

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Amenities Committee held on 18 February 2020 in the Wickham Room, Newington Village Hall

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Richard Geldard, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr James Morgan, Cllr Tony Mould, Cllr Richard Palmer (Guest); and Cllr Debbie Haigh (Guest and minute taker).

Also present was one member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received for Cllr Condron (holidays): apologies accepted.

PCSO John Cork and Community Warden Georgina Springhall also sent their apologies. Apologies noted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were received.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 21 January 2020

- i. Swale have advised that Biffa cannot find the now redundant dog litter bin for Callaways Lane. A multipurpose litter and dog bin mess has been offered and this has been accepted.

ACTION: Cllr Haigh to respond.

- ii. Savills have asked the tenant to cut back hedge along track to the allotment.

4. Public Question Time

No questions were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

- a. Attempted Burglary to DJC Cars, Newington.
- b. Robbery of Pizza delivery man in Pear Tree Walk,
- c. Criminal Damage to Acorn Car Wash
- d. Male stopped by Police for interfering with various vehicles in the Newington area.
- e. No reports of ASB
- f. Reports from a resident that a male is still dealing drugs in the Church Lane area.
- g. Intel has been submitted and patrolling have been stepped up in the area.

Cllr Jackson noted with concern the actual and attempted criminal damage to vehicles.

In his absence Cllr Jackson thanks PCSO Cork for his report.

ii. Community Warden report

- a. Branches overhanging track to allotments need pruning back, scratching vehicles
ACTION: Clerk to progress
- b. Excessive rubbish outside house in Denham Road area – Reported to Optivo.
- c. Spoke again to S.B.C. dog warden regarding new large 'dog fouling posters' that need to be put up in recreation ground area.
- d. Male black cat gone missing from Wickham Close area – Gave advice to owner and posted on Newington facebook page.

- e. Lay by at the bottom of Church Lane has pot holes in it, resident tripped getting out of car – Reported to KCC Highways.
- f. Residents dog attacked by another dog whilst walking in orchard area – Reported to S.B.C.
- g. Neighbour dispute in estate area – PCSO John Cork attended.
- h. 'Ready-mix' lorry dropped approximately 8-10 barrows of concrete down centre of Bull Lane – Reported to KCC Highways emergency number.
- i. Tree and lamp post down across London Road – KCC Highways attended, set up diversion, grid locked traffic throughout area.
- j. Dumper truck stolen from Boxted Lane – Police aware.
- k. Attempted burglary to DJC Cars on London Road – Police aware.
- l. Pot hole in centre of Church Lane (outside no. 24) – Reported to KCC Highways.
- m. Metal bed springs (scrap man won't take these away), children's metal seat frames and other metal fly tipped in estate area – Reported to S.B.C.
- n. Dog fouling on pavements in Playstool Road – monitoring area.
- o. Thefts from motor vehicles over night in several areas of the village – Police made an arrest.
- p. Resident walking her dog on footpath to Wormdale farm had her dog attacked (no injury) by another dog that was off lead with owner – advised to report attack to S.B.C.
- q. Street light not working outside 73 High Street – Checked with KCC, it has been reported.

Cllr Jackson said she will ask Ms Springhall about the ready mix lorry in Bull Lane at Full Council.

In her absence Cllr Jackson thanked Ms Springhall for her report.

6. Recreation Ground

i. Councillors discussed providing a multipurpose litter and dog mess bin at the recreation ground to be sited between the top gate and the pavilion. This is to be progressed with Swale Borough Council.

ACTION: Clerk

ii. Cllr Jackson said that she was uncomfortable about the litter pickers leaving black sacks of rubbish next to the litter bins. Cllr Layer concurred.

ACTION: Cllr Harvey and Haigh are to check the Contract and if appropriate ask the Clerk to speak with the contractors.

iii. Cllr Jackson advised Councillors that the meeting with Bredhurst Football Club had gone very well. The Club have accepted the fixed two year fees of £1650 p.a. The Club have committed to provide NPC with a fixtures list, even though this does change frequently. The Club has also said it is keen to advertise training and recruitment events in the Village Voice so that the youth of Newington can become more involved. They do not kill the moles.

iv. Cllr Harvey informed Councillors that he had met a representative of the Woodland Forestry Commission and he had made several recommendations about the Community Woodland:

- a) Do not plant additional tree but 10% clear shrubs and trees to allow wild flowers to grow
- b) The Woodland Forestry Commission can grant £1k and a free license for the work to be undertaken.
- c) Any works should be undertaken between October and January

No decision was made as to whether the resulting logs should be removed from site or left in a pile to decompose and attract wild life. Councillors agreed to take forward the advice given and seek a quote.

Cllr Harvey said contractors should be advised that the bollards will be removed on the day of the works.

ACTION: Clerk to seek quotes.

v. Friends of Newington Recreation Ground

The actual topic of discussion was the Children's Play Area tender specification document (Draft 3) and appendices.

Cllr Harvey informed Councillors that the Friends Meeting on February 19th would clarify item 11.4.3 and the Springer 11.1.7; and that Draft 4 would follow after Thursday for submission to Full Council. Draft 4 would include changes and additions made tonight.

There followed a lengthy and detailed discussion and agreement of each observation on the three documents that had previously been provided to Cllr Harvey. Those captured below were considered new observations or requiring follow up action.

a) The VAT implication of a short term additional cost to Council of £22k needs to be brought to Full Council.

b) Although the specification requires the successful bidder to have 4 types of insurance in place. Should we advise Came and Co.

ACTION: Clerk

c) Will the Allotment Association allow the contractors to use their lavatories

ACTION: Cllr Layer

d) The panel will sit on Friday 27th March to assess and score the tender submissions and their recommendation will be presented to Full Council on March 31st

e) 12.1 All site visits will be the same duration when accompanied by a Councillor

f) 12.1 Council will request references to also be provided by 12th March

ACTION: Cllr Haigh and Cllr Harvey to ensure there is enough resource to support the Clerk in progressing the referees.

g) It was agreed that References will be added to the table 13.1 for scoring and the criteria will simply be "Pass/Fail"

h) 13.1 Method Statement 1 to read "meets and exceeds the needs identified" so that the assessors can clearly identified additional equipment.

i) Having all agreed to add to section 9 about removing equipment and waste and then putting right any damage, Method Statement 3 will have added "Making Good and disposal of waste".

j) There remains the question of 14.1 "Most Economically Advantageous tender"

ACTION: Cllr Harvey to resolve with Cllr Condon

k) 14.5.1 not "notify" but "email" and "by 9am" will be added

ACTION: Cllr Haigh is to ensure the Clerk is available on the 12th

l) 14.8.2 remove "or" and replace with "and"

ACTION: Cllr Haigh is to confirm with the Clerk her availability 19th to 26th March inclusive for getting answers to questions and responding to all tenderers

ACTION: Cllr Harvey is to confirm with Cllr Condon the rules for the standstill period and ensure the Clerk understands.

ACTION: Appendix 2 is to be updated by Cllr Harvey to include instruction to tenderers to return this Appendix and their references by 12th March and this is to be added as a requirement under 16.1

ACTION: Cllr Harvey is to add Financial Evidence to section 16.1 and this is to be quantified in conjunction with Cllr Condon and Cllr Haigh

ACTION: Cllr Haigh to check that the Clerk will be at home on March 26th to receive submissions.

ACTION: Cllr Palmer is to circulate an example SBC award notice / letter.

m) Under 1.1 it is to be made clear that the contract will be awarded to 1 contractor

ACTION: Cllr Harvey

Cllr Harvey advised that at this time the Friends of Newington Rec have raised £60,884. Cllr Jackson requested that the Friends are thanked on Wednesday night for all of their hard work.

It was agreed that monies will be found to provide and erect a board that acknowledges the Friends and all those who have made financial contributions.

ACTION: The Clerk is to chase for an update on quotes requested to make repairs to the Sputnik and the worn chains on the swings.

7. Pavilion

i. Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** that dog training class can be held at the pavilion and the organisers must clean the premises after use, **SECONDED** Cllr Harvey, carried **UNANIMOUSLY**.

ii. Mr Jackson has filled the hole in the garage wall.

iii. Mr Jackson asked that the rules of cleaning up in the Community Sports Room be updated.

ACTION: Cllr Palmer.

iv. Mr. Jackson will paint over the graffiti on the wooden part of the pavilion but cannot remove the graffiti from the brickwork.

ACTION: Clerk to seek advise on the brickwork removal from Swale.

v. Mr Jackson requested that T&Cs of Rental be publicised in the pavilion. This was consented to.

ACTION: Cllr Haigh provide a copy to Cllr Palmer for lamination.

vi. Graffiti on Pavilion

SBC say they can't remove the graffiti and Richard Moss has also been contacted but no response as yet.

8. Defibrillator

No items for discussion.

9. Allotments

No items for discussion.

10. Highways

i. Cllr Harvey shared with Councillors the communications he has undertaken with SGN, Swale and KCC regarding the SGN gas works. He will raise issues again with KCC Cllr Mike Whiting at Full Council.

Cllr Palmer is also progressing the issues with flooding in Boxted Lane and his concerns of how this will be further impacted on and by diversions required by the SGN works.

Cllr Harvey reported that the new NOX Receptor will be sited outside of the doctor's surgery on the High Street.

ii. Parish Highways Improvement Plan

It was agreed the survey will run in this Month's Village Voice even though any resulting actions prioritised for traffic and speed surveys should not take place until after the SGN works have been completed.

ACTION: Cllr Mould is to add to the article that hard copies can be handed in at the school and the pharmacy and he is to co-ordinate this. It was also agreed that he should remove posting responses to the Clerks home address and instead state that hard copies can be handed to a local councilor.

11. Environment

- i. Bulb planting will be delayed until later in the year. The Clerk is to continue to try and find prices. It has been noted from the Woodlands Trust Commission that in the short term no bulbs are needed for the Community Woodland.
- ii. Newington Litter Pick will go ahead on April 4th. Cllr Harvey will confirm the location to members of the Amenities Committee.

12. Lights

- i. There was confirmation that the three column replacements what were due to be done on 9 January have now been reprogrammed for 20 February and UKPN have confirmed that this is going ahead.
- ii. The road closure job in Bull Lane was completed and a concrete sleeve was removed. The concrete arm on column 53 will be removed and refitted with a sleeve.
- iii. Column 70 remains a problem. **ACTION:** Clerk to chase and remind StreetLights that they are no longer under Contract with NPC to undertake Scout Patrols.
- iv. **ACTION:** Clerk and Cllr Palmer to progress with SBC the light in the Village Hall car park.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

No items to discuss.

14. Village Voice and media

- i. Cllr Harvey informed Councillors that through the community warden posters are being made to support the Community Security Marking Day. If the poster printing is not too late, can the event be moved to the Village Hall, if it is available?

ACTION: Cllr Harvey.

The opportunity is to be advertised at both the school and with the Bredhurst Football Club

ACTION: respectively Cllr Mould and Cllr Harvey.

- ii. Cllr Mould will add an article on the Village Litter Pick.
- iii. Cllr Mould will move the advertisement of the Pavilion to the "What's on" page.
- iv. Cllr Mould explained he has received an enquiry from the Newington Cricket Club to advertise their venue in the Village Voice. Following a lengthy discussion regarding the location of the club, Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** that the advertisement should not be included in the Village Voice. **SECONDED** by Cllr Harvey. **CARRIED** 4 in favour, 1 opposed and 1 abstention.

15. Any Other Business

Cllr Palmer advised that following approaches from residents, he would be carrying out a survey of Station Road residents seeking their views on progressing a Highways Parking Restriction / Parking Permits for that road.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.10 hours.

Date of Next Meeting: 24 March 2020