

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion on 19 September 2023

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chairman), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Ruth Brown and Cllr Stephen Harvey; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present was Mr Bob Jackson, Pavilion Caretaker

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Michael Barlow (work) Cllr Tony Mould (holiday) and Cllr Chris Palmer (unwell) apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2023

Cllr Jackson said KCC Highways is waiting for a date to collect the 20mph banners.

ACTION: Banners to be left with Cllr Brown.

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

Cllr Layer said he had removed the No dog fouling sign from the Recreation Ground as it had been damaged. There has been some damage on the see-saw.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain new sign and contact Wicksteed.

6. Recreation Ground and green spaces

Cllr Harvey reported that he had met with Wicksteed to get some ideas to spend the s106 money. The Clerk will submit the quote to Swale Borough Council.

Cllr Harvey informed Members that GRAHAM will start work on the new access to the Pavilion and asked the Clerk if letters had been delivered to neighbours.

The Clerk confirmed that she had done this.

7. Pavilion

i. To receive an update

ii. To consider quotations for roof repairs

iii. To consider quotation for sealing the soil stack in the chair cupboard

Cllr Jackson said one quote has been received and includes work on the gable ends.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain additional quotations.

8. Allotments

Cllr Layer said that UKPN's contractor has looked at the allotments fence and deny any liability.

ACTION: Clerk to respond.

9. Highways

There was nothing to report.

10. Lights

Cllr Harvey asked for an update on the light under the railway bridge.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted KCCllr David Brasier again and an officer said it the responsibility of National Rail; National Rail says it is the responsibility of Network Rail and Network Rail says it is not their responsibility. KCCllr Brasier has been contacted again.

ACTION: Clerk to forward correspondence to KCCllr Brasier's successor.

Cllr Harvey said the alleyway to the Village Hall is still not working, it is getting very dark and dangerous in the area.

The Clerk said there is an issue with the power supply and Swale Borough Council is waiting for UKPN to attend.

ACTION: Clerk to chase.

11. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Jackson said Cllr Harvey is going to report the problem with the Mill Hill to Boxted Lane footpath and that she will report the stile near Persimmon development.

12. Village Voice and media

i. To receive an update

Cllr Harvey reported that at the Extraordinary Meeting on 13 September, a resident offered to print and deliver the Village Voice to neighbours who are not on the internet.

ii. To consider quotations for website

Cllr Jackson said HugoFox will charge for the website from 4 October.

Councillors considered the quotations.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to recommend to Full Council, to accept the quotation from HugoFox to upgrade to the silver package to ensure the Planning Tracker is retained; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

13. Cemetery and Churchyard

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson said a grave digger is unable to remove the spoil from a grave as he does not have a Waste Carriers Licence.

It was agreed that Hipposkip could be used if necessary and the cost added to the interment fee.

ACTION: Clerk to set up an account to receive preferential costs.

ii. To consider issues in section C

Councillors noted that artificial turf, which is not permitted under Cemetery Regulations, has been laid around the edge of a plot, the ground underneath is not level.

ACTION: Clerk to write to owner of the Exclusive Right of Burial.

Councillors noted that a bush on a grave has grown into a tree.

ACTION: Clerk to write to owner of the Exclusive Right of Burial.

iii. To consider request to pre-purchase a plot.

Councillors considered requests for permission to prepurchase adjacent plot and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to permit the purchase of plots in rotation.

14. Restoration of Commemorative Plaques on Coronation Bus Stop -To consider quotations

Cllr Jackson reported that the Clerk had tried to obtain quotations, one declined to quote and only one submitted a quotation.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend to Full Council to accept the quotation of £343.75 from Mr Clive Sherwood to over-cut the letters.

15. Events

i. Review of Fete 2023

ii. Village Fete 2024

Cllr Jackson said there had been no response from the Fair Ground proprietor as to whether he will attend the Fete next year

16. Any Other Business

Councillors considered the request from a Sittingbourne resident to have toilets at the Recreation Ground. Concern was raised regarding the cost of such a facility and also that it could attract vandalism. It was noted that Swale Borough Council is closing their public toilets because of costs, vandalism and antisocial behaviour. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** not to install the facility.

Date of next meeting- 24 October 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.27pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 26 September 2023