walk - Lamp replaced

5 The Willows - Lamp Replaced

52/54 Pear Tree Walk - New Lamp replaced - new lantern recommended

Cllr Haigh had circulated a fiscal study into replacing the lights with LED lights.

Cllr Harvey said the lights in Allsworth Close may have a covenant on them as they were designed to go with the houses. The lights in the High Street were made to fit in with the Victorian High Street.

Cllr Mould said LED lights are cheaper to run and are the better option.

Cllr Coles suggested the lights could be upgraded on a street by street basis.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain further details from another lighting company.

9. Footpaths and Bridleways

- **ZR67**- John Cork has passed information over to the CSU to find out if the bridleway is private land so the problem can be dealt with.
- Michael Ellis (PROW) has said he has tracked down the owner of the vehicles on the bridge and will be contacting them to seek removal of the vehicles. He is currently dealing with paths that are obstructed by crops and will arrange the installation of some form of restrictive access to the bridge that ensures that pedestrians and equestrians can use the route at all times and that the farmer can access as he needs to but that prevents fly-tipping and other misuse of the land beyond the bridge.

Cllr Coles said the footpath posts have been removed from the orchards in Bull Lane.

ACTION: Clerk to contact PROW again.

10. Village Voice

Councillors agreed there must be an ASB report in the Village Voice. There are no planning matters to report and a Parish Council report should be included.

11. Any Other Business

Cllr Jackson said she has invited Sergeant Darren Walshaw, Rural Police Officer, to attend the Festival.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm

Date of Next Meeting: 20 June 2017