

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Meeting** of the **Parish Council** held on **27 June 2017** in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Debbie Haigh (Chair), Cllr Tony Mould (Vice Chairman), Cllr Sue Brewster, Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Steve Godmon, Cllr Mel Harris, Cllr Stephen Harvey, and Cllr Richard Palmer; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were KCCllr Mike Whiting, Community Warden Georgina Springall and thirteen members of the public.

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Haigh signed her Acceptance of Office of Chairman in the presence of the Clerk.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Elaine Jackson (personal) and Cllr Eric Layer (holiday): apologies accepted.

Apologies had also been received from Ward Members John Wright and Gerry Lewin (at another meeting): apologies noted.

Cllr Haigh informed members that Cllr Helen Walker has resigned. Democratic Services has been informed, a Notice of Vacancy has been posted, the Parish Council can co-opt if no election is called by 5 July.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Harris declared a pecuniary interest in The Tracies, item 7 Planning, and Cllr Palmer declared an interest in Chesley Oasts, item 7.

## 3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 MAY 2017

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 30 May 2017 were considered. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harvey to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting:

**SECONDED** by Cllr Coles: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Mould duly signed the minutes as a true record

## 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.

*#1- I read in the Village Voice that a request has been made to remove the double yellow lines in Church Lane under the railway bridge. On behalf of residents who live the other side of the bridge, I would like to register opposition to this suggestion as we now feel safe knowing that emergency vehicles will be able to pass through.*

Cllr Haigh said the Parish Council has been inundated with support for the yellow lines from residents. The yellow lines were installed thanks to the help from former County Councillor Mike Baldock. Kent Highways have indicated they are pleased that the Parish Council has managed to find the funding to pay for the project.

*#2- It does mean that there is an increase in traffic speeds in the top part of Church Lane particularly immediately before the bridge and it is difficult to cross at times*

Cllr Haigh said the Parish Council had considered bollard at the bottom of Church Lane and Cllr Brewster did a lot of work on this. The developer, Jones Homes, installed a bollard opposite the school and KCC Highways said there would not be room for more bollards. Swale Borough Council has been piloting 20mph speed limits around schools in Faversham, Newington Parish Council did offer to participate in the pilot but was not chosen.

Cllr Harvey said that when he met with officers from KCC Highways, they said cars would not be able to travel very fast on this stretch of road and if a 20mph limit was imposed it would have to be enforced. Speed bumps are now opposed by the Government because of the increased pollution, increased noise and the damage to cars they cause. KCC Highways will monitor Church Lane.

*#3- What has happened about Speed Watch?*

Cllr Harvey said that only three volunteers came forward.

Community Warden Georgina Springall said Speed Watch could not be operated in Church Lane as the road is too narrow.

Cllr Haigh said the Parish Council may be able to obtain a grant towards traffic calming. There is much concern in the village about traffic issues.

*#4- Another concern for Church Lane is vehicle parking at the top making it difficult for cars to enter from the A2.*

Cllr Haigh said if anyone notices vehicles are parked on double yellow lines they must contact the parking enforcement team.

*#5- I would like an update on The Tracies application.*

*Cllr Harris left the room while The Tracies was discussed.*

Cllr Harvey said the application was expected to be on the Swale Planning Committee agenda last week but it will probably be heard on 20 July. The Parish Council continues to oppose the application and will speak at the Swale Planning Committee meeting.

Cllr Haigh said The Tracies has been rejected twice from the call for sites for the Local Plan.

*#6- We are gathered here to show our objection to this proposal. Over the past twenty-five years, numerous applications at this site have been refused because it is outside the village boundary and nothing has changed because it is still outside the village boundary.*

Cllr Haigh said she urged residents to contact Gordon Henderson MP and also Alok Sharma MP the Minister of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government. The Persimmon application maybe approved so there is no need for more houses in the village.

*#7- The village will lose an amenity if the land is built on and if permitted development will continue into other fields.*

Cllr Haigh said the Parish Council shared residents' concerns and the houses would impact on the footpath, also if the houses were built with a gap in them there is the potential for a road to go to Ellen's Field.

*#8- Is the Persimmon application in the Local Plan?*

Cllr Haigh said it was added to the Local Plan during the recent modification.

Cllr Harvey said the application is being fought on the grounds of air quality.

*Residents thanked Councillors for their support and for all their hard work.*

Cllr Haigh thanked the residents for attending.

Cllr Harris returned to the meeting.

## **6. VISITORS**

### County Councillor

KCCllr Whiting said he should be informed if there is anything he can do to help with the parking problems in Church Lane and that he will report back to SBCllr Lewin and SBCllr Wright about the objections to The Tracies application. Gordon Henderson MP has always written to oppose any development of sites outside the Local Plan.

There has been dumping behind the Newington Industrial Estate which was reported to officers by SBCllr Wright. The rubble was being used to create a short access road and the surplus will be removed.

There have been very few, if any reports from Parishioners.

The vegetation at the top of Hartlip Hill has been cut back and this has been added to the regular schedule to be cut three time a year ensuring good sight lines.

Cllr Palmer asked whether anything can be done to alleviate the flooding in Boxted Lane.

KCCllr Whiting said he would be able to help and will contact the resident affected by the problem.

Cllr Haigh thanked KCCllr Whiting for his report.

Community Warden

Ms Springall said she has cleaned out the planters and will replant them with the help of her partner.

The anti dog fouling campaign has finished and is has been successful except for the track which goes to Mill Hill from under the railway bridge by Wickham Close, some dog walkers think that because it is rural there is no need to clear up the dog mess but they do. The Dog warden will go out and issue £80 fines.

*ACTION: Clerk to request dog bin and waste dispenser.*

Cllr Haigh thanked Ms Springall for her attendance.

**7. PLANNING**

Cllr Haigh said there had been a fruitful planning meeting, there had been were objections to the appeal at Chesley Oast and the Parish Council will speak against the application at The Tracies.

**8. AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

i. To receive the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 20 June 2017 and consider the recommendations

The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 20 June 2017 were considered. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Coles to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting: **SECONDED** by Cllr Harvey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Coles duly signed the minutes as a true record.

KALC Meeting

Cllr Haigh said the Committee had discussed a protocol, mentioned at the KALC Swale Area Committee meeting, for dealing with Travellers if there were to turn up.

Cllr Harvey reported Matthew Scott, the Police & Crime Commissioner, said he will seek out a policy and circulate it.

Pavilion

Cllr Haigh reported to Members that the Committee recommended accepting the quotation to redecorate the Pavilion lobby.

Cllr Harvey said the Sports Club needs to move equipment before the lobby is redecorated.

It was **AGREED** to wait until the equipment has been moved before accepting the quote.

Cllr Haigh said the main room could be decorated by volunteers.

Room Name

Cllr Haigh said she would be happy for the main room to be called the Parish Room.

Water Leak

Cllr Haigh informed Members that a notice has been received from Southern Water that they will cut off the water supply at the recreation ground unless the water leak is repaired by 6 July.

The Amenities Committee have recommended accepting the quote from WaterLink, a contractor Southern Water uses.

Cllr Harris expressed concern about the location of the telegraph pole on the track and suggested that BT be requested to disconnect and remove it.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation from WaterLink for an emergency repair to the pipe and to request a quote if any further work is needed.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact BT concerning the removal of the telegraph pole.*

Upgrade of street lights

Cllr Haigh said it has been recommended to have a consultation meeting with a lighting contractor to discuss proposals to replace the street lights.

*ACTION: Cllr Haigh to compile information for the meeting.*

Closure of the A2 for maintenance

Cllr Harvey said he has written an article for the Village Voice to inform residents the A2 will be closed to allow for KCC Highways maintenance.

Traffic calming

Cllr Harvey said since the Committee meeting he has been advised by the Highway Steward that she will obtain information as to the procedure to reduce the speed limit in Church Lane.

Barrier at end of alleyway between Playstool Close and Bull Lane

Cllr Haigh said she was disappointed that a barrier could not be placed at the Playstool Road end of the alleyway as there is a fire hydrant there.

Cllr Mould said it might be possible to have a barrier at the Bull Lane end.

*ACTION: Cllr Harvey to contact the Highway Steward.*

#### Gate to the allotments

Cllr Harris said there has been concern that the allotment gate is not being opened.  
Cllr Haigh said there needs to be clarity as to whose responsibility this is.

#### ii. To consider Newington Litter Pick

Cllr Haigh said Swale Borough Council will support a litter pick.  
Cllr Harris said the project might be covered by Swale Borough Council's insurance.  
*ACTION: Clerk to ascertain whether the Borough Council's insurance covers the litter pick.*

#### iii. To consider a Garden Watch Scheme for the Parish

This item to be carried forward to the next agenda.

Cllr Haigh said the play area inspection is due and **PROPOSED** to accept the quote of £155 from Craigdene; **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

### **9. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA**

Cllr Mould reported to Members the Village Voice is progressing well and that final copy needs to be in by the end of the week. Festival programmes will be delivered with the Village Voice. There will need to be an August edition to inform residents about the A2 closure and also the street light consultation meeting.

Cllr Haigh said there has been good village participation in matters which have been raised in the Village Voice.

### **10. FINANCE**

#### i. Cheque list: to consider invoices for payment

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Cheque No.</b>
Profile Business Supplies	Village Voice	60.00		2631
	Festival Flyers	50.00		
	<b>Total:</b>		<b>£110.00</b>	
Mrs P Rowe	Litter Picking Recreation Ground and sight checking equipment June 2017		<b>£110.00</b>	2632
Mr M Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance June 2017		<b>£490.00</b>	2633
Mrs W Licence	Salary and expenses		<b>£571.42</b>	2634
HMRC	PAYE		<b>£10.80</b>	2635
Miss L Wright	A Heavey Litter picker 25/03/2017 - 17/06/2017		<b>£765.00</b>	2636
Kejan Precision Engineering	Pavilion window grilles	1166.00		2637
	VAT	233.20		
	<b>Total:</b>		<b>£1399.20</b>	
KALC	Councillor training	60.00		2638
	VAT	12.00		
	<b>Total:</b>		<b>£72.00</b>	
Forest Printers	Festival raffle tickets		<b>£87.99</b>	2639

RJ Barnes & Sons	Supply and fit locks to pavilion Vat	230.00 46.00	<b>Total: £276.00</b>	2640
Mrs A Ritson	Festival Stall refund		<b>£15.00</b>	2641
RJ Barnes & Sons	Balance of payment of Pavilion refurbishment work		<b>£12,780.00</b>	2642
DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd	Payroll VAT	35.00 7.00	<b>£42.00</b>	2643
ADT	Invoice no 31075361-18 Annual maintenance 16-17 Vat Annual maintenance 17-18 Vat	319.20 449.55 74.93 449.55 74.93	<b>£1,368.16</b>	2644
Mr S Harvey	Expenses		<b>£18.50</b>	2645
Gardening World Ltd	Best Garden Competition prizes		<b>£60.00</b>	2646

Councillors considered the cheques raised and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** for the cheques to be signed.

#### BACS PAYMENTS

01.06.17: £179.00 Haven Power Ltd

05.06.17: £563.00 Haven Power Ltd

#### RECEIPTS

£445.00 Festival receipts

£300.00 NCSC rent 2016/7 and 01/04/17- 31/10/17

#### ii. Update on reserve account

Cllr Haigh said the Nationwide account has been opened and the cheque for £45,000 has cleared. Cllr Haigh thanked Cllr Godmon for his work in setting up the reserve account.

#### iii. To consider the purchase of a Dictaphone

Cllr Haigh informed Members that KALC has advised is that it is the ratified minutes which would be upheld in a court of law as a true record of a meeting and not a recording of a meeting. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** not to purchase a Dictaphone to record meetings.

#### iv. To consider request for grant towards Child's Vision charity

Cllr Haigh said it is not the Parish Council's policy to make donations although the Council recognized and appreciated what the resident is doing and would offer a stall at the Festival to help raise awareness.

#### v. Any other finance matter received by 27 June 2017

Cllr Harris informed members that the Parish Council has registered with NEST and payments for April and may have been made.

### **11. ADT**

Cllr Haigh reported to Members that there have been ongoing issues with ADT as invoices had been sent to the previous Clerk's address. On 30 October 2015, a partial credit of £319.20 was

given to offset an overcharge. On 15 December 2015 Andy Mumby agreed to reduce the Village Hall maintenance contract to £449.55 +vat per annum and to upgrade it to the Standard Plus contract. In the December 2016, the monitor was replaced during the routine service without proper authorization and it had been working prior to the service and this will be challenged. ADT have now applied interest to the account and as ADT had failed to change the contact details, despite numerous letters and phone calls to the company advising them of the change, it is not appropriate to pay this.

Cllr Harris said the dockets do not agree and the breakdown of costs need to be challenged. It was **AGREED** to pay the balance of invoice no 31075361-18 £319.20; Annual maintenance 2016-17 £449.55 plus vat £74.93; and annual maintenance 2017-18 £449.55 plus vat £74.93.

## 12. CHURCHYARD AND CEMETERY

### i. To receive an update of the Churchyard and Cemetery

Cllr Harris said the tap needs to be replaced and the stop cock has been located. The roses need to be tied to stakes.

### ii. To consider the Churchyard and Cemetery Risk Assessment and Health & Safety Policy

Cllr Haigh **PROPOSED** to accept the Health & Safety Document; **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Councillors considered the Risk Assessment and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept it.

## 13. HIGHWAYS

This item had been covered earlier on the agenda.

## 14. STREET LIGHTING

Councillors agreed to arrange a public consultation and invite a contractor.

## 15. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Palmer reported that Matthew Scott, the Police & Crime Commissioner had attended the KALC Swale Area Committee meeting.

## 16. CORRESPONDENCE

1. UpARA Newsletter- *circulated and added to website*
2. KCPFA Newsletter- *circulated*
3. Festival poster- *circulated and added to website*
4. 08.06.17 Email from resident about Church Lane yellow lines- *circulated*
5. 08.06.17 email about Church Lane yellow lines - *circulated*
6. 09.06.17 Email from resident in Orchard Drive - *circulated*
7. 09.06.17 email from resident about yellow lines- *circulated*
8. 10.06.17 email from resident about yellow lines- *circulated*
9. 11.06.17 email from resident about yellow lines- *circulated*
10. 11.06.17 email from resident about yellow lines- *circulated*
11. 11.06.17 email from resident about yellow lines- *circulated*
12. 12.06.17 email from resident about yellow lines in Church Lane - *circulated*
13. 12.06.17 email from resident about yellow lines in Church Lane - *circulated*
14. 14.06.17 email from resident about Boxted lane and Church Lane yellow lines - *circulated*
15. 14.06.17 KALC Parish news - *circulated*
16. 15.06.17 email from resident about yellow lines in Church Lane - *circulated*
17. 15.06.17 email from resident about yellow lines in Church Lane - *circulated*
18. 06.06.17 KALC- Councillors' Conference 8 July - *circulated* would anyone like to attend?
19. 16.06.17 Invitation to East Kent listening events: Transforming Health and Social Care in Kent and Medway - *circulated*
20. 17.06.17 email from resident about yellow lines in Church Lane- *circulated*
21. 22.06.17: email from resident concerning yellow lines under bridge- *circulated*
22. 22.06.17: PROW response to issues on bridleway ZR 67 *circulated*

**17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other matter was raised.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.44pm.

Signed as a true record of the proceedings:

Chair Dated: 25 July 2017