

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 September 2022 and in Newington Village Hall

Present: Cllr Richard Palmer (Chairman), Cllr Tony Mould (Vice Chairman), Cllr Michael Barlow, Cllr Steve Godmon, Cllr Claire Harvey, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Elaine Jackson and Cllr Eric Layer; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present were Ward Member Alan Horton and two members of the public.

Cllr Palmer welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Cllr Palmer said there were still two vacancies on the Council, no applications have been received yet.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ruth Brown (personal); apology accepted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 30 AUGUST 2022

Item 7.i) was amended to read: *The proposal for a community bus scheme was against the Council's own policies regarding rural loneliness. If KCC does not provide these services, Swale Borough Council cannot so it could fall to the parishes and this will be discussed at the next Swale West Parishes Group Meeting in October.*

Cllr S Harvey **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes as amended as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Jackson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Palmer duly signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr S Harvey said the Village Celebration scheduled for 8 September did not take place because of the death of Her Majesty The Queen and the Extra Ordinary Amenities Committee meeting was cancelled as a mark of respect.

Cllr Jackson said that it had not been possible to have the Amenities Committee meeting on 20 September as the agenda could not be posted during a time of national mourning.

Cllr Palmer said the Parish Council held a one-minute silence on 17 September when the news broke before cancelling the meeting.

Cllr Harvey said there had also been a Newington tribute to the Late Her Majesty The Queen on Saturday 17 September at the village sign.

Cllr Palmer reported that the bolt covers have been received from Wicksteed.

Cllr Layer informed Members that he had put the covers over the bolts.

Cllr Palmer reported that the Smiths Fun Fair has indicated that they would like to hold the fun fair at the Recreation Ground on 14, 15 and 16 of July 2023.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to permit the Fun Fair on 14, 15 and 16 of July 2023.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain what other Councils charge for Recreation Ground use.

Cllr Palmer said that Swale Borough Council has stated that the land at junction of Church Lane and School Lane is not their land. The dead trees have been reported to Kent County Council Highways.

Cllr Layer said it would be good to replace the tree.

Cllr Palmer said it could be a tree for the Coronation

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

Concern was raised that there are road works on the A2 during the closure of the coast bound slip road on the M2 resulting in all traffic using the A2

Cllr Palmer said the matter had been requested of KCC Highways not to allow routine works during the period of slip road closure but the issue is with the utility companies which can override KCC Highways in an emergency. This has been taken up with KCCllr David Brazier, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, and Swale Borough Council has also raised the problem. Newington has been badly affected but road works and also because the bridge in Church Lane has been hit twice this week.

The meeting was reconvened.

7. VISITORS

SBCllr Horton reported that residents across the Ward are becoming more concerned about the cost of living and are extremely anxious; this is not just affecting low-income families but also people with mortgages. The Government's planned changes may be coming too late to be helpful. People are also contacting Swale Citizens Advice Bureau.

Swale Borough Council has been tasked by the Environment Agency to pursue a legal case against the Happy Pants Animal Sanctuary for illegal dumping and failure to submit paperwork. Cllr S Harvey said the flytipping in Mill Hill, Bricklands and Road With No Name has been there for a long time and there is possibly asbestos. Is there a new permanent Head of Enforcement?

SBCllr Palmer said he understood the new officer was in situ. flytipping is a major issue in this area, a request for covert cameras in Bricklands and Iwade Road has been submitted.

ACTION: Cllr Layer to send photos to Clerk to report.

Cllr Palmer thanked SBCllr Horton for attending and for his report.

SBCllr Palmer said that he also has received concerns about the cost of living rise. Concern has also been raised that people are unable to get a doctor's appointment at the Newington surgery; it costs £20 to go to the Green Porch surgery in Sittingbourne. An elderly resident was unable to afford the bus fare to get to the surgery. Swale Volunteer Centre runs a Volunteer Transport Scheme for local residents who would otherwise be unable to attend essential appointments such as doctor, dentist and hospital. There is also concern from some residents who have left their GP surgery to register with the Newington Practice and cannot go back to their previous doctor. There have been a few neighbour disputes.

Cllr Layer reported that after sending photos of pot holes in Church Lane to KCCllr Baldock, KCC Highways has repaired the problem. KCCllr Baldock was thanked for his help in resolving the issue.

8. PLANNING

i.. To receive an update

Ref: 22/503577/FULL Land Adjacent To Moat Cottage, Iwade Road, Newington ME9 7JY

Proposal: Erection of an agricultural outbuilding with permeable hard-standing and reinstatement of a timber access gate.

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

Ref: 20/505059/FULL Willow Trees 111 High Street, Newington ME97JJ

Proposal: Retention of existing chalet bungalow with amended residential curtilage and erection of 10 dwellings (7 x three bedrooms and 3 x four bedrooms) with associated access, parking, amenity, and landscaping

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

Ref: 20/505059/FULL Willow Trees 111 High Street, Newington ME9 7JJ

Revised proposal: Retention of existing chalet bungalow with amended residential curtilage and erection of 10 dwellings (7 x three bedrooms and 3 x four bedrooms) with associated access, parking, amenity, and landscaping

Ref: 20/505059/FULL: Willow Trees, 111 High Street, Newington ME9 7JJ

Proposal: Demolition of existing chalet bungalow and erection of 20 dwellings (4 x two bedrooms and 14 x three-bedrooms and 2 x four-bedrooms) with associated access, parking, amenity and landscaping.

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

Previously discussed: for information

Ref: 22/503258/FULL 35 Bull Lane, Newington ME9 7LT

Proposal: Dropped kerb with verges and crossover

Cllr S Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/502093/FULL 37 Bull Lane Newington ME9 7LT

Proposal: Installation of vehicle hardstanding, a dropped kerb and crossover.

Application validated: Friday 10 June 2022

Cllr S Harvey informed Members that the application has been permitted.

Ref: 22/502474/LBC 53-57 High Street, Newington ME9 7JJ

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for part reconstruction and repairs to boundary wall (Works Part Completed).53-57 High Street Newington Kent ME9 7JJ

Ref: 22/502473/FULL 53-57 High Street, Newington ME9 7JJ

Proposal: Part reconstruction and repairs to boundary wall (Part Retrospective).

Application validated: Thursday 26 May 2022

Cllr S Harvey reported that the applications have been permitted.

Ref: 22/501005/FULL 77 High Street, Newington ME9 7JJ

Proposal: Erection of 10 no. detached C3 dwellinghouses with repositioned vehicular access from public highway.

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

Ref: 22/500275/OUT Land South Of London Road, Newington

Proposal: Outline planning application for up to 135 dwellings with the retention of existing farm buildings, new public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access point (Access being Sought).

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

Ref: 21/505722/OUT 128 High Street, Newington ME9 7JH

Proposal: Outline application for demolition of existing residential dwelling and erection of up to 46 residential dwellings, including affordable housing, with access from A2 High Street (Access only being sought).

Cllr S Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 21/504028/FULL Land At School Lane, Newington ME9 7JU

Proposal: Erection of 25no. residential dwellings and the provision of a 20 space staff car park and 20 space pupil pick-up/drop-off area for Newington C of E Primary School, together with associated access, landscaping, drainage and infrastructure works.

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

Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate

Ref: 21/501791/PIP Land At 164 Bull Lane, Newington ME9 7NB

Proposal: Permission in Principle for the erection of a detached two storey sustainable self-build or custom building dwelling with new access onto Bull Lane.

PINS reference: V2255/W/21/3286759

Cllr S Harvey said there was nothing to report.

Not in Newington

Foxchurch, near Bobbing (information only)

Appin Land 'The team are now working to finalise the plans. Before submitting a planning application to Swale Borough Council, we want to hear your thoughts' consultation events Thursday 22 April, Friday 23 April

- 2,500 new homes, with a wide range of housing types to cater for Swale's various housing needs, including family homes, bungalows and policy compliant affordable housing
- A new pub and a local parade of shops: creating job opportunities and bringing improved choice for local people.
- A new three-form-entry primary school, health centre, village hall and cricket pitch
- Easy access to existing employment areas within Sittingbourne and Sheppey without causing further congestion of existing towns and villages.

Cllr S Harvey said no application has been lodged.

ii. Ref: 22/503874/FULL

Address: 11 The Tracies Newington Kent ME9 7TQ

Proposal: Conversion of the storage area into habitable living space, including insertion of a window to the front of the property

Councillors considered the proposal.

Cllr S Harvey **PROPOSED** the Council responds *No objections save any neighbour comments be taken into consideration: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY***

iii. Ref: 22/504349/FULL

Address: Field View Keycol Hill Bobbing Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7LE

Proposal: Erection of a single storey front extension

Councillors considered the proposal.

Cllr S Harvey **PROPOSED** the Council responds *No objections save any neighbour comments be taken into consideration: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY***

iv. Ref: 22/504352/PNQCLA

Address: The Pheasantry Wardwell Lane Lower Halstow Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7ER

Proposal: Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural barn to 1no. dwellinghouse and associated operational development. For its prior approval to: - Transport and Highways impacts of the development - Noise impacts of the development - Contamination risks on the site - Flooding risks on the site - Whether the location or siting of the building makes it otherwise impractical or undesirable for the use of the building to change from agricultural use

to C3 (dwellinghouses) - Design and external appearance impacts on the building - Provision of adequate natural light in all habitable rooms of the dwellinghouses.

Cllr S Harvey said that he felt there should be a consultation for this application as the building did not have planning permission but the case office said that was irrelevant. Concern is that the Parish Council has no say in the matter.

v. Ref: 22/504243/FULL

Address: Bobbing Solar Farm Nr Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8NN

Proposal: Addition of 40 CCTV cameras and poles at Bobbing Solar Farm.

Cllr S Harvey said if the CCTV cameras are needed due to vandalism, where are the crime reports to support this? If the cameras do go in, what will the protocols be? Who will be able to view the recording? Will the cameras be over the footpath or just over the panels? An alternative would be put erect fencing along the footpath.

Cllr S Harvey **PROPOSED** the application be opposed unless clear protocols are in place: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION: Cllr S Harvey to write objection.

Cllr S Harvey reported that he has been chasing the Parish Highways Improvement Plan (PHIP), the KCC Highways officer had moved to a different team. A PHIP meeting has been arranged with the new officer. A 20mph toolkit has been provided and stickers and banners are available for use on private land.

Cllr Palmer thanked Cllr S Harvey for his report.

9. RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £364 from Maylow Construction to create contractor access to play area; **SECONDED** by Cllr S Harvey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL LAND

Cllr Palmer said a response from Swale Borough Council has taken some time and has now been allocated to a new member of staff.

ACTION: Clerk to request that this be given priority and copy Ward Members into email.

11. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Layer said there was nothing to report.

12. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Mould said the next edition would include the Newington tributes to the late Queen; the village litter pick; Community Speed Watch; A2 roadworks; GP Surgery; Newington History Group; Jubilee mugs; and the regular features.

Cllr Palmer thanked Cllr Mould for his sterling work on the Village Voice.

13. FINANCE

i. Cheque list: to consider invoices for payment

Payee	Reason	Amount
Railton Ltd	Traffic report	£1,804.69
KALC	Dynamic Councillor Course	£60.00
DCK Accounting	Payroll fees – Sept	£36.00
Staff	Salary	£743.15

Mr R Jackson	Honorarium	£300.00
HMRC	PAYE & NI	£105.06
Administration	Expenses	£94.74
Mr R Malone	Litter Picking Recreation Ground - Sept Litter Picking	£459.00
Eastling Parish Council	Share of Clerks' Conference	£10.00
Mrs E Jackson	Village Celebration expenses	£64.23
Newington Village Hall	Hall Hire	£45.00
Mr MJ Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance - Sept	£550.00
Mr R Burrows	Track gate keeper- Sept	£125.00
Swale Borough Council	Village Voice printing	£161.50
RJ Moss Ltd	installation of ceiling strips in the pavilion	£1,0560.00

Cllr Godmon **PROPOSED** to authorise the payments; **SECONDED** by Cllr Jackson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Bank accounts

NatWest:- 05.09.22 £12,373.55
 Nationwide:- 31.03.22 £45,774.68
 Unity Trust:- 31.08.22 £71,441.82

Payments

18.08.22	Drax Energy	Street lighting (149.90) Pavilion (117.53)	£267.43
23.08.22	NEST	Pension	£160.49

Receipts

02.08.22	Vibe	Parish Room hire	£20.00
08.08.22	Mr R Jackson	Parish Room hire	£10.00
12.08.22	KCC	Balance of Covid Local Recovery Grant	£796.00
22.08.22	Dignity	Memorial fee	£68.00
23.08.22	John Weir	Cemetery fee	£930.00
24.08.22	Co-op Funeral Service	Cemetery fee	£578.00
30.08.22	Swans Fitness Club	Community Sports Room hire	£25.00

14. CHURCHYARD AND CEMETERY

Cllr Layer informed Members that the contractor has started cutting the Cemetery boundary hedge. The Cemetery is in good order and visitors have commented on how good the area is looking.

15. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Layer said scaffolding has been up at The Inglenook for months and it is obstructing the pavement, a push chair cannot go through.

ACTION: Cllr Palmer to contact Swale Building Control.

16. STREET LIGHTING

Cllr Palmer said the contractor is ascertaining date from UKPN for the Replacement of Church Lane light.

17. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Palmer said the next Swale West Parishes Meeting will be at Bobbing Village Hall on Monday 17th October at 7:30pm.

SBCllr Horton said the new date for the Swale Western Area Committee Workshop for Walking and Cycling Project is on Tuesday 18 October at 2 pm in the Committee Room in Swale House.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 01.09.22- KALC: M20 Moveable Barrier project update
2. 02.09.22- Kent County Council Rail Summit invitation
3. 02.09.22- KALC Newsletter
4. 02.09.22- Cllr Mike Baldock: Swale West Parish Group meeting
5. 07.09.22- National Highways: M2 junction 5 improvement scheme – update
6. 08.09.22- KCC Highways: temporary closure - Boxted Lane, Newington 30 September
7. 08.09.22- National Highways: A249 - Closure for line painting 11 September
8. 09.09.22- Swale Borough Council's response to the passing of Her Majesty The Queen
9. 12.09.22- Friends of Citizens Advice Swale Newsletter
10. 16.09.22- KALC: 2 minutes silence Monday 19 September
11. 20.09.22- The Queen's Green Canopy Update: memorial tree planting for Her Majesty
12. 20.09.22- NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin

Cllr Palmer said (item 6) that when the notice of temporary road closure was published, KCC Highways said BT must find another diversion route, nothing has been published.

ACTION: Cllr Palmer to ascertain details.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Jackson said the Community Warden has informed the Council that she is semi-retired and only working three days per week, nothing had been received from official sources.

ACTION: Clerk to contact County Councillor.

Cllr Jackson said a new date needs to be set for the Extra Ordinary meeting of the Amenities Committee.

It was agreed to meet on Tuesday 4 October at 2pm at the Pavilion.

Cllr S Harvey thanked the Clerk for the Drax refund spreadsheet and asked if the invoices are being checked.

The Clerk said the Pavilion Caretaker is taking monthly readings which are being sent to Drax.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 25 October 2022 at 7pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting