

## NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Tuesday 25 July 2018 in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion.

Present: Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Tony Mould and visiting Member Cllr Richard Palmer; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Layer took the Chair.

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

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

### **3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 19 June 2018**

There were none.

### **4. Public Question Time**

No members of the public were present.

### **5. Anti-Social Behaviour**

#### i. PCSO report

PCSO John Cork was unable to attend the meeting but submitted the following report from 1/07/2018 to 21/07/18:

*Area has been quiet during this period.*

*No problems reported of any anti social behaviour in the area*

*During the summer holidays, we will be patrolling more around the area of Swale which has high levels of ASB So could you ask residents to call into Kent Police or report online if they see any incidents of ASB in the local area, this includes nuisance bikes.*

*Crime figures for the area can be viewed on the Kent Police Website.*

#### ii. Community Warden report

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

- 1) *Several dog fouling bags continually being left on pavement of rear access road to Pear Tree Walk – Monitoring area.*
- 2) *Excessive dog fouling on track from Callaways Lane to Monkey Island – monitoring area.*
- 3) *Fly tipping in layby in Bull Lane – reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 4) *On-going neighbour dispute – Referred to Optivo who are now dealing with it.*
- 5) *Several newly planted laurel bushes removed from front of new houses on High Street and thrown over fence and down Church Lane – advised to report to Police.*
- 6) *Black Renault Megane stolen from High street whilst owner in The Bull – police aware.*
- 7) *I planted up the four village planters on High Street with geraniums donated by my partner.*
- 8) *Fly tipping next to communal bins in Wickham Close – Reported to Swale Borough Council*
- 9) *Dog bin overflowing with waste due to not being emptied – reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 10) *Youth riding illegal motorcycle around estate area etc. – PCSO aware.*

- 11) Checked footpath which leads onto High Oak Hill that had been obstructed due to new building works – now clear.
- 12) On going neighbour dispute – witnessed large argument– Police aware.
- 13) Complaint from resident regarding noise from neighbouring resident who appears to be repairing cars in their back garden – advised her to keep diary and report to Swale Borough Council.
- 14) Large upright fridge/freezer fly tipped on pavement on Keycol Hill – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 15) New art group run on every first and third Friday mornings proving to be successful.
- 16) Children and young youths appear to be starting to use the green in Pear Tree Walk as a football pitch – monitoring area, PCSO aware.

Councillors agreed that the PCSO and Community Warden reports for the last six months be sent to Inspector West prior to the meeting in September.

## 6. Recreation Ground

Councillors noted the grass has been cut around the pavilion, Cllr Haigh will treat the path with weed killer.

*ACTION: Clerk to ascertain if the grass cutters have the key to the Pavilion fence gate.*

Cllr Palmer said a schedule of cuts needs to be stated for the next grass cutting tendering process.

## 7. Play Area

Cllr Harvey reported that Daniel Gooch, Swale Borough Council, had said the play area is good although the swing seats need replacing and the frames need painting. A meeting could be held in late August to liaise with parents and guardians to gather ideas for the play area. £1,000 could be allocated from the S106 money from Parsonage Farm and this could be used to purchase swing seats and paint. This could show a quick result and encourage residents to be involved.

Cllr Palmer said a Friends of the Recreation Ground group would be able to apply for grants and it would be good to be able to offer them some money.

Cllr Mould said a Friends group would be able to attract funding not available to the Parish Council but expressed concern about allowing the group to have funds from the Parish Council or devolving responsibility to the group.

Cllr Coles said a Friends group would have to approach the Parish Council with ideas.

Cllr Harvey said that recently teenagers had suggested a zip wire and a mum had suggested installing a picnic bench.

Councillors **AGREED** to propose setting up a meeting to Full Council with permission for the group to spend up to £1,000 on the swings.

## 8. Pavilion

### i. To consider quotations to repair the Parish Room ceiling

Councillors considered three quotations for the Parish Room ceiling.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to recommend to Full Council that quote B be accepted, pending receipt of further quotes that have been requested; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Harvey reported he had met with an electrician for advice and a quote for the heaters in the Parish Room and also the outside lights. Quotes will be requested for:

- 1- Ensuring all the heaters in the Parish Room are functioning correctly, exchanging non-working heaters with those from the kitchen and chair store areas if necessary.
- 2- To repair/ change the bulb for the non-functioning bulk head light immediately outside the main entrance to the Pavilion, this light is switched from the external switch outside the emergency exit to the east face of the building.

3- To fit two bulk head lights to the north and west face of the building, to replace the non-functioning PIR halogen lights, these should be controlled from the switch adjacent to the emergency exit, see 2 above.

*ACTION: Clerk to request quotations.*

ii. To consider storage for regular users

Councillors considered the request from a potential hirer for storage in the Pavilion and agreed the letting could go ahead and permission for the mats to be stored in the garage be given with the opportunity of the group putting its own storage box in the garage.

iii. To consider signage for user groups

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** that Weight Watchers be permitted to put its new sign up for three months in place of the banner; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Councillors also agreed that signage be permitted for a maximum of three months.

Cllr Layer reported that the Swans Fitness Group has a constitution and would like to put signs on its equipment that people use at their own risk.

Cllr Mould **PROPOSED** the rent for the group be £5.00 per hour; **SECONDED** by Cllr Coles: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

*ACTION: Clerk to research insurance for the group.*

Cllr Harvey reported that Friday is the last date for the hand over from the Sports Club. The Club has some equipment which will go to Malawi and will need to store this in the garage for an extra week.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact the Sports Club to request the keys for the pavilion be returned on Friday and the keys to the garage be returned the following week.*

## **9. Allotments**

There was nothing to report.

## **10. Newington Festival 2018**

Cllr Mould reported the takings were down compared to the previous year and there are still figures to come in. The Fun Fair damaged the gate and a repair has been arranged.

Cllr Coles reported it was a very successful day and the security was excellent. There is another committee meeting on Thursday.

## **11. Lights**

Cllr Harvey said there is a maintenance contract in place and the contractor will be carrying out a quick fix of urgent repairs.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact contractor for repairs.*

## **12. Footpaths and Bridleways**

Cllr Palmer reported that there are a lot of dogs mess bags left in the village.

Cllr Coles said the Community Warden is aware of it and is monitoring the situation.

Cllr Layer reported that he has phoned Swale Borough Council twice and the Clerk has also reported litter bins not being emptied. The bin at the cemetery has not been emptied either due to road closure.

*ACTION: Cllr Palmer to put the cemetery bin out next week.*

## **13. Village Voice**

Cllr Mould circulated a draft of the Village Voice.

Cllr Harvey said a summary of the Chair's report should also be included.

#### **14. Defibrillator**

The Clerk reported that Kent Fire & Rescue Service has agreed to give a defibrillator to the Council.

Cllr Palmer said it will need a cabinet and the recommendation is that the cabinet should not be locked but it probably needs to be in the area.

The Clerk said that in Upchurch the 999 call handler was unable to give the code for the defibrillator when it was needed, even though SECAMB subsequently admitted they had it, and in Maidstone the code was unavailable due to the computer system crashing, in both cases the person died.

Cllr Coles said the area by the doctors has several CCTV cameras.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to have a locked cabinet with the number displayed and review the matter in six months; **SECONDED** by Cllr Coles: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact the doctors for permission to install defibrillator on their outside wall.*

#### **15. Any Other Business**

Cllr Palmer said the recent letter of complaint about the doctors was a matter for the doctors not the Parish Council.

Cllr Coles asked for an update on the maintenance of the bus shelter.

The Clerk reported the contractor has indicated this will be done in September.

Cllr Coles reported that he has contacted the Newington History Group about the enquiry from Swale Borough Council about Standard House.

Cllr Coles asked if a note for residents to give to cold callers has been ascertained.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact the Community Warden.*

Cllr Coles reported there will be a temporary road closure in Bull Lane between the junctions with A2 High Street and The Willows, with no through access from 7 August.

Cllr Coles reported another lorry has tried to drive up Bull Lane.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 18 September 2018

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 8.45pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair

Date: 31 July 2018

