

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 19 February 2019 in the Wickham Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Tony Mould, visiting Member Cllr Jeannie Milburn; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were Community Warden Georgina Springall and one member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Graham Staff; apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 22 January 2019

Cllr Jackson said the Community Warden has the spray paint for anti dog fouling campaign. Cllr Jackson said ownership of path behind houses in Orchard Drive is being ascertained, Swale Borough Council says it does not belong to them and is checking with Optivo. The Parish Council needs to ascertain the ownership of the land and the right of usage.

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

There was no report from the PCSO.

ii. Community Warden report

1) *Several black sacks of household rubbish fly tipped in entrance of footpath that leads to Wormdale Farm off track from Callaways lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*

2) *Dog fouling on High Street, Bull Lane pavement and Church Lane- Monitoring area.*

3) *Resident leaving blue and green dustbins on the road in Bull Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*

4) *Lamp post not working outside Methodist Church in Church Lane – Reported to Clerk.*

5) *Wide screen television fly tipped next to bin in Orchard Drive – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*

6) *Concerns from resident regarding one/two highway maintenance vans that are parked up all day. They are railway workers who due to health and safety have an emergency backup crew waiting.*

7) *Double glazing canvassers knocking on door giving out leaflets and attempting to arrange for their agents to be allowed to make phone call to arrange appointment to attend and give quote – Discussed village being a ‘no cold caller zone’ and ‘no caller’ stickers on doors.*

8) *Concerns regarding safety of elderly driver witnessed driving dangerously on the highway – liaised with John Cork.*

9) *Visited resident who is suspected of not picking up after his dog.*

10) Dog bin not emptied in Callaways Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council who stated it was not their responsibility and had previously been emptied in error. Passed information onto Clerk.

11) Young German Shepherd dog out of control in orchard area who repeatedly jumped up at resident who has a fear of dogs – Reported to Swale Borough Council dog warden.

12) Duster sellers in Denham Road/Church Lane area – Reported to PCSO John Cork.

13) Complaints from neighbours regarding noise from motorbike that is revved up outside houses at 6.30 am – Spoke to resident.

14) Twenty-six empty nitrous oxide cannisters and balloons found on track in recreation ground that leads down to allotments – Reported to PCSO Cork.

15) Vandalism occurred over night to parked car in Station Road – Police aware.

Ms Springall reported the layby at the top of Bull Lane has been fenced off which has addressed the issue of fly tipping. There has been an increase in fly tipping in the village.

Cllr Jackson said the Parish Council has expressed concern to KCCllr Whiting that Kent County Council is charging for non-domestic waste taken to the tip and asked that Ms Springall report any incidents to the Parish Council.

Cllr Harvey said Medway Council is now considering charges at its tips.

Ms Springall reported there has been an increase in dog fouling in the village and this is being monitored. Residents are also monitoring the area and reporting issues.

Cllr Harvey said any incidents of cold calling must be routinely reported to Trading Standards as Newington is a Cold Calling Control Zone.

ACTION: Cllr Harvey to draft letter to send to offending firms and Trading Standards.

Ms Springall said a resident has asked if her four-year old child can use its battery powered quad bike on the Recreation Ground.

Councillors agreed that this would be acceptable.

Cllr Jackson thanked Ms Springall for attending the meeting and for her report.

6. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson said the Football Club have suggested meeting at the Recreation Ground on Saturday.

ACTION: Cllr Harvey and Cllr Layer to meet with the Football Club to consider the site for the five-a-side football goals.

ii. To consider quotations for crown lift of oak tree.

Four quotations had been requested but only two have been received. Councillors considered that the oak tree is a fine specimen and that the resident in Orchard Terrace had asked for the overhanging branches to be cut back. Councillors considered that it would be appropriate to ask the resident to pay half of the cost of the tree work.

Cllr Mould **PROPOSED** to ask the resident to pay half the cost of the tree work; **SECONDED** by Cllr Coles: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ACTION: Clerk to request the resident to pay half the cost of the tree work.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to recommend to Full Council acceptance of the quotation of £500 from Treefolk for tree work; **SECONDED** by Cllr Coles: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

7. Play Area

Cllr Harvey reported the contractor will paint the frames of the play equipment when the weather is warmer. Advice has been sought from Daniel Gooch, Swale Borough Council Green Spaces Officer, who will make a site visit to discuss the site of a zip-wire. The Friends of Newington Recreation Ground have a meeting on 6 March and are busy seeking funding

for the play area. The Friends Group is drafting its constitution which will be presented to the Amenities Committee and then to Full Council.
Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Harvey for his report.

8. Pavilion

Cllr Coles asked for an update on Parish Room bookings.
The Clerk said the School Year 6 leavers prom has been booked for July.
Cllr Mould said an article could be included in the Village Voice to raise awareness of the Parish Room.
ACTION: Clerk to draft item for the Newsletter.

9. Defibrillator

Mr Jackson reported the defibrillator cabinet and spare pads have been delivered and that he will liaise with Cllr Palmer for a suitable site for the equipment.

10. Allotments

Cllr Layer reported the five fence panels for the allotments have been delivered and are waiting to be put up.

11. Highways

Cllr Coles said the A249 had been closed at 8am.
Cllr Layer said there were roadworks on the A2, towards Rainham.
Cllr Jackson said the cost of a traffic survey is £300.
ACTION: Clerk to ascertain how long the survey lasts.
Cllr Harvey said Steve Wilcock, Mid Kent Environmental Health, has indicated a survey was carried out last summer in Newington High Street and it was found that the percentage of HGVs had dropped. The aspiration is that HGVs avoid rush hours must be enforced and also on Friday mornings due to refuse collection.
Cllr Coles said the KCC Crash Website gives statistics for accidents, the Parish Council has discussed a zebra crossing on Boyces Hill but as there are no fatalities KCC will not facilitate this.
Cllr Jackson said the problem is that pedestrians cannot cross the road at that point.

12. Lights

Cllr Jackson said the car park light is still out.
ACTION: Clerk to report to Swale Borough Council and also to SBCllr Wright.
Cllr Layer reported the light outside the Methodist Church is not working.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Harvey reported there is another lorry parked on the Kemsley Bridge and it is blocking the bridleway.

14. Village Voice and Media

Cllr Mould said the Village Clean Up on 22 and 23 March will be publicised.
ACTION: Cllr Mould to research the Great British Spring Clean and report to Full Council.
Cllr Jackson said Network Rail could also be contacted regarding the litter behind the platforms.
ACTION: Councillors to monitor area and ascertain suitable sites for litter picking.
It was agreed to include an article about cold callers; the need to report crimes; the Annual Parish Meeting with an invitation for all Newington Groups to attend.

15. Any Other Business

Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr Harvey said that following the good response from village organisations to attend the Annual Parish Meeting, there should only be one meeting on 30 April.

Councillors agreed to recommend to Full Council changes for the April meetings, Amenities Committee on 16 April, Full Council 23 April and the Annual Parish Meeting on 30 April. Cllr Mould said the volunteers should be formally invited to the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Harvey said the Ward members and County Councillor should also be invited to attend but not to speak because the meeting will fall within the purdah period. Councillors agreed to recommend to Full Council a budget of £75 towards refreshments. Cllr Milburn said she will make the hot drinks at the meeting. The format of the agenda will be finalised next meeting

Date of Next Meeting: 19 March 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair

Date: 26 February 2019