

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held at Newington Pavilion on 22 September 2021

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr James Morgan and Cllr Tony Mould; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk). Also present was Mr Jackson the Pavilion Caretaker.

Cllr Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

All Members were present.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from minutes 24 August 2021

Cllr Jackson reported that the Council had agreed to contribute £750 towards the Newington History Group World War I information boards and it was requested that the Council sees the proof.

4. Public Question Time

No Matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO John Cork was unable to attend and sent the following report:

Crimes of note

Attempted robbery of a person walking through the alleyway from the village hall towards the High Street. Nothing taken this happened on 11/09/21.

Car damaged outside an address in Playstool Road believed to be an ex-partner 15/09/21

Lights damaged outside a property in Playstool Road 21/08/21

Motorcycle stolen from a property in Watling Drive and found at the end of the road with no damage .23/08/21.

Resident in St Marys View had their number plates stolen on 13/09/21.

Vehicle stolen from a property in Keycol Hill. Keys left in vehicle 23/08/21.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

Nuisance bike reported to have been riding around the Newington area. Any information call PCSO Cork on 07772226217. Motorbike believed to come from an address in Orchard Drive

ii. Community Warden report

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

- 1) Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents.
- 2) Fly tipping (large three seater settee and fridge) London Road verge – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 3) Complaints from residents regarding dog barking in rear garden during early hours of the morning – Reported to Swale Borough Council dog warden.
- 4) Neighbour dispute – PCSO John Cork and Optivo housing officer aware.
- 5) Arranged for 'Trading Standards Checked' heating engineer to service elderly residents heating boiler.

- 6) Bumpy alley overgrown with weeds and nettles – Email sent to Clerk.
- 7) Box of 'no cold calling' stickers given to Cllr Mould for distribution to new housing estate via The Village Voice.
- 8) Dogs out of control running from residence into public footpath and also worrying postal delivery persons – Swale Borough Council Dog Warden aware.
- 9) Excessive dog fouling again on the track that leads to Monkey Island (off Callaways Lane) – Monitoring area.
- 10) Neighbour dispute regarding noise – Swale Borough Council aware.
- 11) Car number plates stolen from vehicle – Police aware.
- 12) Bicycle stolen from rear garden- Police aware.
- 13) Attempted theft of transit van from Happy Pants Ranch, Iwade Road – Police aware.
- 14) Theft of Toyota Land Cruiser from Keycol Hill – Police aware.

ACTION: Clerk to conduct a Land Registry search of land at the new development.

6. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Harvey reported that the height barrier has been installed, there has been an issue with young people sitting on top of the barrier, the contractor recommends installing a spikey strip and a warning sign.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** that the Council spend up to £200 to install the strip and sign: **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Harvey informed Members that Wicksteed engineers had visited the play area and have resolved the issues with the disabled access roundabout and skateboard challenge and have also replaced the brake on the zip wire. Another engineer has also inspected the net. The second ROSPA inspection report has passed the equipment.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** that the balance of the Wicksteed invoice be paid as all work has been completed; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ii. Adult exercise equipment

Cllr Jackson informed Members that the Queenborough Fisheries Trust has indicated that this is the type of project they are interested in. Their next meeting is in December. Ideas and quotes need to be obtained to be able to apply for the grant and it might be possible to attract other grant funding.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotations

Cllr Mould said ideas from residents could be sought through the Village Voice.

iii. To consider quotations for Recreation ground and Play Area maintenance

Cllr Jackson said that six contractors have been contacted, only one quote has been received and two have declined to tender.

ACTION: Clerk to chase for quotes.

ITEM FOR FULL COUNCIL

iv. To consider quotations for tree work

Cllr Layer reported that he had met four contractors.

Cllr Jackson said the Swale Welcome Back Fund is still open and makes grants of £1,000-5,000 and Swale has indicated an application can still be submitted.

Cllr Mould **PROPOSED** that funding be obtained for two Phoenix benches with arms and a Pembridge picnic bench: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Mould reported that the Newington History Group centenary tree will be planted at 11am on 11 November.

7. Pavilion

Cllr Jackson reported that Swale Borough Council has grants for defibrillators, one could be installed on the compound fence to be easily accessible.

ACTION: Clerk to apply for a grant

Mr Jackson reported that the wildflowers were growing over the footpath.

ACTION: Cllr Harvey to ask the local expert for help.

8. Allotments

There was nothing to report.

9. Community Woodland

Cllr Harvey reported that the provisional work on the woodland has been booked and a felling licence needs to be obtained. The work needs to be completed by February.

10. Highways

Cllr Jackson said details of the M2 Stockbury works could be published in the Village Voice.

11. Lights

Cllr Jackson reported that Network Rail has denied responsibility for the Light under bridge, Cllr Palmer and Cllr Godmon have been liaising with Network Rail.

12. Footpaths and Bridleways

There was nothing to report.

13. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said there would be an article regarding a Tree for the Jubilee; Councillor Vacancies; planning; the mobile library; the church draw; how to report issues in the village; the Youth Club; Newington Bingo Club and modernizing the adult exercise equipment.

Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Mould for his work on the Village Voice.

14. Cemetery and Churchyard

Cllr Layer reported that the Cemetery Working Party has completed the Risk Assessment, there are two memorials which are rocky and the families will be contacted. The benches are in good order. There needs to be a Working Party at the Cemetery to clear the paths of moss and helpers will be needed.

Item for the Village Voice.

Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Layer for his report.

15. Queen's Platinum Jubilee 22 June 2022

i. Village Fete

Cllr Mould said proceeds from the fete could purchase mugs for the children.

Cllr Harvey said the mugs could be given to children of the village school. Children do not use mugs but they would be a good keepsake.

Cllr Morgan said it would be good to give the mugs out at the fete.

Cllr Mould said the fete could take the form of a village picnic; toilets will be required and there will be a tea tent, a barbecue, funfair, ice creams, charities, radio station and emergency services.

Cllr Harvey said the PTA and church could also be involved.

Cllr Jackson said a working group needs to be formed and an article for volunteers included in the Village Voice. The fete could be on Saturday 4 June 2022.

Cllr Mould said the fete will be like a street party but held at the Recreation Ground.

ii. The Queen's Green Canopy

Cllr Jackson said there has been several articles in the Village Voice but there has been no feedback.

Cllr Harvey said there is also an issue as to where the tree could be planted in the village.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain if there are free saplings available.

16. Christmas Decorations

Cllr Jackson said there are three Christmas trees and lights left from last year.

17. Location of meetings

It was agreed to have the October meeting at the Pavilion and then meet in the Wickham Room from November to February.

18. Any Other Business

Cllr Jackson said that there is still money left from the Swale Environment Grant, plants could be purchased for the concrete planters in the village.

Cllr Jackson asked if there should be an Autumn clean up.

Cllr Mould said there was a lot of interest in the Spring but little previously in the Autumn.

Cllr Harvey said the garage wall facing the play area needs to be painted, a self-help day could be arranged.

Date of Next Meeting: 19 October 2021

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.38pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 28 September 2021