

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion on 23 October 2023

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chairman), Cllr Michael Barlow, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Tony Mould, Cllr Chris Palmer and visiting Member Cllr Richard Palmer; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present was Mr Bob Jackson, Pavilion Caretaker

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Eric Layer (personal) and Cllr Ruth Brown (unwell); apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2023

Cllr Jackson informed Members that the work on the commemorative plaque will be carried out in the New Year.

ACTION: Clerk to check dates

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

PC Jez Chittim was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following report:

ASB Reports to Police:

- 7th September – Report made of several young males on the bridge at Wormdale Hill throwing stones over the side. Only one call made, however the informant reported that one of the stone hit their windscreen causing a small chip. This then quickly became a long crack which required the whole windscreen to be replaced. A patrol attended but did not locate and youths in the area.
- 7th September – Report of a youth throwing an apple at a neighbouring property in Pear Tree Walk causing it to smash and make a mess in the front garden. Previous reports from the same location, recorded as harassment.
- 28th September – Report that in the early hours of the morning, a group of what appears to be young males hanging around The Nisa shop in the High Street were throwing stones at the window. On attending the store later that morning, staff found a window had been smashed. Not reported at the time as Victim only viewed CCTV after locating the damage.
- 4th October – Victim woke up to find flour had been thrown over his windscreen of his car, causing it to clump and go into the vents making a large amount of mess.

Cllr Jackson said there have been incidents of throwing stones in the village.

Cllr R Palmer reported that there has been an incident at the station.

Cllr C Palmer said she had received a complaint as Ward Member regarding threatening and intimidating behaviour by a resident, the matter is being dealt with by Southern Housing.

Cllr Jackson said PC Chittim held a Police surgery in the hall car park on Sunday 8 October and one person visited. He has been informed of the Cornerstone Café and that the Council can publicise details of surgeries if given sufficient notice. PC Chittim has held two surgeries

at Newington School and these are designed only for the parents of the children at that school and are being advertised internally within the school.

6. Recreation Ground and green spaces

Cllr Harvey reported the play area gate is sticking.

Cllr Jackson informed Members that there had been an issue at the Recreation Ground, the Insurance Company has been informed and further information has been supplied. The signs for the play area have been ordered, further signage needs to be obtained to prevent quad bikes.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate details of signs

Cllr Harvey reported that the Clerk had formerly submitted the quote for improvements to the play area to Sara Potter, Swale Borough Council S106 Monitoring Officer.

Cllr Harvey thanked Graham for installing the new access path to the Pavilion, the thank you event was successful.

7. Pavilion

i. To receive an update

Mr Jackson reported that there were no issues.

ii. To consider quotations for roof repairs and for sealing the soil stack in the chair cupboard

Councillors considered the quotations for the repairs to the Pavilion.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to recommend to Full Council to accept the quote of £1800 from JTF Roofing- £1500 if the quote includes seventy-five tiles: **SECONDED** by Cllr Mould: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Mr Jackson asked if the Pavilion veranda would be repaired.

Cllr Harvey said there is an aspiration to extend the Pavilion.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotes to extend the Pavilion.

8. Allotments

Cllr Jackson informed Members that Avidety, UKPN's contractor, will meet Cllr Layer to look at the damage to fence.

9. Highways

i. To receive an update

Cllr Harvey expressed concern the Church Lane was being closed during term-time for Network Rail to carry out maintenance work, it is a busy road for the village especially going to the school.

ii. To consider Disabled Bay Consultation-

Councillors raised no comments on the request for the removal of a Disabled Persons Parking Bay in the near vicinity of 43 Bull Lane, Newington.

10. Lights

Cllr Jackson informed Members that KCC Highways reported that Network Rail has confirmed that a repair of the light was conducted by them and feels that this provides strong evidence that the light is the responsibility of Network Rail. Network Rail has indicated that it will meet with KCC Highways to discuss the matter.

Cllr Harvey said it Network Rail should be asked to repair the light at the same time maintenance is planned.

Cllr R Palmer said it might be worth contacting the Rail Ombudsman.

Cllr R Palmer said Swale Borough Council is waiting for UKPN to resolve the issue with the street light in the alley way to the hall car park, there is a problem with the power supply

Cllr Jackson said the Council is waiting for clarification on the replacement columns in Station Road and Orchard Drive.

11. Footpaths and Bridleways

There was nothing to report.

12. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said the next edition will be an online version which will include details of fraud alerts; save the Fete date; details of Amenities Committee meetings.

Councillors agreed that all Amenities Committee meetings will be held in the Pavilion.

ACTION: Clerk to inform PC Chittim of the Fete date.

13. Cemetery and Churchyard

Cllr Jackson reported that there are issues with spoil from a recent burial. The company was unable to remove the Hippobag as the lorry was unable to access the Cemetery and as the bag is full of soil so they cannot carry out the collection with a man in van crew. The bag needs to be moved so that it can be collected.

ACTION: Councillors to make a site visit.

Cllr Jackson reported that the family of the grave with the tree has been written to but there has been no response. The situation will be monitored. The plot with artificial grass is in the name of the Funeral Director who is trying to trace the family.

Action: Clerk to contact resident to seek further details.

14. Events

Cllr Jackson said the Fun Fair agreed to attend the Village Fete on 13 July, there will be a Fete planning meeting in the New Year. Consideration will be given to having a marquee for a tea tent.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to ask the Church if they wish to run the tea tent.

15. Christmas Lights

Cllr Jackson said the Council still has the lights from the previous year, although there had been an unsuccessful attempt to remove a set from the tree. New batteries may be required. Cllr R Palmer said another set could be purchased.

16. Any Other Business

Cllr R Palmer asked if consideration could be given to an event for the commemorations of the 80th Anniversary of the D Day landings.

Cllr Mould said this can be discussed with Newington History Group.

Cllr Harvey said the Council could arrange a picnic with music and possibly have a re-enactment group.

Date of Next Meeting: 21 November 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 31 October 2023