

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion on 23 January 2024

Present: Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Ruth Brown, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Tony Mould, Cllr Chris Palmer and visiting Member Cllr Richard Palmer; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Layer took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Elaine Jackson (personal) and Cllr Michael Barlow (work); apologies accepted.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

### 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 21 Nov 2023

All matters on agenda.

### 4. Public Question Time

No members of the public were present.

### 5. Anti-Social Behaviour

There was no report.

### 6. Youth Provision in Newington

Councillors considered the quotation for youth provision in the village from 1 April when Kent County Council will withdraw its service.

Cllr Harvey said that if the Parish Council funded youth services in the village it would need to be made clear that KCC was no longer funding it. There is concern that Iwade has provision for teenagers whereas Newington does not. The Clerk has contacted Medway Council to see if the Parish Council could commission the service from them. There needs to be an independent view as to whether the current Youth Club is targeting the right age group. There has been no increase in numbers and attendance has dropped off.

Cllr C Palmer said some teenagers are already in the rut of anti-social behaviour, reaching 8-12-year-olds would help stop bad behaviour.

Cllr Mould said this would be a drain on the Council's finances, there might be funding available.

Cllr Layer said the village needs a youth club, the Council could fund one year and evaluate the situation. If the current youth club closed, it will be a disappointment to the young people. Cllr R Palmer agreed that this is KCC's responsibility but it is something the Parish Council can provide for the village. It could be made clear that the first year will be funded from reserves and thereafter, it would be funded by the precept. There could be a small charge for the youth club.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** the decision be delayed until February to allow further research: **SECONDED** by Cllr Brown: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*ACTION 1: Clerk to chase Medway Council Youth Services.*

*ACTION 2: Cllr Mould to discuss youth provision with the school.*

## 7. Recreation Ground and green spaces

### i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer reported that the saplings have not been planted yet due to the cold weather, the contractor has started to trim the area.

Cllr Layer said the play area inspection will be due soon.

*ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotations.*

Cllr Layer reported that he had the “No quad bike” signs.

*ACTION: Cllr Layer to purchase bolts.*

### ii. Community Woodland update

Cllr Harvey said the work on the woodland has not started yet.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact contractor again.*

### iii. To consider quotation for Recreation Ground Maintenance

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to recommend that the quotation of £2218.91 from Landscape Services be accepted and that the contractor be reminded about the weed killing and not to trim near the saplings; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

### iv. Review of Football Club fees

Deferred to Full Council.

### v. Review of Fair Ground fees

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to maintain the same fee of £400 plus £400 deposit.

## 8. Pavilion

### To consider quotation for addition CCTV camera at the Pavilion

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to recommend the quotation of £425 from Spy Alarms be accepted: agreed unanimously.

Cllr Layer said the Christmas lights need to be taken down. Agreed to meet on Sunday at 10.30am.

## 9. Allotments

Cllr Layer reported that the trees have been cut back, there are three trees leaning on the fence and this will be remedied.

## 10. Highways

Cllr R Palmer said the road works on the A2 are ongoing; the work in Callaways Lane has been completed; the problem with the sewerage system in Church Lane has had an adverse effect on a property in the High Street.

## 11. Lights

Cllr Layer reported the light in the alleyway from the High Street to the car park still has been repaired.

Cllr Harvey requested an update on the light in Station Road.

The Clerk said she had chased the contractor but not yet heard back.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact UKPN CEO.*

## 12. Footpaths and Bridleways

There was nothing to report.

## 13. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould reported that the next edition will be a paper version and lead article is needed.

*ACTION: Cllr R Palmer to write article.*

**14. Cemetery and Churchyard**

Cllr Layer said further research is needed to source silver birch trees for the Cemetery.

**15. Events**

Cllr Mould said a Fete Working Group meeting will be arranged.

**16. Any Other Business**

Cllr Layer informed Members that Lower Halstow has 20mph signs on lamp posts.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact Lower Halstow Clerk.*

Cllr Layer reported that the 20mph roundel in Boxted Lane has worn away.

*ACTION: Clerk to report.*

**Date of Next Meeting: 20 February 2024**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.06pm

Signed a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 30 January 2024