

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25 September 2018 in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Debbie Haigh (Chair), Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Nigel Dark, Cllr Steve Godmon, Cllr Mel Harris, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Elaine Jackson, Cllr Eric Layer, Cllr Richard Palmer and Cllr Graham Staff; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present was one member of the public.

## 1. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Cllr Haigh said three residents had applied to be Councillors and **PROPOSED** that Mr Nigel Dark, Mr Mel Harris and Mr Graham Staff be co-opted to the Parish Council; **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Declarations of Acceptance of Office were signed by those co-opted in the presence of the Clerk.

It was agreed that Cllr Harris be appointed as Village Hall representative and also to the Planning Committee, the Finance Committee, the Cemetery Working Party.

It was agreed that Cllr Staff be appointed to the Amenities Committee, the Pavilion Working group, the Planning Committee and the cemetery Working Party.

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Tony Mould (holiday); apologies accepted

Apologies had also been received from KCCllr Mike Whiting, SBCllr John Wright and SBCllr Gerry Lewin (all at another meeting); apologies accepted.

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Godmon declared a pecuniary interest in item 8.i. 82 Church Lane.

## 4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 AUGUST 2018

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting; **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Haigh duly signed the minutes as a true record

## 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Tracies: Cllr Haigh said clarification of Rob Bailey's email dated 8 August 2017 had been requested but no response has been received. SBCllr Wright did explain that if a Parish Council objects the matter will go to Swale Planning Committee.

Cllr Harris said he is satisfied that the email dated 3 August 2017, sent by the Planning Officer, mentioned in appendix 1 of the appeal statement, did contain a rider. It was a temporary Planning Officer who had not included a disclaimer in emails.

Internet banking: Cllr Haigh said this will be dealt with under finance.

Village Hall CCTV- Cllr Haigh said the Village hall has not confirmed which camera had an issue.

## 6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

*The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time*

*A resident said he had hoped to question KCCllr Whiting about the proposed charges for taking rubbish the tip. KCCllr Whiting has said that this will not increase fly tipping.*

*The meeting was reconvened*

## **7. VISITORS**

### i. Borough Councillors

SBCllr Wright submitted the following report:

*My report is that I have engaged with and dealt with quite a few of Newington residents this month dealing with issues around air quality to pot holes, pavements, and anti-social behaviour.*

*I attended the air quality management meeting in the pavilion and will continue to pass on those residents views to Swale Council I still have a small amount of my community grant money available for good causes or community events if people wish to apply. Can I remind the Parish Council and residents that if there is any issue regarding Swale Borough Council services that requires attention then please will they contact myself so the appropriate action can be taken*

### ii. County Councillor

KCCllr Whiting submitted the following written report:

Surgery *I was delighted to attend the official opening of the new surgery in Newington. Dr Adigwe has created an asset of real value to the residents, and he tells me he has 500 people registered. Comments from members of the public to me have been very supportive and encouraging. This was clearly something a lot of people have wanted for a very long time, and I am pleased to have been able to assist Dr Adigwe in making it a reality.*

Housing Highways England *is being very clear that it will put a holding objection to any housing development application that adds to traffic along the A249 corridor. Current holding objections are against a number of developments including at Chestnut Street.*

Speed limits *The formal consultation regarding an extension to the 30mph speed limit from Keycol Hill into Boyces Hill has closed and I will update your clerk on the results when I have been briefed on them.*

School transport *I have successfully assisted a couple of families in their home to school transport appeals. A number of families have been unhappy they have not been given the free transport they were expecting. I have checked and there has been no change in the policy for the past seven years, and where claims are valid then I have been able to help.*

Big Conversation *KCC is working up a number of pilot schemes as a result of the Big Conversation on supported transport for isolated areas. These will be announced at a bus summit at County Hall on 30 October. There are limited spaces and these will be by invite only. Anyone wishing to attend can express an interest via email to bigconversation@kent.gov.uk. KALC will be represented. Grants I am pleased to have been able to offer some of my Member Grant to the Newington History Group, if any other local groups need financial assistance then they can contact me and I will help where I can.*

Potholes *Hopefully Members will have noticed a considerable amount of patching along the A2, which has improved the road considerably. The 2018 Pothole Blitz is coming to an end and tenders for the coming winter's blitz are being prepared. That's not to say potholes won't get fixed in the meantime and residents should continue to report them, and any other fault with the highway or footways, via the KCC website - "report a fault"*

## **8. PLANNING**

### i. To receive an update

Application: 18/503900/FULL 17 High Street, Newington ME9 7JR

Proposal: Extension and alterations to existing outbuilding and conversion into a separate residential dwelling.

Cllr Harvey informed Members that a decision is yet to be made.

Application: 18/502531/FULL 61 Playstool Road, Newington ME9 7NL

Proposal: Erection of a first floor rear extension and loft extension with front dormer (Retrospective works to 16/503414/FULL).

Cllr Harvey said there may be enforcement action against the work carried out.

Application: 18/503564/FULL Land At Callaways Lane, Newington ME9 7LU

Proposal: Erection of a four bedroom detached dwelling with a double garage/ store parking barn with associated courtyard and access.

Cllr Harvey reported the application has been permitted.

Application: 18/502912/FULL Mayfield House, London Road, Newington ME9 7TW

Proposal: Demolition of a front porch. Erection of a single storey rear extension and a detached double garage to the front.

Cllr Harvey informed members the application has been refused as it is outside the built-up area and the property has already been extended.

Application: 18/501545/FULL High Oak Hill Works, Iwade Road, Newington ME9 7HY

Proposal: Minor material amendment to Condition 2 of planning application 17/504376/FULL (Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 6 detached, two storey dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaped areas) to change the approved car barn for plots 1 and 2 to an enclosed garage.

Cllr Harvey reported the application has been permitted.

Application: 17/506569/FULL Breach Farm Paddocks, Land North-east Of Breach Farm Bungalow, Breach Lane, Upchurch ME9 7PE

Proposal: Change of use of land to single gypsy pitch and associated development (alternative to 15/502716)

Cllr Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

Application: 17/504342/FULL Newington Working Mens Club

Proposal: Retrospective demolition of former Working Mens Club and erection of 9no. dwellings and 1no. maisonette together with carports for garaging of cars

Cllr Harvey said there was no update on the application to vary the conditions, which was refused in March 2018.

Application: 17/504813/FULL Car Wash, 67 High Street, Newington ME9 7JJ

Proposal: Part change of use from car wash to residential for one studio

Cllr Harvey said a site visit was proposed by Planning Enforcement Officer.

Application 17/503997/FULL Cromac, Callaways Lane, Newington ME9 7LX

To be determined on the basis of written representations

Planning Inspectorate ref: APP/V2255/W/17/3188809

Cllr Harvey informed Councillors that no decision has been made.

Application 17/505711/HYBRID Land at Wises Lane, Borden ME10.1GD

Proposal: Hybrid planning application with outline planning permission (all matters reserved except for access) sought for up to 595 dwellings including affordable housing; a two-form entry primary school with associated outdoor space and vehicle parking; local facilities comprising a Class A1 retail store of up to 480 sq m GIA and Class D1 medical facility of up to 560 sq m GIA; a rugby clubhouse / community building of up to 375 sq m GIA, three standard RFU sports pitches and associated vehicle parking; a link road between Borden Lane and Chestnut Street / A249; allotments; and formal and informal open space incorporating SuDS, new planting / landscaping and ecological enhancement works. Full planning permission is sought for the erection of 80 dwellings including affordable housing, open space, associated access / roads, vehicle parking, associated services, infrastructure, landscaping and associated SuDS. For clarity - the total number of dwellings proposed across the site is up to 675

Cllr Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

Application: 16/507594/COUNTY Paradise Farm, Lower Hartlip Road, Hartlip ME9 7SU  
Proposal: County Matter - phased extraction of brickearth, advance planting, access improvements, restoration and replanting back to agricultural use.

Cllr Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

ii. Ref: 18/503274/FULL

Address: 82 Church Lane Newington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7JU

Proposal: Erection of 1 detached 3 bedroom chalet bungalow.

*Cllr Godmon left the room and took no part in the discussion or vote*

Councillors considered the application and noted the site was bought with planning permission for a bungalow with the condition that there be no first storey. There is now an application for a chalet bungalow in the garden. The proposal is infill with access over private land.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to object to the proposal; **SECONDED** by Cllr Coles; Cllr Harris **PROPOSED** an amendment that the objection should highlight the application says it is a building site and not a back garden, it had always been a well-kept garden: **SECONDED** by Cllr Coles: amended proposal **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

*Cllr Godmon returned to the meeting.*

Cllr Haigh thanked Cllr Harvey for his excellent report.

## **9. AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Jackson reported the Committee met with Inspector Craig West and PCSO John Cork prior to the Committee meeting. Inspector West gave an update on the Kent Police Strategy and also on the fly tipping campaign and resources within Swale. Inspector West's visit was useful and he has agreed to send further information following the meeting. PCSO Cork has carried out positive work in the school and with the nuisance bikes in the village.

Cllr Jackson said there have been problems with the grass cutters; the main pitch was cut but the children's play area became overgrown although they eventually remedied this.

The Committee considered a quote to adjust the track gate but felt it would be addressed as part of a wider project.

Cllr Jackson reported the play area was looking better as the swings had been painted by Cllrs Palmer, Harvey and Godmon and residents.

Cllr Haigh thanked everyone who helped.

Cllr Jackson said there had been no high risk matters for the play area on the Safety Report, there are a few moderate matters and these have started to be addressed.

Cllr Harvey said he had sent the report to Daniel Gooch, Swale Borough Council. Cllr Harvey said he will meet with a consultant from Wicksteed on 8 October and a 3D picture will be available to show the "Friends" group on 24 October.

It was agreed to send the play area inspection report to Wicksteed.

Cllr Harvey said new swing seats and chains will be purchased and this will be within the budget set.

Cllr Jackson said consideration may need to be given to laying safety matting over the whole area so there will be no need for grass cutting.

Cllr Harvey said Daniel Gooch will send a warden out to show Councillors how to fit the new seats and chains.

Cllr Jackson said the fence between the ball court and the play area needs to be reinstated to protect users of the play area.

Cllr Jackson reported the Parish Room ceiling has been repaired and the contractor also repaired the hole in the toilet. The heaters have been dealt with and the heating is working well. There has been an issue with the alarm system as it has not been sending text messages

out due to the credit on the SIM card running out. It has been suggested having a monthly contract to take the matter forward.

Cllr Harvey said that when the issue has been addressed, neighbours will be contacted.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the recommendation to give the Scouts £100 from the festival surplus.

Cllr Haigh thanked Cllr Jackson for her excellent report.

Cllr Harris said information needs to be obtained about footpath ZR61 from The Tracies to ZR65 and what will happen during the construction of the new development. Recently the footpath was blocked for seven hours.

*ACTION: Clerk to ascertain what arrangements will be put in place.*

## 10. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

No further update was available.

## 11. FINANCE

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

Payee	Expenditure	Amount £	Cheque No.
Star Protection Services Ltd <i>Paid out of meeting</i>	Re-issue of cheque no 2845	<b>£420.00</b>	2870
Profile Business Supplies	Village Voice- September	<b>£60.00</b>	2871
Mrs P Rowe	Litter Picking Recreation Ground and sight checking equipment September 2018	<b>£110.00</b>	2872
Mr MJ Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance September 2018	<b>£490.00</b>	2873
Mr R Thompstone	Festival- tug of War cup engraving	<b>£10.00</b>	2874
Craigdene Ltd	Play area inspection	<b>£150.00</b>	2875
Dragon Explorers	Donation to Scouts for help at the Festival	<b>£100.00</b>	2876
Kent County Playing Field Association	Subscription	<b>£20.00</b>	2877
Mr S Harvey	Play area maintenance expenses	<b>£64.50</b>	2878
Mrs W Licence	Salary and expenses	<b>£581.68</b>	2879
HMRC	PAYE	<b>£10.40</b>	2880
Ms L Wright <i>Mr A Heavey</i>	Litter picking September 2018	<b>£280.50</b>	2881

David Chapman Plastering	Pavilion ceiling plastering	<b>£340.00</b>	2882
Mr R Jackson	Pavilion expenses	<b>£6.30</b>	2283

Cllr Haigh **PROPOSED** the signing of the cheques; **SECONDED** by Cllr Godmon: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### Payments

17.08.18: NEST £165.58

30.08.18: Haven Power £33.00

03.09.18: Haven Power £891.00

#### Receipts

Doddington Parish Council	Share SLCC subscription	£30.83
Swans Fitness Group	Community Gym Hire	£20.00
Business Stream	Refund	£7.90
Mr R Jackson	Pavilion Hire	£30.00
Weight Watchers	Pavilion Hire	£80.00
Weight Watchers	Pavilion Hire	£100.00
Eastling Parish Council	Share SLCC subscription	£30.83
Stalisfield Parish Council	Share SLCC subscription	£30.83

#### ii. Any other finance matter received by 25 September 2018

Cllr Godmon informed Councillors that NatWest charge £240.00 per annum for internet banking with two signatories.

Cllr Haigh said some Parish Councils use Lloyds and an administrator sets up the payments which are agreed by Full Council and two Councillors have to release the payments. It costs £6 a month for internet banking at Lloyds and they also charge for a cheque account.

Cllr Coles said internet banking was proposed for simplicity and immediate transactions.

Cllr Palmer said internet banking could be cheaper as it would save on postage costs.

Cllr Harvey said internet banking would provide up to the minute bank statements.

Cllr Harris said that any signatory can currently go into NatWest and ask for a statement and that he is usually near a bank at least twice a week. Standing orders would also need to be transferred. The Council has to be more proactive with signatories. There are benefits with internet banking and also things to be cautious of.

Cllr Haigh said banks do help when you changing banks. The Council wants to modernise and £6 per month seems more palatable although details of charges for a cheque account needs to be obtained from Lloyds.

*ACTION: Cllr Godmon to ascertain details of internet banking for next agenda.*

Cllr Haigh said the safety deposit box needs to be emptied and that she will do this with Cllr Harris.

## **12. CHURCHYARD AND CEMETERY**

Cllr Haigh said an issue of nettles behind some headstones has been raised and that she will check if this has been addressed, the Clerk has reported the matter to the contractor.

## **13. HIGHWAYS**

Cllr Harvey reported that he, Cllr Palmer, Cllr Mould, Cllr Layer and twenty-five members of the public had attended the Air Quality Meeting at the pavilion arranged by Swale Borough Council. Swale Borough Council has stated that by 2020 Newington will not be an Air Quality Management Area as there will not be any pollution problems in the parish. There are different

readings from the diffusion tubes because they were at different heights. The equipment outside the Co-op is not in a suitable location. The Borough Council believes air quality is worse at Rainham than at Newington. There will be another meeting in January.

Cllr Layer expressed concern that the Government says more houses must be built.

Cllr Harvey said the important thing is that the Council is aware of the situation and what needs to be watched.

Cllr Haigh said the Council will receive minutes from the meeting and details of the meeting in January.

#### 14. STREET LIGHTING

Cllr Haigh said the Council has twice approved the upgrading of the street lights to LEDs. The Council has applied to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for permission to take out a loan but further information about the consultation has been requested. The consultation was advertised in the Village Voice and on the website but no residents attended.

Cllr Harvey said that if the Council advertises another meeting and no one turns up the Council would only be able to show it had advertised a consultation.

Cllr Haigh said the Council will liaise with the MHCLG and will write an article for the Village Voice.

Cllr Haigh said the lamps for the thirty-nine SOX lights will go out of production next spring, the Council could purchase the lamps now. If the Parish Council starts to replace the lights with LEDs it will not be able to take out a loan.

*ACTION 1: Clerk to contact contractor for the price of SOX lamps.*

*ACTION 2: Clerk to contact MHCLG for clarification of information required.*

#### 15. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Palmer reported he had attended the KALC Swale Area Committee. The Rural Police Team is being increased by a further six officers. Modern slavery is prevalent in the UK although not so prevalent in Kent. The team is dealing with more traveler related issues in Kent.

Cllr Haigh thanked Cllr Palmer for the update.

#### 16. CORRESPONDENCE

*1. 29.08.18- Kent PCC.: Newsletter*

*2. 29.08.18- Swale Joint Transportation Board meeting agenda for 10 September 2018*

Cllr Palmer reported the 20's Plenty petition was submitted to the joint transportation Board and had over six hundred signatures. It will be considered in December when KCC will respond.

*3. 29.08.18- KCC: change to the speed limit and length on the Boyces Hill*

Councillors considered the proposal.

Cllr Haigh **PROPOSED** to respond that the Parish Council has no objections but would like Kent Highways to take into account the accidents at Boyces Hill and to extend the 30mph limit; **SECONDED** by Cllr Harvey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*ACTION: Clerk to draft response and send to Cllr Haigh.*

*4. 29.08.18- Notice of road closure Breach Lane- added to website*

*5. 03.09.18- KCC PROW: Temporary closure of footpath ZR59*

*6. 04.09.18- UpARA newsletter- added to website*

*7. 04.09.18- KALC Newsletter*

*8. 06.09.18- KCC: Household Waste Recycling Centre Consultation*

*9. 07.09.18- SBC: invitation to green grid Forum*

*10. 07.09.18- KCC: Pothole report*

*11. 10.09.18- resident query regarding recreation ground- Forwarded to Cemetery Working Party and also informed Mr Marshall*

*12. 12.09.18- KALC: Dynamic Councillors course -*

*13. 14.09.18- KCC Highways: Temporary Road Closure – Meresborough Lane, Hartlip – 3-5 October 2018- added to website*

*14. 20.09.18- resident enquiry about a Tommy silhouette*

Cllr Coles said Newington History group had considered this and where one could be installed, it was decided that while it would be extremely effective it could be vandalised. There may be ghost Tommys in the church. The History group has purchased a steel beacon basket and oak post which will be installed on Wormdale Hill.

Cllr Haigh said Newington has a very active History Group which has a commendable approach to World War 1 and has organised commemorations for 11 November 2018.

*15. 24.09.18- KCC Highways Parish Seminar*

## **17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Jackson said the garage keys have been received from the Sports Club and the garage needs to be cleared further.

## **18. STAFFING MATTERS**

**Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press were excluded from the meeting during Staffing Matters**

Clerk's Salary Review

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday 30 October 2017**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair

Dated: 30 October 2018