

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Also present was PCSO John Cork and Colleague, Georgina Springall, Community Warden, and 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 the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 22 October 2019

Cllr Jackson reported that the resident will keep the Parish Council informed as to when the new dog bin is delivered and installed and will give Swale Borough Council the keys

Cllr Jackson said the agents have been contacted to get the hedges at the track to the allotments cut back.

Cllr Jackson said the Clerk is waiting to hear back from the Football Club for a date for the review.

A grant of £250 has been applied for from the Environment Fund for bulbs and the Clerk is waiting to hear back.

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO Cork reported that Hallowe'en had been quiet and there have been no reports from residents of anti-social behaviour in the village. Criminal damage has occurred on the Watling Place development.

There has been a report of badger baiting in a field off Bull Lane and this has been reported to Rural Police Team. Wire and a camera have been found and it is not thought to be badger baiting as it is an obsolete sett.

There was an accident on the A2 which caused traffic problems. There has been inconsiderate parking on the corner of Church Lane.

There was a burglary in Brookes Place and the culprit was apprehended by the Police and linked to other burglaries.

There has been a theft of motor vehicles.

There have been no issues with youth in the village.

Cllr Coles said the Parish Council needs to be proactive regarding the recent burglaries, the perception is that burglaries occur at night but most happen in the day and residents must be encouraged to be vigilant. Posters can be obtained from Kent Police

Ms Springall said that following a burglary the Community Safety Unit can provide SmartWater kits to the victim and neighbours. Ms Springall said she also gives crime prevention advice

PCSO Cork said the signs could be laminated and placed around the village. PCSO Matthew Tennant, the Crime Prevention Officer can be contacted for advice and resources.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to write article for the Village Voice, laminate posters and liaise with PCSO Tennant and invite him to the next Cornerstone Café.

Cllr Coles said A5 leaflets could be printed and distributed through the school book bags.

PCSO Cork said there had been reports of a drone flying over a house, it was either a Police drone or one checking the power lines.

Cllr Jackson thanked PCSO Cork and his colleague for attending the meeting.

ii. Community Warden report

- 1) Household dustbins left in Bull Lane on roadside causing obstruction again – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 2) Fly tipping in Mill Lane partly obstructing road – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 3) Burglary in Brookes Place – Visited neighbouring properties giving them cards which give details to ring the CSU to receive a free Smartwater kit.
- 4) Burglary in Callaways Lane – calling at residents to make them aware and giving them security advice.
- 5) Vehicle stolen from Newington High Street – Police aware.
- 6) Fly tipping in Playstool Close – Swale Borough Council aware.
- 7) Brambles and weeds obstructing pavement in Hasted Road – reported to KCC Highways.
- 8) Reports of dog running out of garden onto A2 – monitoring area.
- 9) Excessive mud on road in the Tracies/Callaways Lane – KCC Highways aware and have attended.
- 10) Excessive dog fouling at entrance to footpath under railway bridge off Wickham Close – Monitoring area.
- 11) Further complaints regarding bushes/trees that need cutting back at edge of track that leads to allotments.
- 12) Decorators working at 56 High Street, parking on double yellow lines top of Church Lane causing obstruction – Reported to Swale Borough Council Parking Enforcement who did not attend, so referred to SBCllr Palmer, who took the complaint further.
- 13) Vehicle parked in Orchard Drive with no road tax – Reported to DVLA.
- 14) Vehicle with two elderly residents inside, crashed through village hall car park fence, down 10-foot drop onto land below, landing on roof – I called all the emergency services who attended, freed the occupants who luckily were not seriously hurt. They were both taken to hospital and went home the next day.
- 15) Fence along village hall car park quickly replaced.
- 16) Younger male resident being abusive towards elderly resident due to parking issues in private parking area – PCSO Cork aware.
- 17) Welfare visits made to both ladies involved in car accident – Both recovering from the shock and bruising well.
- 18) Ongoing neighbour dispute – Optivo housing manager making visits.
- 19) Dog fouling in St. Marys View area – Monitoring area.
- 20) Burglary in Place Lane, Hartlip – Police aware.

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

Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Coles for printing posters.

Cllr Coles said that in the Rural Police Team report there has been a huge campaign to stop illegal waste carriers, their biggest weapon is Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras. The Parish Council did not progress this as it was about to upgrade the CCTV system in the village.

Cllr Harvey said that the Police tried to persuade the Council to do this. If the Police want to install and pay for an Automatic Number Plate Recognition camera that would be acceptable. Cllr Coles said there are such cameras in Sittingbourne but not in the outlying areas.

ACTION: Item for Full Council agenda.

6. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer reported that he has fixed the gate to the play area. There is a problem with dogs mess on the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Coles said there used to be signs along the allotment fence and around the Recreation Ground.

ACTION: Clerk to ask the Community Warden if she has appropriate signs that could be used at the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Jackson said the play area inspection-will be in January.

Cllr Mould has had a set of keys to the Recreation Ground returned to him and he will give them to the Pavilion Caretaker.

Cllr Jackson said the Football Club have asked for the grass to have an extra cut.

The Clerk said she has nearly completed the planning application for the new fence at the ball park.

Cllr Harvey said that there is a Swale Special Projects Grant Fund and a request could be made to this for new paths to the play area and to the Pavilion to better disabled access. The Friends of Newington Recreation Ground has funding for a disabled access roundabout.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to apply for a grant from the Swale Special Projects Fund for the paths; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Harvey reported that Esquires has asked to have a private meeting with the Parish Council regarding their emerging proposals at land rear of Eden Meadows and to discuss the S106 money. The developer wants to arrange money for the children's play area and this is a statutory area for S106 money. There will be a public Planning Committee meeting in January for the developer to outline the proposals.

ii. Friends of Newington Recreation Ground

Cllr Harvey said the group will meet on 20 November. Meetings have been arranged with contractors to discuss the play area. The group is liaising with local businesses regarding sponsorship of the play area.

8. Pavilion

Mr Jackson reported that Haven Power will fit Smart Meters on 25 November.

9. Defibrillator

Cllr Layer reported there are no issues with the defibrillator.

Mr Jackson reported the Pavilion defibrillator is OK.

10. Allotments

Cllr Jackson reported the Association is waiting for the track hedge to be cut back so the lorry can deliver the manure.

11. Highways

Cllr Jackson reported that she had spoken to KCC Highways out of hours service on Sunday regarding the issues on the A2.

Cllr Harvey said that on Tuesday he had emailed SGN that the traffic had backed up to Hartlip and by 4.30pm the traffic had backed up to Rainham. The lights should be manned when men are working. Sharron Davin, KCC Highways, says she checks every day. There has been no response to the email and the issue is that the person manning the lights cannot see down the road. Having someone operating the lights is key.

Cllr Jackson said there is concern that the HGVs for the brickearth extraction will start before the road works finish.

Cllr Harvey said that if Weinerberger need details they need to have the SGN PowerPoint presentation.

ACTION: Clerk to check.

Cllr Coles said there has been no response to the poppies taken from the lamppost when it was replaced.

12. Lights

Cllr Jackson said the Council is still trying to arranged a meeting with the contractor. There is concern that the contractor has just continued with the contract without agreement from the Council.

Cllr Coles said that he had reported lights which had not been changed.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate.

Cllr Morgan said he had raised the issue of a black spot in Callaways Lane and that he has sent photos to the Clerk today.

Cllr Coles said the land is a garden for the houses and it needs to be ascertained who owns it so the vegetation can be cut back.

ACTION: Cllr Morgan to email details to Cllr Harvey.

14. Village Voice and media

Cllr Harvey said the public meeting with the developer will need to be advertised.

Cllr Mould said there will be an anti-social behaviour report. There will be no Village Voice in January.

Cllr Geldard said the Facebook page has been created.

The Clerk said she has been unable to link the website posts to the Facebook page.

ACTION: Cllr Geldard to liaise with the Clerk.

15. Christmas Decorations

Cllr Jackson said the Parish Council has been awarded £500 for the Christmas Stars.

Cllr Mould said he had ordered one star and this will not be suitable.

ACTION: Councillors to research alternative decorations.

16. Christmas Reception

Cllr Mould said the reception will start at 6pm and will be to thank volunteers and contractors. Flowers will be given to a volunteer who will be retiring and who also retired as litter picker earlier in the year.

It was agreed to have a budget of £100 for the event.

17. Any Other Business

Cllr Layer said the Cemetery Regulations need to be discussed. Loose chippings on graves causes problems for the contractor. Box hedging is also an issue as this has covered a grave which has not been attended.

Cllr Mould said there is a Cemetery Working Group meeting on 20 November.

Cllr Mould said sometimes there has been an extra cut of the church yard before a wedding and this should not be at the cost of the Parish Council.

ACTION: Cemetery Working Group to meet with the church wardens.

Cllr Harvey said the Cemetery Working Group should report to the Amenities Committee.

Cllr Harvey asked for details of Common Graves.
The Clerk said that she was not aware that there is one.
Cllr Harvey said that some plots should be kept in the old part of the cemetery as no plots area allowed out of rotation in the new section.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 8.51pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 21 January 2019

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair
Dated: 26 November 2019