

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Tuesday 17 April 2018 in the Wickham Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Sue Brewster, Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Ray Cuffley Cllr Stephen Harvey and Cllr Tony Mould; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present was one member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Richard Palmer: apologies accepted

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jackson declared a pecuniary interest in the Pavilion as her husband runs a business from it.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 20 March 2018

- Pavilion work is due to start on Wednesday 18 April.
- The flooring has been laid in the Pavilion and looks good. The electrical door needs to be cut as due to extenuating circumstances the contractor was unable to do this at the time.

ACTION: Clerk to contact contractor for a date to complete the work.

- The Sports Club will remove untested electrical items.
- A Tree Preservation Order has been requested for the oak tree at the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Harvey said an arboricultural report on the tree may be necessary.

The Clerk said she has requested advice from the Swale Borough Council Tree Officer but has had no response.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Paul Hegley again.

- PFL Electrical has been given notice of termination of contract.
- The Council is waiting to receive the survey from Streetlights.

4. Public Question Time

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.

A resident asked what was happening to the path behind the houses in Orchard Drive which back on to the Recreation Ground.

The Community Warden's report indicated the slabs are being removed and a concrete path is being laid.

The meeting was reconvened.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO John Cork was unable to attend the meeting and submitted the following report 01/03/2018 to 15/04/2018:

1. *Edwin Place Newington Damage to window.*
2. *Playstool Road Newington, Burglary, house was left unopened nothing taken.*
3. *Orchard Drive, Newington. Tools taken from van, Police have suspect for this crime.*
4. *Graffiti in Bus Stop, nothing seen or heard from public.*

5. *Nuisance bike reported by residents ridding around the recreation ground. I have attended the area and the bike made off over to the Orchard.*
6. *The only report about nuisance youths in the area was on the 03/03/2018 reference a quad riding around the area in the snow and youths throwing snow balls at resident's properties.*
7. *Could you remind resident not to use Facebook to report any incidents happening in the area.*

Councillors expressed concern about the amount of information in the report and were unsure of why residents should not use Facebook to inform parishioners of incidents.

ACTION 1: Clerk to request more detail to be included in future reports.

ACTION 2: Cllr Mould to contact the PCSL for clarification as to why residents should not use Social media to increase local awareness of incidents in the village.

ii. Community Warden report

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

- 1) *Excessive dog fouling again on footpath that runs from Wickham Close to Mill Lane (18 piles) – Monitoring area.*
- 2) *Large amount of tools including brick saws and 'Snap on' tool set stolen from building site 'Charlotte Court' on High Street – Police aware.*
- 3) *Dogs seen with residents in children's play areas – Monitoring areas and requested to Tony, small article regarding this to be inserted into 'The Village Voice'.*
- 4) *Lamp post not working outside 4A Orchard Drive – Reported to Clerk.*
- 5) *Residents complaining about the muddy pavement outside new building site in High Street.*
- 6) *Graffiti in bus shelter on High Street, (next to car wash) – Reported to Clerk.*
- 7) *Concerns from residents regarding householder filling up Swale Borough Council bin which is situated on pavement, with household rubbish - Swale Borough Council. aware.*
- 8) *Fly tipping, a boat In High Oak Hill – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 9) *Successful bingo club afternoon, discussed latest scams etc.*
- 10) *Elderly male resident knocked over by crossing on High Street by lorry that failed to stop. The gentleman unfortunately passed away in hospital the following day – Police aware.*
- 11) *Canvassers knocking on doors Playstool Road area.*
- 12) *Very successful first meeting of St. Mary's Art Group down at the church. Fifteen residents attended who chatted and painted and drew. One lady very kindly brought a large homemade cake with her.*
- 13) *Dog fouling in Bull Lane – Monitoring area.*
- 14) *Removed all 'Santas Circus' posters that had been 'bill posted' throughout the High Street. The problem is, they never remove them after the event.*
- 15) *Vehicle with no tax or MOT parked in Orchard Drive, this vehicle has been here for months and previously reported to DVLA now reported to Swale Borough Council as an abandoned vehicle.*
- 16) *Excessive dog fouling down track that leads from Callaways Lane to Monkey Island – Reported to Swale Borough Council Dog Warden who has attended area and put up new 'dog fouling penalty posters'. I am also monitoring area.*
- 17) *Neighbour dispute – Intend to make joint visit with PCSO John Cork to both parties.*
- 18) *House in Iwade Road had stone from catapult through glass front door – Police aware.*
- 19) *Another house in Iwade Road had stone from catapult through front window on a different evening – Police aware.*
- 20) *Neighbour dispute in Playstool Road – reported to Optivo housing officers.*
- 21) *Several tyres fly tipped along Mill Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 22) *Large foreign lorry knocked down the flint wall at entrance to Bull Lane as he was attempting to turn right into the High Street – Police attended.*

23) *Concerns from resident who saw two large Volvo 'Gallagher' dumper lorries mounting pavements as they travelled down Church Lane from the High Street.*

24) *Contractors employed by 'Optivo' housing removing slabs from path at rear of houses between recreation ground and Orchard Drive. This will be replaced with a concrete path which will be safer for residents.*

25) *Residence in Orchard Drive had an air gun pellet fired from a car at their front window – police aware.*

ACTION: Clerk to forward residents' concerns about the lorries using Church Lane to Gallaghers.

iii. To receive report of meeting with Inspector Craig West

The Community Safety Unit Inspector for Swale District, Inspector Gavin Wade has now moved onto to a new role and a meeting was held with a deputy of Inspector Craig West prior to the Amenities Committee meeting. Coverage for the Festival was offered.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Inspector West to thank him for sending a representative and for the offer of the support offered by Inspector Wade.

6. Recreation Ground

i. Newington Community Sports Club- to consider business plan and receive an update

Councillors considered the email from the Sports Club which had lots of plans but no research to back up their ideas, more information is needed. Councillors agreed that they wanted to continue to support the Club.

The Sports Club requested:

a- Booking the Parish Room for an open drop-in event between now and June.

Councillors agreed to support the use of the Parish Room on a date to be agreed with the Clerk and will promote it through the Council's media. Councillors agreed to recommend to Full Council the Sports Club should have free use of the Parish Room for the event.

b- Before the end of April the Sports Club will use social media and posters to appeal for interest from the community and in particular new volunteers.

Councillors agreed the Sports Club must inform them of the numbers and names of volunteers by 10 May 2018.

c- The Sports Club will propose some dates for fundraising and community celebration events through 2018.

The Parish Council is not permitted to support the Sports Club's fundraising activities and the Club will need to hire the Parish Room for such events.

d- The Sports Club will look at how they can use the restricted gym space more efficiently to meet the needs of our swans and potentially other adult users.

Councillors said the Sports Club agreed to the space and it has large redundant machines in the Gym Room which restrict the space for users. The space could be used in a more efficient way.

e- The Sports Club will consider the possibility of offering some form of Summer holiday activity, it would have to be a realistic proposal taking into account people and resources and may involve some partnership working with other agencies.

Councillors agreed that more detail is required.

Councillors were concerned that a committee meeting had not been arranged. The Pavilion is owned by the Parish Council which has been elected by and works to serve the community. The Council has legal obligations which must be upheld and are managed accordingly. The Council has carried out its responsibilities in a professional manner.

ACTION: Response to be drafted and circulated to Amenities Committee and Cllr Haigh.

ii. Funfair

The Clerk said she has not received the Fun Fair's insurance policy.

ACTION 1: Clerk to contact Fun Fair for a copy of the insurance Policy.

ACTION 2: Clerk to draft a letter for neighbours about the Fun Fair.

iii. To consider the quotations for painting Pavilion front

Two quotations had been received for the repainting of the front of the Pavilion. Councillors considered a better specification needs to be given to contractors.

ACTION: Cllr Coles to write the specification.

iv. To consider quotations for painting bus stop

Quotations are yet to be received and will be considered at Full Council.

v. To receive any other update

Councillors considered the Grand Opening of the Pavilion and this would coincide with the Fun Fair. Leaflets with hire rates will be invited and SBCllr Lewin and SBCllr Wright will be invited as they have given grants towards the refurbishments of the Pavilion. It will be an opportunity to show residents the work the Parish Council has done to the Pavilion.

Cllr Jackson said an email has been received from a resident about the vehicles parking on the Recreation Ground during the football matches and the damage being caused to the ground. There has been a lot of work carried out at the Pavilion and some of the damage may have been caused by contractor vehicles.

Cllr Harvey said the Football Club were meant to be using the top gate.

Cllr Coles said it might be necessary to put down hard core. If the ground is particularly wet or it is raining it might be preferable for them to use the car park to prevent damage to the ground.

ACTION: Clerk to order a sign to direct cars to the car park.

Cllr Jackson said that Grasstex is no longer operating in Kent and Landscape Services have taken over some of the contracts. Landscape Services have indicated they will take over Newington's contract and will submit a quotation for the work. The football pitch needs to be cut for a match on Sunday.

ACTION: Clerk to request a price for a one-off cut for the weekend.

Cllr Jackson asked for an update of the play area.

The Clerk said Daniel Gooch, Swale Borough Council, had offered to meet with Councillors but no one had responded to the dates given.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain further dates from Mr Gooch

Cllr Jackson reported the Facilities Management checks showed no change.

7. Allotments

Cllr Layer reported the fence has been erected.

Cllr Mould said there will be an article in the Village Voice about the allotments fence.

8. Newington Festival 2018

Cllr Jackson said there will be a patriotic theme for the Festival with a red, white and blue colour scheme. Advertising space in the programme is selling well and raffle and tombola prizes are being received.

Cllr Coles said twenty-two stalls have booked already and there will also be demonstrations throughout the day. The Fun Fair will not be at the Festival due to the change of date as it has another commitment elsewhere. There will be two bouncy castles.

Councillors agreed to recommend the Best Kept Garden Competition prizes be presented at the festival.

Cllr Jackson said sites are needed for the signs.

9. Lights

Cllr Jackson said there are a number of lights which are not working in the village.

10. Footpaths and Bridleways

There was nothing to report.

11. Village Voice

Cllr Mould said the Pavilion Opening; street lights; ASB; dog fouling; Allotment Association; Parish Council Report; Newington History Society; Newington Festival; Reading Group and usual advertisements will be included in the Village Voice. The notice for the Annual Parish Meeting will also need to be included.

ACTION: Clerk to draft Annual Parish Meeting notice.

12. Any Other Business

Co-op funding.

ACTION: Clerk to check if the Parish Council is eligible to apply.

Cllr Harvey asked if the S106 money for Parsonage farm has been received.

The Clerk said she has been emailing the officer.

ACTION 1: Clerk to contact Officer again.

ACTION 2: Cllr Harvey to contact SBCllr Lewin.

Date of Next Meeting: 22 May 2018

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