

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), 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 his colleague Avrille.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies has been received from Cllr Richard Palmer; apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 20 June 2017

- Water leak- Waterlink will repair the leak on Thursday 20th and there needs to be someone to meet the contractor.
- Dog fouling on track to Mill Hill- Swale Borough Council have agreed to install a bin and a bag dispenser near to the entrance.

4. Public Question Time

No members of the public were present.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO John Cork reported he had been contacted regarding a tent in the recreation ground. Cllr Mould said that it was adults practicing erecting a new tent.

PCSO Cork said there are still problems with nuisance bikers and one has been caught and it is known where some of the bikers live. A car has been reported driving with no tax or insurance, the car was seized and taken away. There have been reports of catapults being used.

Cllr Harvey said that at a meeting with KCC Highways, Councillors were told that a barrier could not be erected at the end of the alleyway in Playstool Close because of the location of the fire hydrant.

PCSO Cork said that nuisance bikers are the biggest problem in Swale although there have been no reports in this alleyway. There have been reports of speeding vehicles in Church Lane.

PCSO Cork said that there had been problems at the Festival, there had been a young person harassing stall holders and also tried to harass a colleague. The young person is known and will be spoken to.

Cllr Jackson said the private security firm were very good in resolving issues. Towards the end of the event there was a small group of people at the bar causing a ruckus and the bar was closed at 5.45pm.

PCSO Cork said that next year he will endeavour to attend the Festival later so that he can be there at the end.

Cllr Mould said that many photographs have been taken at the festival for publicity purposes.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to obtain and send photos to PCSO Cork.

Cllr Jackson thanked PCSO Cork for attending the Festival and also for his report at the meeting.

ii. Community Warden report

Community Warden Georgina Springall had sent apologies and a report:

- 1) *Company canvassing for driveways around village.*
- 2) *Male youths shop lifting in chemist – Police aware.*

- 3) Neighbour dispute regarding noisy youth – monitoring situation, advised minor criminal damage to be reported to Police.
- 4) Fly tipping of refuse sack in The Tracies – Reported to SBC who attended and found evidence.
- 5) Resident witnessed car driver push cyclist off his bike in Church Lane – Advised to report to Police.
- 6) Three outbuildings entered illegally next to cottage in Bull Lane, Newington – Police aware.
- 7) Nuisance youths on illegal motorbike estate area – Police aware.
- 8) Planted up village planters on High Street.
- 9) Spoken to suspect male who has been urinating in bus stop on High Street – Requested cleansing of shelter to SBC
- 10) Suspected rogue trader calling at house in The Willows, resident turned him away – Police aware. Visited resident and neighbours.
- 11) Front garden wall damaged and security lights stolen – advised to report to police.
- 12) Tent in recreation ground during weekend.
- 13) Dog fouling on grass area in village hall car park – SBC enforcement signs put up.
- 14) Suitcase stolen from resident waiting for bus at bus stop on High Street – Police aware.
- 15) Nuisance youths in Wickham Close – PCSO aware.

iii. To consider quotation for Cold Calling Controlled Zone

Cllr Harvey said that residents are extremely concerned about cold callers following recent incidents of aggressive cold callers. Newington has a “No Cold Calling” status and it has been reported in the Village Voice that it is an offence to do so and the Police can prosecute.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend to Full Council acceptance of the quotation of £46 (+VAT) for two signs and clips and to request a grant from the County Councillor to pay for the sign.

Cllr Coles suggested the sign could be copied and delivered with the Village Voice for residents to use.

ACTION 1: Clerk to ask Community Warden if she has appropriate stickers.

ACTION 2: Clerk to request grant.

iv. To receive an update on any other ASB matter

Cllr Harvey informed Members that Matthew Scott, Police & Crime Commissioner, had said the area commander will meet with the Parish Council. Mike Baldock has said he will follow this up through KALC.

6. Recreation Ground

i. Pavilion

a) Report from the Pavilion Working Group

There had been no meeting.

b) Pavilion refurbishment

Cllr Harvey said the snagging list had been completed, there are timers and named switches.

Cllr Jackson asked whether a further inspection needed to be carried out.

Cllr Coles said the snagging list should be checked.

Cllr Harvey said the only thing from the list is that the kitchen need some mastic to finish the seal. The Sports Club need to move in and also need to move their equipment from the Parish Room.

ACTION 1: Clerk to check with builders of the snagging list have been completed.

ACTION 2: Clerk to obtain quote from the builder to redecorate the Parish Room and for a recommendation for any electrical work and to ask SBCllr John Wright for a grant.

Cllr Coles said there is no ramp outside the Pavilion.

ii. To consider terms and conditions for Pavilion use

Cllr Jackson said there needs to be a list of rules for the daily care of the pavilion on the wall.

A meeting needs to be held with the Sports Club to coordinate their return to the Gym Room.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Sports Club to arrange a meeting.

iii. To receive any other update

Cllr Harvey said he had given the Clerk the new gate keys and master card. More keys need to be cut and more key fobs need to be obtained.

Cllr Jackson said consideration will also need to be given as to who will take the alarm calls and a caretaker could be appointed to respond and be paid if called out.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain additional key fobs.

Cllr Mould said the Allotment Association had expressed an interest in having committee meetings in the Pavilion

The Clerk reported she had a booking from the quick cricket group to hire the pavilion on 5 August. Also, there is an enquiry from a sewing group to meet there.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Allotment Association to ascertain interest in hiring the pavilion.

Cllr Jackson said a resident in orchard terrace has said she is going to write to her MP about the oak tree on the recreation ground not being cut back.

7. Newington Festival 2017

Cllr Mould said the Festival had been a success and it is anticipated that the final figures will be similar to the previous year. There had been a few stalls which had not paid and did not turn up or notify that they were unable to attend. Next year stall holders will have to pay when booking and there will be no payments made on the day. A provisional date of 21 July has been made for next year's Festival.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to confirm date with the school.

Cllr Coles said the team who run the barbeque are retiring next year and new volunteers are needed.

Cllr Brewster said she was disappointed that not everyone turned up leaving some of the teams short and that she was not happy about having two raffles. Consideration needs to be given to where the tea tent is sited.

Cllr Mould said it would be better to concentrate on one raffle.

Cllr Jackson said she will write to the Police & Crime Commissioner to express disappointment that the Police did not stay until the end after asking for help and employing a private security firm.

8. Lights

i. To receive an update on Lights

The following lights have been reported:

52, Pear Tree Walk

between 42 / 40 Pear Tree Walk

64-66 Bull Lane

84 and 74 Bull Lane

33-35 Bull Lane

Cllr Mould said the car park light is still not working

ACTION: Clerk to report car park light to Swale Borough Council.

ii. Street Light consultation date

Councillors agreed to have consultation meeting week commencing 21 August, Clerk to liaise with contractor and Village Hall for suitable date.

9. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Coles said the verges from Wormdale Farm down Bull Lane are very overgrown.

ACTION: Clerk to report to Highway Steward.

Cllr layer said the hedge need cutting along to road to the allotments.

Cllr Coles said this is the responsibility of Pond Farm.

Cllr Harvey said the vans are still parked on the bridge.

10. Village Voice

Cllr Jackson said there has been an email of appreciation from a resident regarding the Village Voice.

Councillors discussed the articles for the next edition of the Village Voice with the closure of the A2 being prominent.

11. Village Litter Pick

Councillors considered there was not a litter problem in the village and agreed not to pursue the matter.

12. Any Other Business

Cllr Mould said if the school could produce a mural it could be professionally painted on the station and this helps stop graffiti.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 9pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 19 September 2017 at 7pm