

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 20 November 2018 in the Wickham Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Tony Mould, visiting Member Cllr Jeannie Milburn; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Graham Staff (personal); apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 23 October 2018

Police surgery – PCSO John Cork has agreed to hold a surgery at Cornerstone Café beginning in December and the church is happy to host.

Cessation of CrimeStoppers- Inspector West has given assurance this is not the case

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO John Cork was unable to attend the meeting and had submitted the following report:

I cannot attend the meet due to myself being on a secondment at Coldharbour Police complex until early December .

Crime Reports 1/10/2018 to 14/11/2018.

10/10/10 attempted Burglary to a property in Playstool Road.

13/10/2018 Criminal damage to property in Callaways Lane.

13/10/2018 Criminal Damage to property in Church Lane, apples and eggs thrown at the house.

13/10/2018 Damage to a vehicle in Church Lane.

12/10/2018 Damage to a window of a property in the High Street.

No reports of any Anti-social behaviour or nuisance bikes.

Whilst I am away from the area of Newington it is still being patrolled by the other PCSOs who work at Sittingbourne Police Station. Any problems I can still be contacted on my mobile number.

Cllr Jackson asked if a report from the surgery at Cornerstone Café should be requested.

Cllr Mould said Cllr Staff is the Police Liaison representative and will be at the café.

ii. Community Warden report

1) Youths entering entrance vestibule of flats in Wickham Close, breaking glass and setting off fire alarm – Reported to landlord who will install keypad entry in the future.

2) Fly tipping in Mill Lane – Reported to Swale Borough.

3) Cold calling, (roof repairs) in Playstool Road – Warned residents.

- 4) Abandoned vehicle parked in Bull Lane, taxed but no MOT – Reported to PCSO John Cork and Swale Borough Council.
- 5) Front window of Chinese takeaway damaged by large ball bearing – Police aware.
- 6) Fridge/freezer fly tipped High Oak Hill – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 7) Visible presence around village Halloween evening – no issues reported.
- 8) Lost dog, Boyces Hill area – gave advice to resident.
- 9) Youths climbing over resident's front fence in Station Road to gain access to Wickham Close when gate shut.
- 10) Suspect workmen from building site in Newington smoking cannabis in their vehicle during morning break – monitoring.
- 11) Resident, Denham Road area, just been made aware that rear upstairs window possibly damaged by ball bearing from catapult.
- 12) Roofing repair advertisement sign stuck on pallet, fly tipped against Recreation Ground outer fence in Orchard Drive – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 13) Fridge fly tipped in Bull Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 14) Double glazing firm cold calling around village – Attended but missed them.
- 15) Complaints from residents in London Road, house numbers 97-107 and 36-52 not receiving 'The Village Voice' last month. They don't seem to get it every month.
- 16) Large empty gas barrel fly tipped in Iwade Road – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 17) Vehicle badly parked top of Station Road, about one foot out from kerb. Dustmen failed to empty all dustbins as obstructed. They left note on the commuter's car.
- 18) Concerns regarding charges of gardening work for elderly resident – found her more reasonable recommended gardener.

Community Warden Georgina Springall said there had been an increase in fly tipping, there have been cold callers offering to clean the roofs of the bungalows in Playstool Road. There had been a pushy duster seller in Upchurch who sold £80 worth of inferior goods to a resident. Cllr Mould said the "No cold Caller" stickers had been distributed with the Village Voice and the remainder will be left at the chemist.

Ms Springall says she advises residents not to open the door and that if they are caught unawares to say their son does the work.

Cllr Jackson said the Village Voice is delivered by volunteers and some can be taken to the chemist and Cornerstone Café.

Ms Springall said a van was broken into in Church Lane in the early hours of the morning and building equipment was stolen. Residents are urged to leave lights on at this time of the year or use timers; sheds and garages must be securely locked and tools should not be left in vans overnight.

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

6. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Harvey said the flood lights need to be switched on at the Pavilion.

ACTION: Cllr Harvey to programme the flood lights.

Cllr Jackson said there had been a few issues regarding the grass cutting and Landscape Services were unable to cut the playing field for the football match so another contractor was employed.

Cllr Layer said the area around the Pavilion looks good since Cllr Haigh and the caretaker put weed killer down.

Cllr Jackson asked whether the litter picker should be asked to remove the debris.

Cllr Layer said the area looks a mess and detracts from the refurbishment work which has been carried out.

Cllr Harvey said the Football Club need to be reminded to secure the goal post and remove the old posts.

Cllr Jackson said the Club did put covers on the holes but they have been stolen.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Football Club for an update.

ii. Grass cutting- to consider tender specification

Cllr Harvey asked whether the Pavilion area should have the same number of cuts as the main field. The play area and pavilion area could be a separate contract.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotations for the grass cutting.

7. Play Area

Cllr Harvey reported he had contacted, Maylow Construction Ltd, the contractor recommended by Swale Borough Council, and the tender received was less than the first quotation. As agreed by Council in October the quotation was signed off by Cllr Jackson and accepted. The contractor will spray the chains rather than replace them; paint the sputnik and replace the seats; replace the cradle seats and bay flat seats; cut back the bolts on the basket swing; make good the matting and also the fencing by the ball court.

Cllr Harvey said the contractor has also submitted a quote for two fixed five a side goals to encourage children to play football.

Cllr Jackson said the Clerk will apply to Swale Borough Council for a Sport and Activity Grant. Cllr Harvey said the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground will meet on 21 November. A bank account has been set up with Cllr Layer and two members being signatories. There has been an online questionnaire, publicised through social media, with forty-eight responses suggesting ideas for the play area. The group is very proactive with grant funding expertise.

8. Pavilion

Mr Jackson, the pavilion caretaker, reported the area around the pavilion is very muddy near the new fence and needs to be levelled.

Cllr Harvey said the public footpath, which has been reported to Kent Public Right of Way, is still overgrown.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up.

Cllr Coles said quotations need to be obtained for a path from the kissing gate to the front door of the Pavilion, the path should be suitable for disabled access.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotations.

Cllr Harvey said lighting for the path needs to be considered, there is a 13amp cable in the Pavilion which was used for the portacabin.

Cllr Jackson said as well as rental income there has been savings to the Council when using the Pavilion for meetings.

Cllr Mould said if there is adequate lighting and pathway at the pavilion it could be used more.

Cllr Jackson said the fees will be reviewed in the New Year.

The Clerk reported the old SIM card has been topped up and needs to be used every six months or it will become dormant again. The alarm company has said a regular test of the alarm will resolve this or they can set the alarm to do the and it will cost £60 call out fee for an engineer to attend to set the test.

Cllr Coles **PROPOSED** to pay the alarm company £60 to set the alarm test; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Cllr Harvey said a letter needs to be delivered to neighbours with the Village Voice.

ACTION: Clerk to draft letter.

9. Defibrillator

Cllr Jackson reported the defibrillator cabinet has been ordered and the installation quote accepted.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up.

10. Allotments

Cllr Layer said there were a few new tenants at the allotment garden.

11. Newington Festival

i. To receive an update for 2018

Cllr Mould said he had not had feedback from The Bull following the Festival.

ii. Newington Festival 2019

Cllr Mould said there has been a response to the article requesting help in the November Village Voice.

Cllr Jackson said the 2018 Festival had been difficult for helpers because of other events on the day and the Festival did not do as well as previous years. Some of the committee feel they may not run the event again.

Cllr Mould said more help is needed.

Cllr Harvey said if there had not been music at the Festival the event would have made £2,000 more however some people attend for the music and equally there are some who will not go because of the music. The music was loud and made it difficult for people to hear the magician's act.

Cllr Coles said new people are needed and these people may have like-minded friends.

Cllr Milburn said she went to the Festival but was unable to go in because she had her dog and dogs were not permitted on the school field. Could the event be held at the Recreation Ground where dog walkers would be welcome?

Cllr Mould said the event is held at the school because it is easier to secure the site, some equipment is set up the day before.

Cllr Layer said if there was no music and no entrance fee it could be a fete. It is a fantastic event.

Cllr Jackson said the Council has to be careful about expenditure. Funds are generated by selling advertising in the programme.

Cllr Mould said £1800 was generated from the programme which is delivered to every house in the village.

Cllr Jackson said there needs to be a meeting and this must be advertised in the Village Voice. It was agreed to have a festival meeting on 8 January 2019 at 7pm in the Wickham Room.

Cllr Coles said the Festival is run by the parish Council and some of the current committee members feel they are unable to continue.

Cllr Milburn said Demelza have a fund-raising team and other organisations need to help. People need to be invited to the meeting to explain the situation.

Cllr Mould said he has received an invoice from the school for the repairs to the gate damaged by the fair ground.

ACTION: Clerk to request payment.

12. Lights

Cllr Mould said approval has been received from MHCLG to take out a loan to upgrade the streetlights.

The Clerk said she has received a report of a light out and explained to the resident the lights are due to be upgraded. A meeting with the contractor is being arranged.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Jackson said the Clerk will contact Kent PROW about the footpath at the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Harvey asked if there is still a problem with vans on the bridge.

The Clerk said they are still there.

Cllr Harvey said the Council has received an email about the memorial bench on the green. The land belongs to Kent County Council, the bench was agreed by Cllr Mike Whiting and the work was carried out by Swale Borough Council. The Parish Council is conscious of the grieving family and also of the concern from the resident where floral tributes were laid.

Cllr Jackson said the email raises a safety issue and the Parish Council had reservations about the siting of the bench. The resident raised a valid point that they were not consulted

but they would not have been. Neither Swale Borough Council nor Kent County Council were obliged to consult.

Cllr Mould said another resident has contacted him about the bench.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the resident the siting of the bench was not subject to planning approval and the matter was handled by KCCllr Whiting.

14. Village Voice

Cllr Mould said he has had a request to add a leaflet to the Village Voice.

Cllr Coles said it has previously been agreed not to have commercial advertising in or by flyer with the Village Voice.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** not to accept commercial flyers for delivery with the Village Voice.

Cllr Mould said he has been approached by a company starting a dance group in the village, offering the first session free, to place an advertisement in the Village Voice.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** not to permit a commercial advertisement in the Village Voice.

Cllr Mould distributed the first draft of the Village Voice.

Cllr Layer said a letter of thanks should be sent to the Newington History Group to thank them for arranging the Battle's Over event.

ACTION: Clerk to write to the Newington History Group.

Cllr Mould said the Village Voice could have a Christmas thank you to thank all who help the Parish Council and the village. There should also be a thank you event for helpers.

Cllr Harvey said due to the time constraints, there could be a thank you reception at the Annual parish Meeting with light refreshments.

15. Amenities Committee budget

Councillors considered the budget requirements for 2019-20 and agreed the same amount as the current year.

16. Any Other Business

Cllr Coles said the writing needs to be painted on the plaque at the bus shelter.

Cllr Harvey said the new padlock must be put on the track gate and the football club must use the top gate.

Date of Next Meeting: 22 January 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair

Date: 27 November 2018