

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 February 2024 in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall

Present: Cllr Richard Palmer (Chairman), Cllr Ray Cuffley, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Elaine Jackson, Cllr Eric Layer and Cllr Chris Palmer; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present were PC Jez Chittim and two members of the public.

Cllr R Palmer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Cllr R Palmer reported that there have been some interest and details have been sent out.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Tony Mould (personal) and Cllr Ruth Brown (personal); apologies accepted.

Apologies had also been received from KCCllr Mike Baldock (unwell); apologies noted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2023

i. To consider the minutes of the meetings and if in order sign as a true record

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record; Cllr R Palmer duly signed the minutes.

ii. Matters arising from the minutes

Cllr R Palmer reported that grant applications for Youth Provision have been submitted and it is hoped there will be some support to reduce the burden on the parish.

Cllr R Palmer reported the contractor hopes to plant the saplings at the Recreation Ground when the weather improves. The tree work at the Woodland has been completed.

5. VISITORS

i. Police

PC Chittim reported that there had been several domestic related calls in Newington over the past month; there is a special department which deals with this. There was an ASB call when youths refused to leave a local shop. There was a report made by a staff member at Newington Primary School on 20/02/24 whereby they were concerned with the manner of a male's driving as they drove past the school 30 minutes before the end of the school day. Local patrols located the vehicle and driver along Boxted Lane. The driver refused to provide a breath test and was subsequently arrested, this resulted in the driver being taken off the road just prior to the end of the school day when there would be an increase in pedestrians. There has been a significant increase in fly tipping on the rural roads around Upchurch, Hartlip, Newington, Bobbing and Iwade and this has been reported; it is hoped to get a covert camera installed.

Concerns have been raised regarding illegal parking in Station Road; Swale Enforcement has been very active in the area; enforcement cameras have been requested. Residents should

take photos, if safe to do so, and report each occurrence of illegal parking to:- parkingcomplaints@midkent.gov.uk.

ACTION: Clerk to put details on website.

PC Chittim said there will be a Police Surgery at the school on 28 February. Leaflets will also be distributed about healthy relationship courses run by Sateda. From March there will be an uplift of Officers.

Cllr R Palmer thanked PC Chittim for attending for his report and also the good response to residents.

ii. Borough Councillors

SBCllr R Palmer said most complaints he receives are about fly tipping, a deep clean has been requested, and also about the parking problems. A digger has damaged Church Lane and this has been reported to Kent County Council. The bin collection day has been changed to Monday from 25 March; the information will be circulated to Clerks. There is concern that electrical goods and batteries will no longer be collected.

SBCllr C Palmer said there had been a significant investment in new rubbish collection vehicles. There have been a lot of complaints about pot holes, this is the responsibility of Kent County Council; help has been given to a resident regarding damage to tyres.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

A member of the public said the flooding in Boxted Lane is an issue, it is causing damage to the road.

Cllr R Palmer said this has been reported, KCC Highways will not install mitigation measures as previously the grips have been removed by the landowner.

The meeting was reconvened.

7. PLANNING

i. To receive an update

Ref: 23/505381/FULL 46 High Street, Newington ME9 7JL

Proposal: Erection of rear store room and 'WC' including changes to fenestration.

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

Ref: 23/505625/FULL 2 Merton Drive, Newington ME9 7FT

Proposal: Erection of single-storey rear extension with 1no. rooflight

Application validated: Thursday 14 December 2023 (notification received 8 January 2024)

Cllr Harvey reported the application has been submitted.

Ref: 23/505840/FULL Digswell, Lower Hartlip Road, Hartlip ME9 7SX

Proposal: Demolition of 2no. commercial premises (Use Class E) and erection of 4no. dwellings together with associated parking, refuse and cycle stores, and landscaping.

Cllr Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

Land To The South West School Lane Newington Kent ME9 7JU

Submission of details to discharge condition 3 - Construction Environmental Management Plan, Subject to 21/504028/FULL

Previously discussed: for information

Ref: 23/505335/SUB Land At School Lane Newington Kent ME9 7JU

Submission of details to discharge condition 4 - Archaeological Evaluation, Subject to 21/504028/FULL (Determined at appeal, ref: APP/V2255/W/22/3312284)

Ref: 23/504879/FULL 61 Playstool Road, Newington ME9 7NL

Proposal: Erection of a first floor rear extension, roof alterations to extend existing loft extension, including alterations to front and side of roof.

Cllr Harvey reported that a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 23/505365/OUT Land To The Rear Of Eden Meadow, Newington ME9 7JH

Proposal: Outline planning application for up to 25no. residential dwellings (all matters reserved except for access)

Cllr Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 23/504502/FULL Woodland Farm, High Oak Hill, Iwade Road, Newington ME9 7HY

Proposal: Erection of a permanent agricultural dwelling with associated parking (Resubmission 21/504388/FULL)

Cllr Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

Not in Newington

Ref: 22/503654/EIOUT Land To The West Of Bobbing, ME9 8QL

Proposal: Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for a mixed used development comprising up to 2,500 dwellings, a 4.99ha commercial employment zone including doctors surgery, a 4.2ha sports hub, primary school, community facilities, local retail provision, public open space, children's play areas and associated parking, servicing, utilities, footpath and cycle links, drainage, ground and other infrastructure.

Cllr Harvey reported that a decision is yet to be made.

ii. Ref: 24/500313/SUB

Address: 128 High Street, Newington ME9 7JH

Proposal: Submission of details to discharge condition 6 - Design Code, Subject to 21/505722/OUT

Cllr Harvey reported the original planning application has been approved in principle.

iii. Ref: 24/500610/FULL

Address: 14 Wickham Close Newington Kent ME9 7NT

Proposal: Removal of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension with insertion of 2no. rooflights.

Councillors considered the application and had no comment to make save that neighbour's comments be taken into account.

iv. Ref: 24/500679/TPOA

Address: Land At School Lane Newington Kent ME9 7LB

Proposal: Tree preservation order application to crown lift x2 Oak trees to a height of 6-8 metres.

Cllr Harvey informed Members that Cllr R Palmer has called the application into Committee. There is now a change in the line of trees.

Cllr R Palmer thanked Cllr Harvey for his report.

8. AMENITIES

i. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 23 January 2024 and consider the recommendations

Cllr Harvey informed Members that a temporary cleaner will be submitting a quotation for the Pavilion.

Cllr R Palmer said the caravan dumped in Playstool Road was reported to Swale Borough Council and it has been removed.

PC Chittim said he had also asked the registered owner to remove the caravan.

Cllr Layer reported that he had met the play area inspector, there were no major issues. There is some graffiti and this will be removed.

Cllr Layer said the dog waste bag dispenser needs to be removed and there are a couple of signs in a poor state. The pads on the defibrillator on the compound fence need to be replaced and the light is red.

ACTION: Cllr R Palmer to check the defibrillator.

Cllr Layer reported the CCTV camera was not installed as the company did not have the right parts. There will be a Highways Improvement Plan meeting on 5 March with Jennie Watson, KCC Highways and KCCllr Mike Baldock.

Cllr Layer said the bus stops need cleaning.

ACTION: Clerk to contact contractor.

Cllr Layer reported the posts at the Cemetery have been installed. The Fete Working Party has met. The Council will receive a free framed portrait of the King.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record; Cllr Layer duly signed the minutes.

Cllr R Palmer thanked Cllr Layer for his report.

ii. To consider quotations for Pavilion hand dryer
Quotations are yet to be received.

iii. To consider quotations Pavilion Notice Board
Quotations are yet to be received.

iv. To consider quotations for 20mph signage
Cllr Harvey said it needs to be ascertained that the columns are able to have signage on the,
ACTION: Clerk to contact contractor.

v. Station litter

Cllr Layer informed Members that the Station Manager will investigate this. The annual village litter pick will take place on 27 April.

9. SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL LAND

Cllr R Palmer reported that he had emailed the officer and will contact her again when back from leave.

10. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr R Palmer said there will be an article on Speed Watch. Details of the links to report fly tipping and parking problems will also be included.

11. FINANCE

i. Cheque list: to consider invoices for payment

Payee	Reason	Amount
Swale Borough Council	Printing Village Voice	£124.00
Mr A Smith Chq- 300006	Cemetery posts	£485.00
DCK Accounting	Payroll fees – February	£36.00

Mr R Malone	Litter Picking Recreation Ground - Feb Litter Picking	Total	£527.00
Mr MJ Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance - Feb		£625.00
Mr R Burrows	Track gate keeper- Feb		£100.00
Administration	Expenses		£109.72

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to make the payments

ii. Finance report

No questions or comments were raised.

iii. Any other finance matter received by 27 February 2024

Bank accounts

NatWest:- 31.01.24 £46,689.25

Nationwide:- 31.03.23 £46,034.40

Unity Trust:- 31.01.24 £53,651.54

Payments

04.12.23	NEST	Pension	£182.92
20.12.23	DRAX	Electricity- Pavilion and lighting	£465.76

Receipts

05.01.24	Vibe	Parish Room Hire	£30.00
19.01.24	HMRC	VAT refund	£1,970.11
25.01.24	UKPN	Reimbursement of fence repair	£390.00
30.01.24	Swans Fitness Club	Community Sports Room hire	£20.00
31.01.24	Ministry of Justice	Child Funeral Fund	£1,354.22

The Clerk informed Members that funding is available from the Parish Council Winter Support Scheme to help residents affected by the cost-of-living crisis, local groups and the school have been approached to ascertain any need.

Cllr Palmer **PROPOSED** the Council apply for funding for the school regarding the foodbank, hygiene packs, school uniform and for funding for children facing financial hardship to go on their Year 6 residential trip: **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

12. ADMINISTRATION

i. To consider quotations for Microsoft 365

ii. To consider quotations for Parish Council email addresses

Deferred to end of the meeting

13. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Cuffley reported the Speed Watch Team has been active and carried out fourteen sessions between 24 October 2023- 20 February 2024 on the A2. Four hundred and thirty-nine vehicles were recorded speeding and reported to the Police, seventy-eight letters have been sent out. There have also been some drivers who have been abusive to the volunteers and this has also been reported to the Police with video evidence.

PC Chittim reported that he has delivered letters to motorists.

Cllr R Palmer thanked Cllr Cuffley for his report.

14. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Layer reported that eight people had been fined for parking on the lines in the car park one evening. The sign is not lit and would not be seen in the dark.

Cllr Harvey said groups need to remind their members about the parking regulations.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

C1. 29.01.24- JKC Policy Round-Up 26 January 2024

C2. 01.02.24- NALC CEO bulletin

C3. 01.02.24- KALC news

C4. 01.02.24- National Highways: M2 junction 5 improvement scheme – closure update

C5. 05.02.24- JKC Policy Round-Up 2 February 2024

C6. 05.02.24- KALC bulletin

C7. 08.02.24- NALC CEO bulletin

C8. 08.02.24- Consultation on the Swale Borough Council Draft Corporate Equality Scheme 2024-28

C9. 09.02.24- Contact Arrangements with SBC Planning Officers

C10. 09.02.24- KCC Highways- UK Power Networks - Temporary Road Closure - Bull Lane, Newington - 25th March 2024

C11. 12.02.24- KCC Highways: Various Roads, Swale - Preservation Treatments

C12. 12.02.24- SBC: JKC Policy Round-Up 2 February 2024

C13. 12.02.24- Resident concern: state of Newington Station

C14. 14.02.24- SBC: Email for PCs and TCs - Template for Planning Consultation Responses

C15. 15.02.24- NALC CEO bulletin

C16. 19.02.24- SBC: JKC Policy Round-Up 16 February 2024

C17. 19.02.24- KALC weekly bulletin

C18. 21.02.24- KCC Highways: Urgent Road Closure - Callaways Lane, Newington - 28 February 2024

C19. 22.02.24- NALC CEO bulletin

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Layer for Chairing the meetings of the Amenities Committee during her absence.

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 the consideration of administration

i. To consider quotations for Microsoft 365

ii. To consider quotations for Parish Council email addresses

Councillors considered the quotations and discussed the merits of changing email addresses and it was agreed not to proceed at the current time.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 26 March 2024 at 7pm

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 8.40 pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 26 March 2024