

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 23 October 2018 in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Tony Mould, Cllr Graham Staff and visiting Members Cllr Mel Harris and Cllr Richard Palmer; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were Community Warden Georgina Springall and one member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

All Members were present.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Palmer declared a pecuniary interest in item 9.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 18 September 2018

- Newington became a No Cold Calling Zone in December 2015
- Bylaws- Swale Environment Response manager has advised that the Recreation Ground is not covered by Swale Borough Council's byelaws. However, the Police are increasingly using their powers conferred in Section 59 of the Police and Reform Act 2002. These powers allow an officer to seize and remove a vehicle, which he or she believes is being driven inconsiderately or carelessly and causing, or is likely to cause, alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public. Kent Police should be contacted on 101 and matters reported for the local PCSO to investigate. The PCSO may also offer advice on deterring the use of vehicles on this land.

The Environment Warden team and KCC warden team have been made aware so they can signpost residents to the police and pass on any evidence when they are on patrols.

- Tree warden- There was still no response from the Tree Warden

Cllr Jackson said the Parish Council may need to take its own independent advice.

Item for next agenda

Cllr Harris said the other tree at the Recreation Ground was felled by a tree surgeon who is also a qualified arboriculturalist.

- ZR691- reported PROW448754 and awaiting allocation
- Recreation Ground gate

Cllr Harvey reported he had met with a contractor to discuss options, the gate might be replaced with a shorter gate and a post. The representative from Wicksteed has suggested blue railings to match the ball court.

Cllr Harris said he had notices gas canisters and a beer bottle at the Cemetery.

Cllr Harris said the Finance Working Group will be producing a draft budget for the November meeting and the Amenities Committee must give an indication of its budget.

Cllr Harris left the meeting.

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO Cork had was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following report for the period 01/10/2018-23/10/2018

Burglary and theft, High Street Newington, Car keys taken and car, occurred on 18/10/2018. Criminal damage to property in the High Street Newington, Window broken, occurred between the 12/10-13/10.

Criminal damage to a vehicle parked in Church Lane, occurred on the 13/10/2018. Persons at the address have CCTV.

Eggs and apples thrown at house in School Lane.

Attempted break to properties in Callaways Lane, nothing taken.

No reports of any drug dealing in Church Lane.

No reports of any Anti-Social Behaviour.

There will be leaflets in the CO-OP for any residents not wanting trick or treat.

Cllr Jackson said there was a significant increase in incidents from previous reports. Although there were no reports of drug dealing in Church Lane, nitrous oxide cannisters have been found at the cemetery.

Community Warden, Ms Springall said there has been a spate of damaged throughout the villages caused by ball bearings.

Cllr Palmer said problems at the station do not appear in Kent Police statistics.

Cllr Coles said there had been problems in Bull Lane caused by a group of lads.

Ms Springall said residents must report issues to the Police and if there are lots of reports the Police will put in additional resources.

ACTION: Clerk to ask the PCSO if he would hold a Police surgery in Newington.

Cllr Palmer said a Councillor could be a Police Liaison representative and this could be mutually beneficial.

Cllr Jackson said that Inspector West had said incidents can be reported to Crimestoppers but funding is being stopped for the service.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Inspector West regarding the cessation of Crimestoppers.

ii. Community Warden report

Ms Springall had submitted the following report:

- 1) *Neighbour dispute regarding parking on resident's private land – Advice given.*
- 2) *Outbuildings broken into Pear Tree Walk, arrest made by Police and items returned to owners.*
- 3) *Residents concerned regarding neighbour's behaviour/possible welfare – Monitoring situation.*
- 4) *Residents complaining about suspected drug dealing within the village – Police aware.*
- 5) *Excessive amount of dog fouling on track that leads from Callaways Lane to Monkey Island – One dog suspected, monitoring times so Swale Borough Council wardens can prosecute.*
- 6) *Number plates stolen from vehicle parked in Orchard Drive over night – Police aware.*
- 7) *Abandoned vehicles on parking area in Playstool Close – Optivo aware and finding ownership.*
- 8) *Overhanging shrubs onto pavement in Playstool Road – Spoke to resident in Frank Apps regarding pruning them back.*
- 9) *Very successful watercolour demonstration by local artist to St. Marys Art Group- New members to join.*
- 10) *Stream that runs through footpath from Wardwell Lane to Iwade Road has been obstructed with branches that have been cut back due to overhanging footpath – Reported to KCC Public Right of Way.*
- 11) *Water leaking from hydrant in Church Lane – Reported to Southern Water.*

- 12) *Still ongoing neighbour dispute regarding boundary fence – Optivo dealing with it.*
- 13) *Attempted burglary in Callaways Lane – Police aware. I gave safeguarding advice.*
- 14) *Two large plant pots stolen from garden in Playstool Road – Police aware.*
- 15) *Fly tipping in lay by in Bull Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 16) *Concerns from resident regarding potential new ownership of fields that back onto his property.*
- 17) *Concerns regarding ownership of overgrown small piece of land at side of new house that was built on the old engravers site.*

Ms Springall said dog fouling is a problem and she has leafletted some areas and the situation is being monitored. Special screws are being sourced to help combat the theft of car number plates. The art group is meeting at the Village Hall and is going well.

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

Ms Springall left the meeting.

6. Recreation Ground

Cllr Layer said the grass at the Recreation Ground is not being cut very well.

Mr Jackson, the Pavilion Caretaker, said the main field was cut on Monday but the compound and children's play area is overdue a cut by two weeks.

Cllr Palmer said the contract for the grass cutting could be two separate agreements one for each area.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Landscape Services to request the compound and play area be cut.

7. Play Area

Cllr Harvey reported the contractor will send a quotation for the fencing behind the ball court. A quotation has been received from Wicksteed for replacement swing seats, Sputnik repairs and sundries. If the contractor fits the parts there is no delivery charge and items such as the bearings would only be charged if needed. The Friends of Newington Recreation Ground will be consulted at its meeting on Wednesday 24 October.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** that, subject to the approval from the Friends Group, to recommend to Full Council acceptance of the quotation from Wicksteed to supply and fits the parts to the equipment; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Staff said there needs to be another sign stating the age limit for the Play Area.

Cllr Jackson said that all signage will need to be reconsidered in the future.

8. Pavilion

Cllr Jackson said the new SIM card does not work in the alarm, it was anticipated that a contract would avoid any issues. The original SIM card needs to be topped up.

Cllr Harvey said the SIM card can be checked online to ascertain the amount of credit. The alarm company has said it will come out to put the SIM card in the alarm. A letter needs to be drafted to go out to neighbouring properties informing when the alarm is working properly.

Cllr Jackson said the Football Club need to return the lease.

ACTION 1: Clerk to contact the Football Club for the lease and to check if the rent has been paid.

ACTION 2: Clerk to ascertain from the Football Club if the goal post holes have been covered.

9. Defibrillator

Cllr Harvey said the defibrillator which has been donated to the Parish Council is currently in the electrical cupboard in the Pavilion. It needs to be placed in a cabinet in the hallway.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** the defibrillator be installed outside the doctor's surgery and the Clerk to source a mild steel locked cabinet up to the value of £510 and electrician fees up to £200; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that the Clerk source an alarmed unlocked internal cabinet for the defibrillator from Kent Fire & Rescue Service.

Cllr Jackson said training will be organised for residents.

10. Allotments

Cllr Mould reported the Allotment Association has requested an article in the Village Voice informing residents that there are plots available in the allotment garden.

11. Newington Festival

Cllr Mould said he is still waiting for another possible receipt to finalise the accounts.

12. Lights

Cllr Jackson said the light outside 81 Bull Lane is not working, the engineer says it will need the ballast replacing and is not covered by the maintenance contract.

ACTION: Clerk to request a quotation.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Coles said the beacon basket has been installed. Mr Tom Ledger, the land owner, has installed steel kissing gates on the footpaths and also a five-bar steel gate and laid the footpath from Callaways Lane. The work has made the footpaths more accessible.

ACTION: Clerk to thank Mr Ledger for the improvements he has made to the footpaths.

14. Village Voice

Cllr Mould circulated a draft of the Village Voice for Councillors to peruse.

15. Village Hall CCTV

Cllr Jackson said the Village Hall Committee have asked that the maintenance agreement with ADT is not renewed as they want to replace the system. There will be no cost to the Parish Council as the Village Hall Committee have said they will pay for this.

Matter deferred to Full Council

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain if there is a notice period on the contract with ADT.

16. Any Other Business

Cllr Coles said the Council has been contacted about a missing convex mirror at Hidden Mews, it is possible the developers installed the mirror.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the resident it is not the responsibility of the Parish Council. It could be a Kent Highways matter and the County Councillor may be of assistance or possibly BT as the mirror is on their pole.

Cllr Coles said the bus stop maintenance has been completed and the lettering needs to be carried out.

Date of Next Meeting: 20 November 2018

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.14pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair

Date: 30 October 2018