

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion on 22 March 2022

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Stephen Harvey and Cllr Tony Mould, and visiting Member Cllr Ruth Brown; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present was Mr Bob Jackson, Pavilion Caretaker

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Eric Layer (holiday); apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from minutes 22 March 2022

Cllr Jackson said the contractor will carry out work to top gate entrance in early May. There was no response from the PCSO regarding the fires in the woodland although the PCSO report mentions the tyres dumped in the park. BT Openreach was requested to clean the phone box in February, it had not been done so they were chased and it seems it is still on the system to be cleaned.

Cllr Harvey said residents must check their water bills carefully to ensure that they receive the discount following the water issues.

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO Lorraine Holmes was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following report:

Crimes of note (22/03/21 – 19/04/22):

- Burglary offences reported: 18/04/22 – Nisa Local, High Street, Newington. Glass smashed; no entry gained.
- Vehicle Crime offences reported: 19/04/22 – Motorbike stolen in Orchard Drive.
- No Criminal Damage offences reported.
- No Fraud offences reported.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- No further leads regarding the tyres dumped in the park.

Other items of note:

- I will be holding a drop-in surgery at Newington Recreation Ground Pavilion on Monday 30th May between 4pm & 5pm.

Updates of previous reported issues:

- See above (ASB report).

Cllr Jackson said the Chairman had noted there had been two burglaries which was not on the previous report nor this one.

ii. Community Warden report

Community Warden Georgina Springall was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following report:

- 1) Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents.

- 2) Complaints from resident from Merton Drive regarding neighbouring residents converting 'barn' car ports into play rooms without planning permission – Advised to contact Swale Borough Council Planning department.
- 3) Organised and accompanied elderly resident for his Covid booster jab.
- 4) Bus shelter vandalised with food – Contacted Clerk regarding cleansing.
- 5) Gave short talk to Senior Lunch Club members regarding their safety when withdrawing cash from banks/building societies due to residents being followed and theft of purses/bags.
- 6) Assisting Social Services and Optivo with resident recently returned home from hospital.
- 7) Assisted resident with registering with the Swale Volunteer Transport Scheme to enable him in getting lifts to hospital appointments etc.
- 8) Gave short talk to bingo club members regarding their safety when withdrawing cash etc.
- 9) Fly tipping in Wardwell Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 10) Accompanied elderly resident for pre op Covid test.
- 11) Attended residents' rural walks, now approximately 21/23 members.

Cllr Harvey reported that Cllr Layer had cleaned the bus shelter and proposed a vote of thanks for his prompt action. There had been a broken bottle by the play area gate and the litter picker removed this.

6. Recreation Ground and green spaces

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson reported that the track fence has become a Health & Safety issue and a quotation for repair from Maylow Construction of £513 has been accepted, the contractor has been asked to carry out the repair by 21 April and has also been asked to cap the post hole near the fence.

ii. Adult exercise equipment

Cllr Jackson said Swale Borough Council has recommended all the equipment be removed. The Council currently has grant funding of £14,546.75.

Cllr Harvey said there needs to be a separate meeting so that the project can be discussed, it is a big investment.

ACTION 1: Clerk to ask Swale Borough Council for advice as to what items should be in the scheme.

ACTION 2: Clerk to obtain quotations.

7. Pavilion

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson said a resident has asked if a tuck shop could be opened during the summer months in the pavilion to raise money for community causes.

Cllr Harvey said it would be great to have lunches at the Pavilion but it is not a viable business due to the small number of people at the Recreation Ground and also the unpredictable weather.

ACTION: Clerk to respond.

ii. To consider quotations for Pavilion fence

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to recommend to Full Council acceptance of the quotation from M Belsom & Son for £4454 for the fence and £920 for the gate: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

iii. To consider quotations for Parish Room ceiling

Cllr Mould said metal plates twice the size of the current ones would solve the problem.

ITEM FOR FULL COUNCIL

8. Review of Football Club rent

Cllr Mould **PROPOSED** the fees should remain the same for the next season to allow the Club to recover from the pandemic: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Cllr Harvey said there needs to be a two-year review next year.

9. Youth Club

Cllr Harvey said a holiday club was organised without consulting the Council. Brogdale CIC has reported that having 8-year-olds in the club is putting off the 11-year-olds, there should be two groups. They are considering meeting on another night and if this is convenient with the Caretaker it would be fine for the Club to switch. The Council wants to encourage extra activities but it must be consulted to ensure there is no clash.

Cllr Jackson said former County Councillor Mike Whiting had promised £2,000 for youth provision.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KCCllr Baldock.

Cllr Harvey said the Youth Club wants a marquee which would be a focal point but it would need security, there is no need for a marquee if there is a building. The Easter activities were advertised on Facebook, many people do not use Facebook, the activities need to be promoted through the Village Voice, the Council's website and through Facebook.

ACTION: Cllr Harvey to liaise with the Youth Club regarding activities.

10. Allotments

Cllr Jackson reported that there had been a water leak at the allotments which was fixed free of charge by Mr Jamie Watson.

ACTION: Clerk to write letter of thanks.

11. Community Woodland

Cllr Harvey said the woodland is looking good, there needs to be signs regarding the bug hotels and these should be available ready-made.

The Clerk said that she had been unable to find such signage, the Council could make up its own signs.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to make signs.

12. Highways

Cllr Harvey said there have been no further complaints regarding the new highways layout, drivers are getting used to the changes.

13. Lights

There was nothing to report.

14. Footpaths and Bridleways

There was nothing to report.

15. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said the next edition will be a paper version and will include the Jubilee fete; planning; Councillor vacancies; Village Voice dates and delivery help request; Council meetings; website; bio of Cllr Brown; item from church and Newington History Group; Ukraine host families support group; and water rebate.

Cllr Harvey said the name of the Jubilee event needs to be agreed and there could be a countdown to the event.

16. Cemetery and Churchyard

Cllr Harvey thanked Cllr Layer for planting the saplings at the Cemetery. The work on the fence is very good. The Working Party has done a lot of good work.

ACTION: Clerk to thank Mr Harris for his sterling work at the Cemetery.

17. Annual Village Spring Clean 30 April

Cllr Mould informed Councillors that he will be contacting groups regarding the litter pick.

18. Jubilee Fete 4 June 2022

Cllr Harvey said the next meeting is on Thursday 21 April.

19. Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr Harvey said it had been suggested discussing the Parish Highways Improvement Plan at the Annual Parish Meeting but the issue is that if residents want a particular scheme, KCC Highways will not necessarily carry this out.

Cllr Mould said a separate meeting would not then be necessary and the Annual Parish Meeting could be held before the Annual Parish Council meeting on 31 May.

20. Village Celebration

Cllr Jackson said that at the last physical Annual Parish Meeting all the groups came together.
ITEM FOR FULL COUNCIL.

21. Any Other Business

Mr Jackson said someone is needed to open the Pavilion for the football club at the weekend.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Cllr Morgan.

Date of Next Meeting: 24 May 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman
Date: 26 April 2022