

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held remotely on 20 April 2021

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

Cllr Layer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Layer took the Chair.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Elaine Jackson (unwell); apologies accepted.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

### **3. Matters Arising from minutes 23 March 2021**

#### Track gate opening times

The Clerk reported that the gate keeper has agreed to the changes of the opening times.

#### Pear Tree light

The Clerk reported that the fault was a component failure and the lantern has been replaced under warranty without charge.

#### Small Play area

The Clerk informed Members that Optivo has cleaned up the dog fouling reported in the playground off Bull Lane/Playstool Road. Optivo has now put a large 'No Dogs' sign at the entrance as requested

### **4. Public Question Time**

No members of the public were present.

### **5. Anti-Social Behaviour**

#### i. PCSO report

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

#### Crimes of note

06/04/21. Fairy door ornaments damaged in the wooded area in the Recreation Ground. Area has been patrolled at different times during the shift to stop anymore incidents.

14/04/21 Young male stopped running along the railway at Newington station. Male stopped in Wickham Close and taken home. Male said he was chased by youths and run onto the railway for safety .

#### Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

Report of nuisance youths on the water tower in Pond Farm throwing stones and causing a nuisance.

Nuisance youths in the area of St Marys View on scooters causing a nuisance.

I have patrolled both areas at different times during my shift to stop anymore incidents happening

Youths throwing stones in the train station.

ii. Community Warden report

- 1) Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents who are self-isolating.
- 2) Contacted Optivo who attended Bull Lane small play area and cleaned up dog fouling as requested.
- 3) Helped out with traffic congestion on High Street due to delivery and other vehicle obstruction.
- 4) Ongoing neighbour dispute regarding dustbins in The Willows – made joint visit with Swale Borough Council Environmental /refuse officer to both parties involved.
- 5) Youths gathering and making temporary camp in grounds of The Manor – PCSO John Cork aware, attended and dismantled.
- 6) Attended residents weekly rural walk which has resumed.
- 7) New 'No Dogs' sign put up by Optivo at entrance of small playground situated at corner of Bull Lane/Playstool Road.
- 8) Visit made to youths who had been taking their dogs into both playgrounds.
- 9) Youths trespassing around water tower at back of Pond Farm – Police aware.
- 10) Dog walker permitting her dogs to foul on crop fields that lie behind houses on Keycol Hill and not picking it up – Monitoring area.
- 11) Concerns regarding welfare of young teenagers playing in wooded area – Police aware
- 12) Abandoned vehicle obstructing pavement next to lay-by on High Street – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 13) Further complaints from resident regarding resident in Bull Lane suspected of selling cars from private address. Swale Borough Council previously made aware of cars being scrapped in front garden of same address.
- 14) Youngsters throwing stones at trains from railway station platform – PCSO John Cork aware.
- 15) Fairy doors damaged that had been put on trees to make trail in woodland area back of recreation ground.
- 16) Concerns regarding excess fast-food litter being dropped in Bull lane.

Cllr Morgan expressed concern about the reports of anti-social behaviour by youths in both reports. Railway incidents are in both reports, the Recreation Ground is also another hotspot. Cllr Harvey said it always happens in the holidays. The gate sign was ripped off. There was a knife incident in the ball court but this is not in the reports.

Cllr Layer said residents put issues on Facebook but they need to be reported to the PCSO.

*ACTION: Clerk to invite the Head of Community Support, the PCSO and Community Warden to the next meeting.*

**6. Recreation Ground**

i. To receive an update

Cllr Harvey said the works are going to plan, there had been a meeting regarding the fencing.

ii. To consider quotations for track barrier

Councillors considered the quotations for the track barrier.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to recommend accepting the quote from Maylow Construction and to gain advice as to whether it should be bolted down or set in concrete; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*ACTION: Cllr Harvey to liaise with contractor.*

iii. To consider signage quotations

*ACTION: Cllr Harvey to obtain quotation for Full Council.*

iv. To consider quotation for garage mesh

Cllr Mould reported he had not received a quotation yet.

Cllr Harvey said it might need one contractor to paint the garage and another to fix the mesh. It will be critical to tie the dates in to ensure the paint is not vandalised.

## 7. Play Area

Cllr Harvey said the gate needs to be relocated and there needs to be additional path. The rubber mats at the end of the slide need to be replaced with wet pour. There will need to be an extra fence panel to match the existing fence and this will be an additional £86.60 plus fittings. The extra bow top panel will be used to make the play area a little larger. If the additional work is carried out now it will save several thousands of pounds as the sub-contractor is currently onsite. The contract will be with the sub-contractor.

## 8. Pavilion

### i. Pavilion fees

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** that there be no increase in Pavilion fees; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Harvey said if the Youth Club is using the Pavilion facilities, it must be invoiced. If there is to be a Summer Playscheme the fees will need to be considered.

### iii. To consider flooring quotations

The Clerk reported that the contractor has said that he will post the quote by the end of the week, he is checking the prices of the flooring.

### iv. To consider quotation for water heater

### v. To consider quotation for photo cell timer for lights

The Clerk reported that she has not yet received a quotation.

Cllr Layer asked whether it would be more economical to install water heaters rather than a hot water tank.

*ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotations for water heaters in the Community Sports Room, the toilet and Parish Room.*

Cllr Layer said the Christmas tree in the compound is in a poor state and that he will put it at the allotments so it can be watered.

## 9. Football Club Rent

Cllr Harvey said the Football Club rent had been fixed for two years at £1,450 and £11.00 for out of season fixtures and training per session/ match. Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to extend the rate for one more year: **SECONDED** by Cllr Mould: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Layer said the Football Club were not using the car park last Sunday.

The Clerk reported that she had raised this with the Club Secretary and the Team Manager.

## 10. Allotments

Cllr Layer reported that he had been opening and closing the allotment gates for the contractors and that he had purchased toilet rolls and COVID wipes.

## 11. Community Woodland

Cllr Harvey said that he was sorry to hear of the vandalism to the fairy doors in the Community Woodland and that it is hoped the increased resilience from the PCSO and Community Warden will deter further damage.

## 12. Highways

Cllr Mould said there needs to be another meeting to progress the Parish Highways Improvement Plan.

Cllr Morgan said there has been correspondence regarding the white lines in Callaways Lane.

Cllr Harvey said there is a petition calling for a 30mph limit on Boyces Hill.

## 13. Lights

No issues had been reported.

#### **14. Footpaths and Bridleways**

Cllr Mould said the printed edition was scheduled for May but it would be best to wait until the play area is finished, so it will be published in June.

Cllr Harvey said there are several planning matters; Eden Meadow, the Bobbing development consultation, the Gladman proposal next to The Three Sisters in Upchurch. Swale Borough Council has permitted the change of use for Medway Autos to a wedding venue. Maidstone Borough Council will decide on Binbury Park, Detling next month, if passed it will affect the A249, A2, M2 and M20.

#### **15. Village Voice and media**

To receive an update

#### **16. Clerk's mobile phone**

*Deferred to Full Council.*

#### **17. Environment**

Great British Spring Clean

*Deferred to Full Council.*

#### **18. Cemetery**

It was agreed to recommend to Full Council a small increase in fees.

#### **19. Any Other Business**

No other matters were raised.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 18 May 2021

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.23pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Dated: 27 April 2021