

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Tuesday 19 September 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 Community Warden Georgina Springall and two members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Richard Palmer (holiday) apology accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Layer declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 as he is an allotment holder.

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

- The Community Warden said she will obtain more “no cold calling” stickers and put some in the chemist.
- Pavilion alarm fobs- Cllr Harvey said a decision needs to be made regarding the renewal of the alarm system.
- Parish Room grant- will be applied for when a quote is accepted

4. Public Question Time

The meeting was adjourned for the public time.

A resident said he had been visited by a double-glazing salesman who would not go away and he called the Community Warden. There has also be a call from a deaf person requesting a donation.

Community Warden Georgina Springall said she had been contacted by a resident about a deaf girl trying to collect money for brain damaged children. When Ms Springall called out to the girl, the girl clearly could hear although she subsequently acted as though she could not hear. The incident will be reported to PCSO Cork and it has been reported to Neighbourhood Watch.

Cllr Jackson said the Council is trying to make Newington a Cold Calling Controlled Zone.

The meeting reconvened.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO John Cork had sent apologies for not being able to attend the meeting and sent a written report.

Newington has been quite and the only problems that have been reported are nuisance bikes riding in the area including the Orchard. Two signs have been placed in Callaway Lane which warn about riding nuisance bikes and more signs will be placed on the fence in the recreation ground.

There have been no reports from residents about any ASB issues.

Cllr Coles said the sign by the alleyway has been vandalized.

Ms Springall said the police know who the bikers are and where they live.

ii. Community Warden report

1) Tools stolen from garden shed in The Willows – Police aware.

2) Found out owners of the outbuildings at Pond Farm that youths are entering. Savills estate agents manage them and have assured me they will be boarded up, made safe and notices put up.

Cllr Coles asked whether the Parish Council should contact the agents for Pond Farm regarding the outbuildings.

ACTION: Refer to Full Council.

3) Owner of the car on ramps in Playstool Road was finally given a 72-hour removal notice which he adhered to.

4) Pavement in High Street covered with mud and moss from rooftops – Reported to Swale Borough Council for cleansing.

5) Re-reported bus shelter in High Street, (opposite Wheatsheaf) to Swale Borough Council for power cleansing.

6) Concerns from residents regarding the now empty 'West Car Sales' site. Some of the buildings are not very secure. Police are aware. I advised neighbours to find out ownership, which they have, in case we have any problems within the area in the future.

Ms Springall said the buildings are not secure.

Cllr Coles said the resident must be informed the Parish Council supports him and ask that he also reports any issues to the Council as well as the Police. The owner must be requested to make the site secure.

7) Dog fouling on grass area at rear of village hall car park – Swale Borough Council penalty signs put up and I'm monitoring area.

8) Untaxed vehicle parked in parking area, Pear Tree Walk – Reported to Optivo housing.

9) Youths riding illegal motorbikes from Pear Tree Walk/Bramley Close area through footpaths to Bull Lane, Callaways Lane and over Monkey Island. They are also riding them over orchards – Police aware.

10) Large illegal off-road bikes from High Street area being ridden over Monkey Island and Callaways Lane area.

11) Fly tipping in High Oak Hill – Reported to Swale Borough Council.

12) Dog barking excessively when left during the day in rear garden – Advised resident to report to Swale Borough Council.

13) Youths/adults riding illegal off-road motor bikes from High Street area up Callaways Lane and over Monkey Island/Bull Lane area – Police aware.

14) Neighbour dispute – Optivo housing officers making visit.

15) Large truck completely obstructing pavement in Orchard Drive – Advised reporting to police on 101.

16) Residents complaining about footpath that ran from Pear Tree Walk to Bull Lane, between houses 64 and 66 and has been blocked up for years. I contacted the KCC Right of Ways team who checked it out and told me it had no ownership, (same as 'bumpy' alley).

17) Successful Bingo Club session, discussed latest scams.

18) Forced entry to one of outbuildings on West Cars empty site – Police aware.

19) Nuisance youths on private rear land in Wickham Close.

20) Burglary to property on Hartlip Hill – Police aware.

21) Concerns regarding eight cars getting grid locked down Church Lane at school pick up time. Driver of car coming up Church Lane refused to reverse as it was her right of way. Cars backed up to the High Street.

22) Fridge fly tipped in High Oak Hill, Iwade Road – Reported to Swale Borough Council.

23) Moped stolen from drive way in the village – Police aware.

24) Car entering Bull Lane from the High Street, mounted pavement and crashed into front house wall of cottage – Police aware. Resident has concerns and would like safety measures put in place in this area, for example, railings.

25) Footpath that runs from Wickham Close to Mill Lane, (across farmers field) much cleaner now due to new dog bin installed.

Cllr Jackson thanked Ms Springall for her report and for attending the meeting.

iii. To receive report of meeting with Inspector Gavin Wade

Cllr Harvey informed Members that a meeting with Inspector Wade will be arranged prior to the October Amenities meeting. Inspector Wade has asked for copies of the PCSO and Community Warden reports for the last six months to gain an understanding of the issues. Alan Blackburn, KCC Highways, reported there were threats made to workmen during the overnight closure of the A2 and they could have had a police presence.

Cllr Harvey said the temporary railings outside the Co-op have yellow tape on the western end and Alan Blackburn has agreed to paint this with fluorescent paint. The new railings have been ordered but the contractors are nervous about coming back. The stewards had no local knowledge.

Cllr Jackson said the signage was extremely bad. Amey are responsible for the signage and there is a 7½ ton limit on Playstool Road.

Cllr Mould said the issues must be logged and a report submitted to KCC.

Cllr Harvey said he has asked to liaise with the contracts manager as the previous stewards had had no local knowledge. Cllr Harvey has had a meeting with Alan Blackburn about the issues.

Ms Springall said a vehicle turned in to Bull Lane, came off the pavement and into a cottage. The resident was extremely upset. The corner is very narrow and it is dangerous for children. Cllr Coles said the footpath is too narrow to install railings.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Alan Blackburn to see what measures can be taken to make the road safer.

6. Recreation Ground

i. Pavilion

a) Report from the Pavilion Working Group

Cllr Jackson said the Pavilion Working Group met at the end of August. The Sports Club has cleared out most of the equipment and the remainder will be cleared at the weekend. There is concern that the key for the front door and the back door are the same and this need to be addressed.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotes to replace the lock barrels in both doors.

Cllr Coles said all the grilles had been put on the windows.

Cllr Harvey PROPOSED thanks to Cllr Coles, Mr Jackson and Cllr Jackson for their sterling work in securing the grilles.

b) To consider the quotations to redecorate the Parish Room

Councillors considered the quotations to redecorate the Parish Room and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend accepting the quote from RJ Moss Ltd for £3,995.00 to Full Council.

Cllr Jackson said the repair to the garage would be held in abeyance.

Cllr Mould said if the Pavilion is to be used, consideration needs to be given to furniture and a grant obtained.

Cllr Harvey said the Sport Club is giving some furniture to the Council.

ACTION: Clerk to request grant for redecorating the Pavilion and furniture from the County and Borough Councillors.

Cllr Harvey informed Member the Pavilion was built in 1968 and there could be a celebration for this in 2018 on its fiftieth anniversary.

ii. To consider the Annual Play area inspection report

Cllr Jackson said the moderate risk items identified in the report need to be addressed. The inspector has recommended the see saw be inspected by a playground maintenance company.

Cllr Harvey said the work is urgent and should be carried out in advance of the S106 payment from Jones Homes; the payment is in lieu of a recreation ground in Church Lane.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain report from a playground maintenance company.

Cllr Jackson said the report has highlighted weed growth at the base of the see saw which is growing through the safety surface.

ACTION: Cllr Jackson to purchase weed killer.

Cllr Jackson said there is shrinking to the edging and gaps between the tiles.

Cllr Coles said the Council has some repair material although it may only be suitable for summer use.

ACTION: Cllr Jackson to check the instructions for usage.

Cllr Coles said the fixings on the safety chains to the swing basket need to be cut back although this was fixed by the manufacturer. The twisting of the safety chains may have been caused by the swing being flipped over by the children.

ACTION: Cllr Layer to untwist the basket.

Cllr Jackson said the chain link fence behind the goal is damaged.

Cllr Coles said this was going to be removed.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quote.

Cllr Jackson said the report recommends there should be ownership signage at the fitness equipment.

Cllr Coles said new safety standards came into effect in April 2015 and the equipment was installed prior to this so there are some failings under current standards.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Swale Borough Council for advice.

Cllr Harvey reported the grass around the pavilion has not been cut.

Cllr Coles said the problem may be due to the gate being locked and there is debris in the ground.

Cllr Harvey said quotations need to be obtained to remove the compound fencing around the pavilion and asked whether consideration should be given to erecting a low-level fence so users of the pavilion will not have to worry about young children running off.

Cllr Jackson said the decision to remove the fencing was based on the cost of maintenance.

Cllr Coles said the fencing should be removed but if a playgroup were interested in hiring the pavilion the Council could consider erecting a low-level fence. Some groups may have issues regarding vehicular access to the pavilion to unload equipment or parking for parents.

Cllr Harvey said he has the new padlock for the trackway gate and needs to arrange distribution of the keys. There should be two complete sets of keys in the village and subsets for lettings.

Cllr Jackson said the Clerk has a spare copy of all the keys in the safe. Cllr Jackson said she will mark the keys and set up a key log book. There is only one garage key and copies need to be obtained.

iii. To consider pavilion Alarm quotation

Cllr Jackson said no renewal notice has been received from ADT.

Cllr Harvey said that currently, if the alarm is activated one of the neighbours contacts the Sports Club. Another company has suggested a system which will send a text to designated phones. The CCTV cameras are low and can be reached. Master Alarms have been recommended by the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Mould said if the fencing is removed the cameras need to be shielded.

Councillors **AGREED** to recommend to Full Council to accept the quotation from Master Alarms and to request a grant.

Action: Clerk to request details as to whether the cameras have night vision and if they will be replaced; how many key fobs does the quote include and how much are extra fobs.

iv. To receive any other update

Cllr Jackson informed Members that the Sports Club is no longer able to make teas for the Football Club. The Council could provide this facility or it could hire the pavilion to the Football Club.

Cllr Harvey said that it could go out to tender or the Council could employ someone. If the Council provides teas for the club accounts must be kept for transparency.

Cllr Coles said it could be a community café.

Cllr Jackson said a clear interest has been shown by residents to use the pavilion for clubs and the Council needs to bring the premises up to scratch.

7. Allotments

Cllr Layer said the track gate has always been opened by neighbouring residents. There was an issue in the summer when some allotment holders wanted early vehicular access although this does not seem to be an issue at the moment.

Cllr Mould said the Allotment Association need to know the opening and closing times of the gate and work around this.

Cllr Harvey said the allotment holders could have their own keys and take on the responsibility.

Cllr Jackson said this was not something the Council can pay someone to do.

Cllr Layer said there is a water meter on the allotments and the secretary has the readings.

ACTION: Clerk to request water meter reading from the Allotment Association.

Cllr Harvey said there needs to be a Parish Councillor representative on the Allotment Committee.

Cllr Jackson said the Allotment Association has requested permission to erect four donated palisade fencing panels and four new panels outside the existing chain link fence between the allotments and the ballpark play area.

Councillors AGREED to support the request as long as all the panels match, the work is carried out safely and the old fencing is disposed of safely.

8. Newington Festival 2017

Councillors AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to recommend to Full Council that a grant of £500 be given to the school for use of the playing field, and a grant of £500 be made to Demelza House from the surplus of Festival funds.

Cllr Jackson said the 2018 Festival will be held on Saturday 7 July.

Cllr Coles said the committee is looking to tighten up its procedures and there will be a bigger emphasis on arena activities.

ACTION: Clerk to draft procedures.

8. Lights

The following lights have been reported to PFL:

Opposite 70 Church Lane

Under the Railway Bridge in Church Lane

Rear of 26 Bramley Close

opposite 13 The Willows

The Tracies

Callaways Lane at the bottom of Brookes Close opposite Greenacre

ACTION 1: Clerk to chase up the damaged light in Bull Lane.

ACTION 2: Clerk to contact the contractor about the light in St Marys View.

9. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Layer said the hedge by the track next to Pond Farm needs to be cut back.

ACTION: Clerk to contact agents.

Cllr Brewer said bridleway ZR5841 has been ploughed up by the farmer, walkers have been using the path but the farmer has ploughed it again. The matter has been reported to PROW who have indicated they will write to the farmer to reinstate the bridleway. The crop was ploughed up on 28 July.

ACTION: Clerk to contact PROW to request update.

Cllr Brewster informed Members that there are different vans parking on the bridge.

ACTION1: Clerk to inform PCSO John Cork.

ACTION 2: Clerk to contact Bobbing Parish Council for an update.

Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Brewster for her report.

10. Village Voice

Cllr Mould distributed the first draft of the village Voice and Councillors gave consideration to articles to be included.

11. Any Other Business

Cllr Mould said there is a small hole in the wall in the church car park and that he has liaised with the church warden.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotations to refer to Full Council.

Cllr Harvey said Cllr Palmer has applied to the British Heart Foundation for a defibrillator. Details of the site needs to be finalized and then funding needs to be applied for.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 9 30pm

Date of Next Meeting: 24 October 2017

Signed a true record of the proceedings

Date: 26 September 2017