

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Tuesday 24 October 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, Cllr Tony Mould and Cllr Richard Palmer; and Cllr Debbie Haigh (minutes)

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 19 September 2017

Cllr Jackson reported the road safety measures have been passed to Alan Blackburn who has contacted the traffic schemes team for details of safety.

Cllr Jackson stated that all other matters are on the agenda.

4. Public Question Time

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

A representative from the Allotment Association attended requested that the Parish Council permits the Allotment Association to cut two keys to the main gate. One being for a person who is unwell and the second for the Chair of the Allotment Association Committee. This was agreed unanimously.

The representative provided two years of water readings for the allotment.

ACTION: Cllr Jackson to pass water meter reading to the Clerk.

Cllr Coles said the Council would like to thank the Allotment Association for their part in keeping the memorial garden at the bottom of the village sign looking so pretty and tidy.

ACTION Cllr Mould is to include in the Village Voice.

Cllr Jackson thanked the Allotment Association representative for her time.

The Meeting was reconvened.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

John Cork was on holiday email received to say no ASB or nuisance bikes have been reported.

ii. Community Warden report

Community Warden Georgina Springall was unable to attend and sent the following report:

1) *Concerns regarding number of cars parked in Orchard Drive area, suspected car sales – SBC. environmental warden attended.*

2) *Young woman claiming to be deaf and dumb attempting to collect money door to door for brain damaged children's charity – Police aware and reported to Neighbourhood Watch.*

3) *Abandoned vehicle untaxed left unlocked in Boxted Lane – Reported to SBC.*

4) *Suspicious youth calling at doors requesting help in inflating his bicycle tyre. When help was given he was seen eyeing up tools etc. in garage and shed – PCSO aware.*

5) *Door to door window salesman calling at houses in the village – Residents told him it is a 'no cold caller' area.*

6) *Neighbour dispute regarding rats – Advised to report to SBC and if problem increases arrange for vermin control.*

- 7) *Front shop windows smashed on interior design/café in High Street – Police attended.*
- 8) *Fly tipping in entrance to footpath in Bosted Lane – Reported to SBC.*
- 9) *Men with truck and Irish accents touting for driveway work in Playstool Road.*
- 10) *Digger stolen from Working Men’s building site – Police aware.*
- 11) *Alleyway that leads from High Street to Village Hall and area behind bus shelter needs weeding.*
- 12) *Complaints from residents regarding parking on double yellow lanes top of Station Road between 6.00 and 8.00 pm – Reported to SBC parking enforcement.*
- 13) *Two front grilles stolen from Audi whilst parked in High Street – Police aware.*
- 14) *Tent fly tipped in recreation ground – Reported to SBC and removed by dustmen.*
- 15) *Complaints regarding amount of ivy on The Bull fence in Bull Lane – Spoke to pub landlord who removed it all the next day.*
- 16) *Rubbish bin overflowing in Bull Lane – Reported to SBC.*
- 17) *Dog bin overflowing in Callaways Lane – Reported to SBC.*
- 18) *Burglary from elderly resident in Playstool Road – police attended.*
- 19) *Ordered and collected ‘Front door, no cold caller’ stickers and left them in Pharmacy.*
- 20) *Assisted elderly resident in finding reputable tree surgeon to cut overhanging conifers back in her back garden.*
- 21) *Youth on mini motorbike on track in recreation ground – Reported to PCSO.*
- 22) *Successful bingo club afternoon, twenty-eight members attended, discussed recent scams and other issues.*
- 23) *Scaffold lorries causing obstruction top of Church Lane, spoke to driver, working on the old George public house in High Street. He was able to park in Methodist Church car park.*
- 24) *Dead cat wrapped in towel that someone had buried a couple of weeks ago in recreation ground dug up by foxes – Moved cat to verge in Orchard Drive and requested removal by SBC.*
- 25) *Cold calling workmen in Station Road, knocking on doors touting for roof work. Very abusive to resident – Attended Station Road within fifteen minutes and they were gone.*
- 26) *Suspicious adult male who rides bike in recreation ground, talks to youths and attempts to follow them – Advised resident to report to police.*
- 27) *Concerns for welfare of female resident in Playstool Road – KCC Social Services referral.*
- 28) *Fly tipping in Wickham Close – Reported to SBC.*
- 29) *Untaxed vehicle parked on Optivo land in front of garages in Pear Tree Walk area – Reported to Optivo.*
- 30) *Fly tipping in Bull Lane – reported to SBC.*
- 31) *Untaxed vehicle, on a SORN, parked in Orchard Drive – Reported to DVLA.*
- 32) *Male resident seen urinating again at rear of bus shelter in High Street.*
- 33) *Three youths trespassing on West Car Site climbing on outbuilding roof and tipping oil around – Reported to police.*
- 34) *Complaints regarding noisy dogs in Iwade Road – Monitoring area, will speak to residents.*

iii. To receive report of meeting with Inspector Gavin Wade

Inspector Gavin Wade attended a meeting with Councillors and reported on the Community Policing structure for Swale. He brought the new September 2017 Policy “New Horizons” to our attention and stressed Police response to crimes being reported is prioritised by Threat; Risk and Harm. Hence not every incident is attended.

Inspector Wade advised that whenever possible he was in favour of PCSO’s changing their shift patterns to attend the festival. He noted that PCSO coverage is required to the end of the event and that may mean attending after the start to fit with this.

iv. To receive an update on any other ASB matter

It was reported that bin outside 33 Bull Lane is constantly overflowing.

6. Recreation Ground

i. Pavilion

Cllr Jackson reported to Members that the Pavilion Working Group has not met however matters are progressing.

The quotation from Mr Moss for the redecoration of the Parish Room; Lobby and old disabled toilets has been challenged for value for money and Mr Moss found a saving. Work is to commence on November 6th 2017.

ACTION 1: Clerk to ask Mr Moss if this date can be met; how long the job will take and specifically what three days will the lobby be out of action to paint the floor. This cannot run into a Sunday because of the football team.

ACTION 2: Clerk to advise the Sports Club that they cannot use the facility for entry / egress for those three days.

Cllr Coles raised the point about new flooring for the Parish Room. Everyone agreed to progress receiving a quote.

ACTION: Cllr Coles to provide Clerk with a contact number.

Cllr Jackson said consideration needs to be given to the refreshments for the Football Club, previously the Sports Club did this and now Mr Jackson is maintaining the service on a voluntary basis.

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** that the Football Club are advised that they can rent the Parish Room and undertake the provision of refreshments themselves, if they see fit. **SECONDED** by Cllr Harvey. **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Football Club and advise them and set a date for Mr Jackson to cease doing this.

Cllr Mould raised the point about an opening event for the new pavilion. Cllr Harvey said that the pavilion has an anniversary in 2018 and the Parish Council should look to do it then.

b) To consider the quotation to remove Pavilion fence

Cllr Jackson advised a quote has been received from a contractor to dismantle and remove the fencing and fill in any holes left by the posts. She proposed that further quotes are obtained. Agreed unanimously.

c) To consider the quotation to replace the pavilion locks

Cllr Layer advised that quotes to change the internal locks have not yet been received and this is to be referred to Full Council.

ii. Play equipment update

Cllr Jackson advised with regards to the Play Area Inspection Report findings that revised standards are not applied retrospectively to play equipment.

Cllr Harvey advised that Parsonage Farm is now partially occupied and that Community Infrastructure Levy Money should now be paid.

ACTION: Clerk to progress.

Cllr Harvey asked about the availability of money to finish the Pavilion interior and the external works required.

Cllr Jackson advised that she had spoken with Cllr Harris from the Finance Working Group and that availability from the precept will be discussed at the next Full Council.

Cllr Haigh proposed that Swale Borough Council and Persimmon Homes are approached and that the anticipated c£63K Community Infrastructure Levy Money be assigned as being available to the Parish Council for works appertaining to Public Open Space and not just children's play facilities. Agreed unanimously.

ACTION: Clerk with Cllr Harvey's input to raise with Swale Borough Council.

Cllr Jackson stated that progress had been made in relation to the play area risks. Cllr Layer had removed the weeds and he and Cllr Coles had straightened the basket swing. The Council is progressing the see saw inspection and is looking to approach third parties relating to the edging of the safety matting. The Council is anticipating to receive a quotation for the removal of the chain link fencing.

Cllr Coles asked if the Parish Council could obtain a quote from Playground Companies to replace the old equipment.

ACTION: Cllr Jackson to approach the Clerk to do this.

In the meantime, the Parish Council would undertake its duty of care to maintain the equipment until funding and costs are clear.

Cllr Mould said the railings need refurbishing / straightening / painting. It was agreed this now needs to be done in the warmer months.

Cllr Coles said it may be included in the revamp exercise.

7. Allotments

Nothing was discussed.

8. Newington Festival 2018

The next meeting is on 7 November.

An issue with receipts has been raised. Cllr Mould said he needed to check that all the BACS payments had been made.

ACTION: Clerk to make the bank statements available to Cllr Mould.

Cllr Jackson and Cllr Coles are reviewing the Best Practice Guidelines prepared by the Clerk. Cllr Haigh asked if these were local to the Festival Working Group and / or should they recorded as Newington Parish Council Standing Orders.

ACTION: Cllr Jackson to seek guidance and clarification from the Clerk.

Cllr Mould stated he was concerned about programme advertising payments being asked for in advance. All money will need to be received by the end of May with the programme going to press in mid-June. If non-payment then the spaces would be filled with pictures of Newington.

9. Lights

i. The following lights have been reported: Callaways Lane opposite Brookes Place; light in St Marys View and that the light opposite 70 Church lane, which was recently repaired, is not working again. An update on the light in Bull Lane has been requested.

ACTION: Clerk to progress.

ii. LED lights consultation

“Streelights” has put forward a maintenance contract. Cllr Jackson proposed that the Council does not pursue this maintenance contract. All Agreed.

Cllr Harvey reiterated the Council had asked for a quote to undertake a survey not a maintenance contract.

ACTION: Clerk to ask contractor if this can be done in isolation and how much.

Cllr Haigh explained that she felt there were potentially a large amount of hidden costs associated with replacing street lighting with LED and gave examples of socks needing replacing or columns requiring repair or replacing.

It was agreed to ask KCC to explain the necessary processes and associated costs.

ACTION: Clerk to approach KCC and ask to discuss upgrading the lights.

10. Footpaths and Bridleways

PROW - Bridleway ZR58- fault has been allocated but there is a long waiting list.

Cllr Brewster stated that there are two very large and excellent specimens of Oak on footpath ZR58 just inside of the gate leading from Keycol Hill and **PROPOSED** that Council asks Swale Borough Council to place a Tree Protection Order on each tree; **SECONDED** by Cllr Jackson.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

ACTION: Clerk to progress.

11. Village Voice

ACTION: Cllr Haigh to write a Community Safety article.

12. Defibrillator

Cllr Palmer reported that the funding has been secured to pay British Heart Foundation for the defibrillator from Cllrs Wright, Lewin and Whiting. The owner of the hair dressers (application pending for a doctor's surgery) has agreed to site the defibrillator on the wall.

ACTION 1: Cllr Palmer find out the cost of a cabinet and electrician and report to Full Council for funding.

ACTION 2: Cllr Palmer is to confirm the electricity source and who will pay.

ACTION 3: Cllr Jackson speak to the Clerk with regards to Insurance impact and the Asset Register.

13. Any Other Business

Cllr Palmer enquired if we had been approached by Sittingbourne Christmas Lights and whether there were any volunteers for the Father Christmas sledge around the village. No information was available and the matter was referred to Full Council.

Date of Next Meeting: 21 November

Signed as a true record of the proceedings

Chair

Dated 31 October 2017