

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion on 21 June 2022

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

Also present was Mr Bob Jackson, Pavilion Caretaker

Cllr Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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 24 May 2022

All matters to be discussed under agenda headings.

4. Public Question Time

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

Mr Jackson congratulated the tea making teas at the Jubilee Fete, £128 was raised for charity. Cllr Jackson said the coconut stall raised £70.

The meeting was reconvened.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

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

Crimes of note (24/05/22 – 20/06/22):

- Burglary offences reported: 25/05/22 – Rope stolen, and lock picked at Lions Farm.
- Vehicle Crime offences reported: 12/06/22 – car window damaged by possible catapult shot in St Matthews Close.
- Criminal Damage offences reported: 29/05/22 & 06/06/22 – fence panels x 2 removed. 19/06/22 – reports of youths kicking play equipment in The Rec. Officers attended, no youths present, and no damage caused.
- No Fraud offences reported.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- Unknown male knocked at several properties in Church Lane in the early hours of the 18/06/22 (Saturday). The male is described as a white male, around 5' 9" tall, mousey brown hair, medium build wearing a grey top and with a bag over his shoulder. He may have had an electronic tag on his leg as well. The male stated that he had been attacked but didn't want the Police called. Police Dog Unit attended but no trace of the male. Cllr LAYER left me a voicemail message stating that the male had been to his address as well. Any further information then please get in touch with PCSO Holmes.

Other items of note:

- My next surgery will be held at the Cornerstone Café, St Mary's Church on Thursday 21st July between 10-11am.

Updates of previous reported issues:-

- Crime prevention advice given to the Parish Council in relation to the theft of the fencing in The Rec.

ii. Community Warden report

Community Warden Georgina Springall sent the following report:

- 1) Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents.
- 2) Assisted elderly resident with ordering slow cooker and use etc.
- 3) Assisted elderly resident by making online Council tax rebate for them.
- 4) Neighbour dispute regarding parking.
- 5) Broken glass/bottles throughout children's play area corner of Playstool Road – Reported to Optivo for cleansing.
- 6) Information regarding appropriate groups sent to son of elderly resident so he can persuade his mother to join and not feel so isolated.
- 7) Overgrown shrubs trees obstructing speed limit sign and Wardwell Lane sign. Also obstructing School Lane sign – Reported to KCC Highways for cutting back.
- 8) Overgrown verge on High Street – Reported to KCC Highways for cutting back.
- 9) Fence panel stolen from Recreation Ground – Police aware.
- 10) Fly tipping in lay by top of Mill Lane (household rubbish and asbestos panels) – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 11) Two small sign written vans dangerously racing each other along High Street – Company contacted and made aware of their drivers dangerous driving.
- 12) Overgrown shrubs/brambles obstructing narrow pavement alongside entrance to Callaways Lane from High Street- Reported to KCC Highways for clearance.
- 13) Complaints regarding excessive amount of dog fouling in Recreation Ground - Checked whole area and only saw two small amounts up far end of park!
- 14) Youths on quad bikes in wild/orchard area at weekends (bikes dropped off from van!) – Information passed on to our PCSO Lorraine Holmes.
- 15) Report of youths on Parish Council garage roof – Spoke to neighbouring residents who were not aware and had not seen anyone.
- 16) Complaints from residents in Callaways Lane regarding the amount of speeding traffic cutting through their road since 'No Entry' to Bull Lane from High Street put in place.

iii. Recreation Ground

Cllr Harvey reported the two stolen fence panels have been replaced.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain CCTV warning signs.

Cllr Jackson said the Community Warden had followed up on a resident's complaint about dog mess on the Recreation Ground and has reported that she only saw two small dried-up piles of dog mess. The Community Warden spoke to a resident who walks her two dogs in the Recreation Ground twice a day and had said there definitely was not an increase in dog fouling in the area. There had also been a complaint about large dogs being let off leads, the owner is known to the Police for not having his dogs under control. A reminder not to allow dogs in the play area could be included in the Village Voice.

Cllr Jackson said the PCSO will monitor the area regarding anti-social behaviour and youths on the garage. Cllr Palmer has asked the Committee to consider anti-climb paint to prevent youths climbing on the garage roof.

Cllr Harvey said anti-climb paint is not widely used now as animals and birds can become stuck in the paint. There could be a problem if someone falls off the roof.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quote for spikes around the edge of the garage.

6. Recreation Ground and green spaces

i. To receive an update

ii. Grass Cutting review

Cllr Jackson reported that she, Cllr Harvey and Cllr Layer had met with Landscape Services, the team cannot get a rotary mower, which would cut the grass shorter, in to the play area as there are no maintenance gates.

Cllr Harvey said the contractor could remove a fence panel if the bolts were changed; a contractor has been asked to quote to hinge a panel to allow access.

Cllr Jackson said care would be needed to ensure the safety matting is not damaged by the mower and the contractor said it would be cut up to twelve inches of the surface and then strimmed.

Cllr Harvey said the grass cuttings in the play area would have to be taken away, the contractor said a ride on mower would do a better job.

Cllr Jackson said it was suggested that just the football pitch should be cut during the winter months.

Cllr Harvey said that this must be added to the specification for tender. Also the football club would have to be clear which pitch they will be using. The contractor said the play area will need sixteen to twenty-one cuts and stressed the process needs to start now.

ITEM FOR FULL COUNCIL

iii. Adult exercise equipment

Cllr Jackson said Rob Lucas, Greenspace Technical Officer Swale Borough Council, has made suggestions and given prices for equipment.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotations for next meeting

7. Pavilion

Cllr Jackson said a quote for 1 m² plates had been received and not for the strip as requested.

Cllr Harvey said he was concerned the metal plates acted as a heat conductor; an alternative material would be preferable.

ACTION: Clerk to ask if there is an alternative.

Cllr Jackson said there is an issue with the Pavilion roof which is still leaking.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotes.

Cllr Jackson said there needs to be an external electric socket at the Pavilion.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotation.

Cllr Jackson said there had been concern raised about the Fun Fair.

ACTION: Clerk to respond.

Cllr Harvey said the fencing around the Pavilion has been replaced and looks good.

Cllr Harvey said the water heater in the toilet is leaking.

ACTION: Clerk to report to contractor.

8. Youth Club

Cllr Jackson said there will be a Youth Summer Activity Day on 28 July, this can be publicised in the Village Voice.

ACTION: Clerk to send Cllr Mould contact details.

Cllr Harvey said the Youth Club needs to inform neighbours of the activity.

9. Allotments

There was no report.

10. Community Woodland

i. To receive an update

ii. To consider quotation for post at Woodland entrance

Cllr Jackson said quotations are yet to be received.

11. Highways

Cllr Harvey said there will be a Parish Highways Improvement Plan meeting.

12. Lights

There was nothing to report.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Jackson informed Members that works have been completed on PROW ZR57. PROW

ZR38has been reported and is awaiting allocation

14. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said the Village Voice will be revamped with a dedicated Parish Council page and a dedicated community page. Articles will include anti-dog fouling at the Recreation ground and play area; Youth Club Summer event; Police Surgery; planning; and Jubilee mugs. The Village Voice is sent to the school and the school sends out to all parents.

15. Cemetery and Churchyard

Councillors considered a request for ashes to be sprinkled on a grave rather than be interred. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that ashes must be interred.

16. Village Celebration 8 September 2022

Cllr Jackson reported that "Save the date" emails have been sent to groups in the village. The Committee will think about the arrangements next month.

17. Any Other Business

Cllr Jackson informed members that the Council has received a refund of £113.28 for the damaged Jubilee mugs.

Cllr Jackson reported that a resident had offered to replant the planters in the High Street and it was agreed that she could spend up to £30, she actually spent £25

Cllr Harvey said there needs to be a debriefing meeting of the Fete Working Party.

Cllr Jackson said that there are three PCSO's on duty Friday evening, only one on Saturday evening but there are Response Officers and officers from the Community Policing Team who are on late/night duty should there be any issues.

Date of Next Meeting: 19 July 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.21pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman
Date: 28 June 2022