

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held remotely on
20 October 2020.

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Richard Geldard, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr James Morgan and Cllr Tony Mould; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ryan Condron; apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from minutes 22 September 2020

Cllr Harvey said the weed spraying along the footpaths around the village is usually carried out once a year.

Cllr Layer said that some areas have been sprayed.

4. Public Question Time

No members of the public were present.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

Cllr Mould said he will ask the PCSO for a report for Full Council.

ii. Community Warden report

Community Warden Georgina Springall had sent the following report:

- 1) Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents who are self-isolating.
- 2) Attended weekly rural walks with residents.
- 3) Anti-social behaviour by youths around play area (Bull Lane/Dennis Willcocks Close) – PCSO John Cork aware.
- 4) Found residents wallet in Orchard Drive and returned to owner.
- 5) Fly tipping in lay by top of Mill Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 6) Damaged caused to trellis on High Street by drunken male – Police aware.
- 7) Two males entered a garden area on Keycol Hill and attempted to steal a motorbike – Police aware.
- 8) Neighbour dispute continuing- Police and Optivo aware.
- 9) Fly tipping in Iwade Road (three separate piles) – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 10) Arranged for plumber to fix elderly residents' radiator that was not working – he sorted it free of charge.
- 11) Tree fallen and obstructing footpath that leads bedside old watercress beds – Reported to KCC Public Right of Ways.
- 12) Checked out suspected abandoned vehicle for resident – not abandoned, local car.
- 13) Two-year-old golden male cocker spaniel missing/ suspected stolen from house in Bull Lane - local CCTV being checked, Police aware.

Cllr Layer reported the dog has been found.

Cllr Jackson said the new New Trading Standards 'Check a trade' website could be publicised in the Village Voice.

6. Recreation Ground

Cllr Harvey reported there will be a meeting with contractor for the play area to discuss the surfacing and the non-specified item.

Cllr Harvey said the Council needs to decide if it is going to proceed with the woodland project and to consider about the removal of some trees.

Cllr Morgan said that he has been trying to contact the Scouts.

Cllr Harvey said that trees need to be cut down from November to the end of February, before birds start nesting again. It would be helpful to ascertain the cost of felling a tree and whether the Scouts would be interested in the wood.

Cllr Harvey said the Parish Council gave an undertaking that the ball court would be lit until 9.30pm and this was a condition of Swale Borough Council releasing the money. The wild flower planting season also needs to be ascertained.

ACTION 1: Caretaker to set timer for ball court.

ACTION 2: Cllr Harvey to ascertain wildflower planting season.

Cllr Jackson said the ground will need to be rotovated.

Cllr Harvey said the planting of the commemorative oak tree will be on 10 November, the area needs to be marked and the grass cutter needs to be informed.

Cllr Jackson said that she has received details of the contact from The Cherries regarding the wildlife garden.

Cllr Mould said quotations have been received for the car park and also the repair to the Cemetery drive. A further quote for the car park drive will be requested and the quotations will be checked to ensure they are like for like.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to ascertain further detail and check comparability.

Cllr Harvey said that he has contacted swale Borough Council regarding the number of occupied houses on the Persimmon site to ascertain if the remainder of the S106 money is payable. The quote for the ball court lights, the contractor needs to be informed that the lights are on every night and asked if this would make the change to LEDs viable now.

ACTION 1: Clerk to contact contractor.

ACTION 2: Clerk to contact Swale Borough Council to ascertain if remainder of S106 money is payable.

Cllr Mould said wording for the track sign needs to be finalised and the size and type of sign needs to be considered.

Cllr Harvey asked if there could be a height barrier for the car park.

7. Pavilion

Cllr Geldard said an engineer will look at the water heater when he is next in the area.

Cllr Harvey asked if the engineer could look at the push heater to see if it can be changed to a domestic heater.

Cllr Jackson reported that there is a leak in the Pavilion roof and that it is coming down and onto the verandah.

ACTION: Cllr Layer and the caretaker to investigate.

Cllr Morgan reported that he has the sign for the toilets and that he will give them to Cllr Jackson.

8. Allotments

Cllr Layer said that the allotments has received the delivery of manure.

9. Highways

Cllr Harvey said the corner of The Manor at Bull Lane, Callaways Lane and Wormdale is overgrown and overhanging the road, the undergrowth has spread six feet from the wall. The overgrowth needs cutting back.

ACTION: Clerk to report

Cllr Harvey said that at 37 London Road a new fence and gate have been erected on the east of the property, the occupier uses the gate for access to the green space on which he stores his wheelie bins.

Cllr Jackson said that there is another gate at the other end which opens onto narrow land at the end of the road.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Swale Borough Council and KCC

Cllr Jackson said there has been an email regarding Swale Borough Council's anti-idling campaign, signs are available for near schools.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to contact the school.

Cllr Layer reported that there is a vehicle counter across the road after the school entrance.

Cllr Harvey said that this could be tied in to potential development nearby.

Cllr Harvey said KCCllr Whiting had promised a meeting regarding the gas works.

Cllr Mould said that he has emailed KCCllr Whiting.

Cllr Jackson said contractors have driven over the green again, there is a total disregard of village amenities.

10. Lights

Cllr Harvey asked for an update on the insurance claim in Bull Lane.

The Clerk said that she had not heard anything.

ACTION: Clerk to chase.

Cllr Jackson asked if there is a universal key for the re-useable bands on the street lights.

11. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Harvey said that there are still issues on the public footpath by the Persimmon development, it needs to be ascertained what the developer's plans are and when they intend to restore it.

ACTION: Clerk to report and inform KCCllr Whiting.

12. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said that an article about Newington Warriors has been submitted for inclusion. The new Check a Trade website will be included. Further articles are needed.

Cllr Harvey said Armistice would be appropriate.

Cllr Mould said the Parish Council will have a wreath and lay it at the War Memorial. There will possibly be a limited service outside without hymns and choirs, this will be publicised nearer the time as the current situation with Government restrictions is constantly changing.

Cllr Harvey said there could be a link to the website of The Six and the Rector could be asked for details. A COVID-19 disclaimer could be included.

Cllr Jackson said the Highways survey could be included.

Cllr Harvey said there needs to be a link to help residents find up-to-date COVID-19 information.

13. Environment

Cllr Jackson said a quote needs to be obtained for the work at the woodland. The Council has a Swale Environment Grant of £250 and it has been agreed to purchase £100 worth of bulbs and to spend £150 on the woodland.

It was **AGREED** for Cllr Jackson to order bulbs and planters.

14. Christmas Decorations

Cllr Jackson said that Acorn Car Wash has agreed to have a Christmas tree, there has been no response yet from The Bull.

Cllr Mould said the Council could consider the possibility of a permanent hole to erect a Christmas tree on the green every year, possibly lit with solar lights.

Cllr Jackson said the two current sites were chosen because they are in the middle of the village and also to help with security of the trees.

Cllr Mould said it is too late to consider this year but could be discussed for next year.

Cllr Jackson reported that she had received a quotation for a Christmas tree to be delivered and there needs to be lights.

Cllr Harvey said it should be an investment, solar lights are not very effective on the shortest day.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotes for a 12' tree delivered and erected.

15. Any Other Business

No other matters were raised.

Date of Next Meeting: 17 November 2020

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.01pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair

Date: 27 October 2020