

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 19 March 2019 in the Wickham Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Tony Mould, visiting Member Cllr Jeannie Milburn; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were Community Warden Georgina Springall and one member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Graham Staff; apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 19 February 2019

Cllr Jackson said Cllr Palmer and Cllr Milburn have carried out the Risk Assessment for the Newington Spring Clean and this has been submitted to Swale Borough Council. Cllr Palmer has offered to collect the equipment from Swale House. Biffa will collect the bags of rubbish at the car park on Saturday after 2pm. The Parish Council may have some disposable gloves for the volunteers to use.

ACTION 1: Clerk to Advise the Village Hall that Biffa will be collecting the bags of rubbish from the car park on Saturday.

ACTION 2: Clerk to inform litter picking contractors that the Village Spring Clean will be on Saturday.

Cllr Jackson said the resident is not willing to contribute towards the cost of work for the oak tree on the recreation ground.

ACTION: Clerk to send RHS advice to resident.

Item for Full Council agenda

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

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

Incidents from 01/02/2019-18/03/2019

Car vandalised in Station Road. 13/02/2019.

Vehicle taken in Wickham Close. 15/02/2019

Vehicle broken into St Michaels Close. 20/02/2019.

Theft of motor vehicle Playstool Close.

Theft of motor vehicle London Road, 01/03/2019.

Report of drugs in alley between Station Road and Church Lane.

Vehicle broken into and a coast guard uniform taken, in Playstool Road on 07/03/2019.

Youths reported driving a vehicle fast along the road that leads to the allotments. 03/03/2019.

Youths reported walking around the area drunk on the 08/03/2019. no damage caused.

If any residents need to contact me they can call me on 07772226217.

Cllr Mould said there has been a spike in vehicle thefts and this will be mentioned in the Village Voice.

Cllr Harvey said it would be useful to know what types of vehicles are being stolen, recently there were thefts of Land Rovers.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to liaise with PCSO Cork.

ii. Community Warden report

- 1) *Car stolen from Wickham Close – Police aware.*
- 2) *Excessive dog fouling top of track that leads from Callaways Lane to Monkey Island – Monitoring area.*
- 3) *Bumpy alley (footpath that leads from Bull Lane to Rear of odd numbers Pear Tree Walk, excessive amount of litter.*
- 4) *Fly tipping on footpath that leads through woods from Wardwell Lane to Iwade Road – Reported to Swale Borough Council*
- 5) *Suspected attempted theft from works vehicle - Advised resident to report incident to police.*
- 6) *Dog bin at entrance to wild area on recreation ground over full, not been emptied – Reported to Swale Borough Council*
- 7) *Suspected rogue trader in Westwood Walk area – Reported to KCC Trading Standards.*
- 8) *Excessive dog fouling (18 piles) from one dog on verge that runs between Pear Tree Walk and orchards – Sprayed, monitoring area and spoken to residents.*
- 9) *Graffiti on wall of air raid shelter in footpath that leads from Station Road to Church Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 10) *Dog fouling on High Street – monitoring area.*
- 11) *Rear window of vehicle broken whilst parked over night in Bull Lane, suspect done by catapult – Advised reporting to police.*
- 12) *Fridge fly tipped on High Street – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 13) *Joint visit with PCSO John Cork to elderly resident as we have concerns for her safety whilst driving and crossing the road.*
- 14) *Resident still leaving blue and green bins on road outside cottages at entrance to Bull Lane – This has now been personally checked out by head of waste department Swale Borough Council*
- 15) *Youths still suspected of drug dealing in footpath that leads from Station Road to Church Lane – Police have been made aware of this a while ago.*
- 16) *Severe parking problems in School Lane at pick up time, lane was completely obstructed on Friday afternoon – Advised school to request extension of zig zag lines and to get the new lay by opposite school double yellow lined.*
- 17) *Approximately thirty Nitrous Oxide cannisters found on forecourt to West Car Sales site.*
- 18) *Dog fouling in Station Road and on High Street – monitoring area.*
- 19) *Complaints from residents regarding excessive litter left during the evenings from the Chinese take away.*
- 20) *New siting of dog bin in Callaways Lane still needs to be situated in lane, rather down the track which has been suggested by new home owner who has complained about its present situation.*
- 21) *Bushes vandalised at new natural burial site in Wardwell Lane – Police aware.*

Ms Springall, the Community Warden reported the main issue in the village has been dog fouling, the matter is being monitored and the Dog Warden will assist if necessary. Swale Borough Council has generic letters which will be delivered to residents in the area.

Cllr Jackson said the Parish Council can help with distribution if necessary.

Ms Springall reported she had had more than one complaint regarding litter in Station Road dropped by people having a Chinese take-away.

ACTION: Clerk to write to businesses to request they litter pick near their premises.

Ms Springall reported a resident in Callaways Lane wants the dog bin moved further down the track but this would make it difficult to be emptied.

Cllr Mould said the site had been carefully chosen by the Parish Council.

ACTION: Clerk to write to the resident.

Ms Springall reported that there have been problems near the school caused by inconsiderate parking at school drop-off and collection times.

Cllr Harvey said the Head Teacher can contact the Director of Education at Kent County Council and obtain an extension of the zig zag lines.

Cllr Coles said the hard standing for the builders was going to be given to the school to use for parking.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to liaise with the Head Teacher.

Ms Springall said she has met with the Church leaders who are considering starting fellowship groups to help combat loneliness.

Cllr Jackson thanked Ms Springall for her report and for attending the meeting.

6. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson said Cllr Harvey and Cllr Layer have met with Bredgar Junior Football Club regarding the site of 5-aside pitch.

Cllr Harvey said the pitch will not be marked out.

Cllr Jackson said the posts will be able to take nets but the Parish Council will not buy the nets.

Cllr Layer said the play area has not been painted yet.

ii. Fun Fair

Cllr Harvey said the Fun Fair has decided not to come to Newington this year because it was not very well supported and Easter is later this year. There had been abuse from residents on Facebook last year which had not been helpful.

7. Play Area

Cllr Harvey informed Members that he has liaised with Daniel Gooch, Swale Green Spaces Manager, regarding the zip-wire and he has offered to make a site visit.

Cllr Harvey reported there had been a meeting of the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground and the group is currently applying for grants.

8. Pavilion

Cllr Harvey said he had noticed that some plaster has fallen down in the table store, the soil stack is solid.

ACTION: Cllr Coles to inspect the area.

Cllr Jackson reported the Weight Watcher group has cancelled its booking due to falling numbers and the organiser now has a full-time job.

The Clerk said she has had enquiries from groups using Lower Halstow School Hall who are not able to use the hall at the moment and need a new venue.

Cllr Mould informed Members that he has met with the Vicar, the curate and a youth worker who want to start a youth group for 10-12 year olds and they have been shown the Parish Room. If it is successful there might be a group for 12-15 year olds on another night. The youth worker is being funded elsewhere.

Cllr Jackson said the group could pay £5 per session for an initial three-month period.

Cllr Harvey said the Council would need the name of the organiser and also the organisation's name. The Council could be minded to offer an introductory rate.

Cllr Mould said the Church would have to make a proposal to the Council.

Cllr Harvey said the Council will need to discuss S106 money in advance of developments and should be able to say that it does not want the development but if it goes ahead the Council would like certain things for the Parish. This will be considered at the Full Council

meeting. There was no provision for youth work in Newington from the Persimmon development.

9. Defibrillator

Mr Jackson reported he checks the defibrillator at the Pavilion weekly.

Cllr Milburn said the defibrillator only needs to be checked to see if the green light is on.

Cllr Coles asked if there would be further training sessions.

Cllr Milburn said that she and Cllr Palmer could arrange further sessions.

10. Allotments

Cllr Layer said the new fencing has been received and will be erected when the weather is better. There are new allotmenters who are very enthusiastic and there is currently a waiting list for plots.

Cllr Coles said the Newington History Group has put a new sign in the Memorial Garden which the Allotment Association and the garden looks stunning.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to include in the Village Voice.

Cllr Jackson said the daffodils in Bredgar look stunning, if the Parish Council were to purchase some bulbs in the autumn, would the Allotment Association plant them. The bulbs could be near the sign and the bus stop.

Cllr Layer said they would.

Cllr Harvey said the Council needs to check with KCCllr Mike Whiting to see if the Parish Council funds the bulbs would KCC adopt the bulbs and look after it. This would ensure that the grass cutters would not mow the plants at the wrong time.

11. Highways

Cllr Harvey reported that he has protested on behalf of residents about the lack of road cleaning by Persimmon; Persimmon have said the vehicle is not licenced to be used on the road. Swale Borough Council has said this cannot be enforced as it is not a planning condition. Officers have promised to call me back but did not, there might need to be a formal complaint. The condition was agreed between Swale Borough Council and Persimmon.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KCCllr Mike Whiting regarding concerns

Cllr Coles said that there are ROAD CLOSED signs at the end of Bull Lane but it is open.

Cllr Mould reported juggernauts are still coming down Bull Lane, there needs to be better signage that the road is unsuitable for HGVs.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KCCllr Whiting to request a solution to the increased volume of HGVs on unsuitable roads and request better signage.

Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Mould for publicising the Newington Spring Clean. Cllr Palmer has posted the Spring Clean on Facebook and the Clerk has added it to the website and sent out details to the e-news circulation list.

Cllr Milburn said she will add it to another village Facebook site at the end of the week.

Councillors agreed that Station Road, Church Lane, Wardwell Lane, Bosted Lane, the top of Bull Lane and the High Street from the car wash to Callaways Lane junction.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the litter picking contractors to inform them that the Newington Spring Clean is part of the nationwide initiative and is an extra clean up in the village,

Cllr Mould said an article about the Spring Clean will be included in the Village Voice.

Cllr Coles said a report can also be sent to the Sittingbourne News Extra.

Cllr Milburn said she will bring a First Aid kit, part of the Risk Assessment needs someone who is First Aid trained.

ACTION: Clerk to email Councillors to remind them of the Spring Clean.

Cllr Harvey said there had been an email from a resident requesting details of the trees in Playstool Close, the trees do not belong to the Parish Council.

ACTION: Clerk to suggest the resident checks the Land Registry for ownership details.

12. Lights

Cllr Jackson reported the lighting contractor has found another streetlight in Boxted Lane which is engulfed by overgrowth.

ACTION: Clerk to report to KCC.

To be reviewed by Full Council.

Cllr Jackson asked for an update on the car park light.

The Clerk said she has reported this again to Swale Borough Council.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Harvey said that his understanding is unless something is gated once a year it becomes a Public Right of Way. There is an old kissing gate coming off the path and the Parish Council would not have installed this for the benefit of the resident of those houses. There is a need for low level lighting on the Recreation Ground side of the footpath.

Cllr Coles said an A frame barrier needs to be installed at the end of the alleyway between the houses to prevent quad bikes accessing the Recreation Ground, they should also be installed at the ends of the alleyway between Bull Lane and Playstool Close to prevent motor bikes.

It was agreed to obtain further quotations for the foot path to the Pavilion from the path along the edge of the Recreation Ground.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotations.

14. Village Voice and media

i. To receive an update

Cllr Mould said he will include an article on the forthcoming litter pick in the Village Voice. There will also be articles on anti-social behaviour, the village sign and future meeting dates.

ii. To consider inserts in the Village Voice

Cllr Mould said he has been asked by the Newington History Group if they can put an A5 insert into the Village Voice as a one-off, advertising the group's membership drive. The Newington Concert Party have also asked if they can have an insert in the Village Voice.

Cllr Jackson said they are both village groups.

Cllr Mould said a principle needs to be established. In the past the Council has been against commercial leaflets, but if they were accepted it could pay for an edition of the Village Voice.

Cllr Jackson said the Village Voice should not have commercial flyers as it is about the village and the things which happen to support the life of the village.

Cllr Mould said if commercial flyers were permitted the company would pay.

Cllr Jackson said there needs to be a policy for this.

Cllr Harvey said there could be a line in the Village Voice stating that the edition is paid for by advertising so that there is clarity that it is saving tax payers money.

Councillors agreed to recommend to Full Council accepting up to two leaflets per edition from village organisations to promote their activities as a one-off inclusion.

15. Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr Jackson said the meeting will start at 7pm and representatives from organisations will be given three minutes to speak. There is a budget of £75 for refreshments and Cllr Milburn has offered to make teas and coffees. Biscuits, cakes and snacks will also be provided.

Cllr Mould said the tables do not need to be arranged as per the normal Council meetings to allow space for attendees.

16. Any Other Business

Cllr Mould said the Newington History Group wants to install two signage boards giving information about the beacon erected at Wormdale Farm as part of the Centenary

Commemorations for the First World War and would like a grant from the Parish Council to facilitate this.

ACTION; Item for Full Council agenda.

Cllr Harvey said the request for Tree Preservation Orders needs to be chased and the tree Officer's manager needs to be contacted.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up.

Date of Next Meeting: 16 April 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman
Date: 26 March 2019