

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 30 August 2022 and in Newington Village Hall

Present: Cllr Richard Palmer (Chairman), Cllr Tony Mould (Vice Chairman), Cllr Michael Barlow, Cllr Steve Godmon, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Elaine Jackson and Cllr Eric Layer; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present were County Councillor Mike Baldock and three members of the public.

Cllr Palmer welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Cllr Mould for chairing the meeting on 2 August.

1. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Cllr Palmer said there were still two vacancies on the Council.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Claire Harvey (holiday) and Cllr Ruth Brown (personal); apologies accepted.

Apologies had also been received from Ward Member Alan Horton (holiday): apology noted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 2 AUGUST 2022

Cllr Layer **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting; **SECONDED** by Cllr S Harvey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Palmer duly signed the minutes as a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Palmer reported that West Malling Parish Council said KCC put 20mph stickers on lamp posts as part of the 20mph scheme

Cllr Palmer reported that the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church had very kindly cleared Bumpy alley and thanked the church for its help.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No matters were raised.

7. VISITORS

i. County Councillor

KCCllr Baldock reported that KCC Highways has appointed an officer to look after Swale, Canterbury and Thanet Parish Councils. Parish Highways Improvement Plan meetings are now being held on Microsoft Teams rather than by site visits; unfortunately, there are not enough staff to make site visits as there is a huge backlog of work.

There are continuing issues with road works, the utilities and KCC's own works, this is being monitored. KCCllr Baldock reported that he had a diversion from Lower Halstow changed so the traffic did not use Wardwell Lane.

There has been a delay regarding the removal of the bus subsidies. The matter went to Scrutiny Committee which has referred it back to Full Council. This means any route closures

will be delayed until the New Year. The proposal for a community bus scheme was against the Council's own policies regarding rural loneliness. If KCC does not provide these services, Swale Borough Council cannot so it could fall to the parishes and this will be discussed at the next Swale West Parishes Group Meeting in October.

KCCllr Baldock said there has been an issue with free transport to Grammar schools; legally KCC has to provide free bus travel if the nearest school is more than three miles away but this is not always a grammar school meaning that young people from Newington will not get free transport to a Grammar school.

Cllr S Harvey said that Newington is not affected by the proposed bus cuts.

Cllr Layer said there is a pot hole in Church Lane which has not been repaired.

Cllr Harvey said that Aprille Hall, KCC Highways Steward, had said it was an emergency over a year ago.

ACTION: Cllr Layer to send photo to KCCllr Baldock.

Cllr Palmer thanked KCCllr Baldock for attending and for his report.

ii. Borough Councillors

SBCllr Palmer reported that there have been issues with flytipping on the Iwade Road.

Cllr Layer said he had reported asbestos tipped and nothing has happened.

SBCllr Palmer said this is on private land and it is down to the landowner to clear; he has asked for covert cameras to be installed and is awaiting confirmation of deployment.

Cllr Layer said it is by the footpath entrance (ZR38).

Cllr S Harvey said it is somewhere people walk and ride, the asbestos is a Health and Safety issue.

KCCllr Baldock said the matter must be reported to KCC as an emergency.

SBCllr Palmer said there have been issues with silver canisters and reports of drug dealing around the village and this must be reported to the Police which will help build up intelligence. It has also been reported that people have been burning tyres.

There is a Swale Borough Council Western Area Committee meeting on 1 September, the committee is looking at ways to support youth provision in the area.

8. PLANNING

i. Ref: 22/503577/FULL

Address: Land Adjacent To Moat Cottage Iwade Road Newington Kent ME9 7JY

Proposal: Erection of an agricultural outbuilding with permeable hard-standing and reinstatement of a timber access gate

Councillors considered the application and were unable to ascertain a need for the building. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to respond: Newington Parish Council opposes the application. Whilst agreeing that the proposal is for a very attractive barn structure, Newington Parish Council cannot understand any agricultural needs and has concerns that there might be a future application to convert this proposed agricultural outbuilding to residential use.

ii.. To receive an update

Ref: 20/505059/FULL Address: Willow Trees 111 High Street, Newington ME97JJ

Proposal: Retention of existing chalet bungalow with amended residential curtilage and erection of 10 dwellings (7 x three bedrooms and 3 x four bedrooms) with associated access, parking, amenity, and landscaping

Cllr S Harvey reported that a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/502438/LBC Lion House, 100 High Street, Newington ME9 7JH

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for erection of 2 no. ancillary outbuildings consisting of a gym and an office.

Cllr S Harvey informed Members that the application has been permitted.

Ref: 22/502873/FULL 134 High Street Newington ME9 7JH

Proposal: Loft conversion with rear and front Dormers. Erection of a single storey rear extension including changes to fenestration.

Cllr S Harvey reported that a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/503258/FULL 35 Bull Lane, Newington ME9 7LT

Proposal: Dropped kerb with verges and crossover

Cllr S Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/502093/FULL 37 Bull Lane Newington ME9 7LT

Proposal: Installation of vehicle hardstanding, a dropped kerb and crossover.

Cllr S Harvey informed Members that a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/502474/LBC 53-57 High Street, Newington ME9 7JJ

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for part reconstruction and repairs to boundary wall (Works Part Completed).53-57 High Street Newington Kent ME9 7JJ

Ref: 22/502473/FULL 53-57 High Street, Newington ME9 7JJ

Proposal: Part reconstruction and repairs to boundary wall (Part Retrospective).

Cllr S Harvey reported that a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 20/505059/FULL Willow Trees 111 High Street, Newington ME9 7JJ

Revised proposal: Retention of existing chalet bungalow with amended residential curtilage and erection of 10 dwellings (7 x three bedrooms and 3 x four bedrooms) with associated access, parking, amenity, and landscaping

Cllr S Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/501005/FULL 77 High Street, Newington ME9 7JJ

Proposal: Erection of 10 no. detached C3 dwellinghouses with repositioned vehicular access from public highway.

Cllr S Harvey reported that a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/500275/OUT Land South Of London Road, Newington

Proposal: Outline planning application for up to 135 dwellings with the retention of existing farm buildings, new public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access point (Access being Sought).

Cllr S Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 21/505722/OUT 128 High Street, Newington ME9 7JH

Proposal: Outline application for demolition of existing residential dwelling and erection of up to 46 residential dwellings, including affordable housing, with access from A2 High Street (Access only being sought).

Cllr S Harvey reported that a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 21/504028/FULL Land At School Lane, Newington ME9 7JU

Proposal: Erection of 25no. residential dwellings and the provision of a 20 space staff car park and 20 space pupil pick-up/drop-off area for Newington C of E Primary School, together with associated access, landscaping, drainage and infrastructure works.

Cllr S Harvey said a decision is yet to be made

Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate

Ref: 21/501791/PIP Land At 164 Bull Lane, Newington ME9 7NB

PINS reference: V2255/W/21/3286759

Proposal: Permission in Principle for the erection of a detached two storey sustainable self-build or custom building dwelling with new access onto Bull Lane.

Cllr S Harvey said a decision is yet to be made

Not in Newington

Foxchurch, near Bobbing (information only)

Appin Land 'The team are now working to finalise the plans. Before submitting a planning application to Swale Borough Council, we want to hear your thoughts' consultation events Thursday 22 April, Friday 23 April

- 2,500 new homes, with a wide range of housing types to cater for Swale's various housing needs, including family homes, bungalows and policy compliant affordable housing
- A new pub and a local parade of shops: creating job opportunities and bringing improved choice for local people.
- A new three-form-entry primary school, health centre, village hall and cricket pitch
- Easy access to existing employment areas within Sittingbourne and Sheppey without causing further congestion of existing towns and villages.

Cllr S Harvey said no application has been submitted.

Cllr Palmer thanked Cllr S Harvey for his report.

9. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

i. To receive the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 23 August 2022 and consider the recommendations

Cllr Jackson reported that there was not much actual crime going on in the village. Concern had been raised by a resident regarding the newly-marked football pitch which had been moved closer to the play area, the Council needed to check if the club was adequately insured and if the pitch would be moved back again when re-marked.

Cllr Layer said the football club has given assurance that the pitch will be used by youngsters. The club has also put another small pitch at the back of the site.

Cllr S Harvey said Bredhurst Junior Football Club does not have men players but the age range goes up to eighteen years old.

Cllr Jackson said the litter picking specification has been reviewed and agreed by Amenities. The play area safety inspection has been ordered; the cost is £5 more than the previous year. Wicksteed still have not sent the bolt covers.

ACTION: Clerk to write to the CEO of the company.

Cllr Jackson said it was agreed to keep a peppercorn rent for the Youth Club. The Youth Activity Day was well-attended. The Village Celebration event details have been finalised and it was agreed to allow the Table Tennis Club to put up two tables for a demonstration. The Fun Fair wants to attend the Fete in 2023 and the Council needs to consider if it will run the fete again.

The Clerk said the Fun Fair would like to come the second week in July.

ACTION: Clerk to seek clarification of date.

Cllr Palmer thanked Cllr Jackson for her report.

Cllr Mould **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr S Harvey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Jackson duly signed the minutes as a true record.

ii. Adult Exercise Equipment Committee

Cllr Jackson said there had been no volunteers from residents to join the Committee.

Cllr S Harvey **PROPOSED** there be an extraordinary meeting of the Amenities Committee to consider the tenders for the adult exercise equipment: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

It was agreed that the meeting be held on Tuesday 13 September at 7pm in the Pavilion.

iii. To consider quotations for pavilion roof repair

Cllr Jackson said the Council is waiting to receive further quotes.

10. SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL LAND

Cllr Palmer informed Members that the officer dealing with the matter is on holiday until September

11. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Layer said all the plots are tenanted and that there is a waiting list for plots.

12. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Mould said the next edition of the Village Voice will be an online edition and will lead with the Village Celebration event and the autumn litter pick.

Cllr Palmer thanked Cllr Mould for his sterling work on the Village Voice.

13. FINANCE

i. Cheque list: to consider invoices for payment

Payee	Reason	Amount
Mrs J Hunt <i>Paid out of meeting</i>	Pavilion deposit refund	£50.00
Maylow Construction Ltd	Replacement panels to ball catcher fence	£608.40
Maylow Construction Ltd	Clean and paint bus shelter	£204.00
DCK Accounting	Payroll fees – Aug	£36.00
Staff	Salary	£743.15
HMRC	PAYE & NI	£30.06
Administration	Expenses	£41.10
Mr R Malone	Litter Picking Recreation Ground - Aug Litter Picking	£459.00
Mr R Burrows	Track gate keeper- Aug	£100.00
Mr MJ Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance - Aug	£550.00
Maylow Construction Ltd	Installation of memorial bench <i>(privately funded)</i>	£498.00
SLCC	Membership fee	£270.00

It was **AGREED UNIMOUSLY** to authorise the payments.

Payments

12.07.22	Drax Energy	Street lighting	£25.05
19.07.22	Drax Energy	Pavilion electricity	£17.54
25.07.22	Drax Energy	Street lighting	£24.21

25.07.22	NEST	Pension	£145.44
30.07.22	Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges	£18.00

Receipts

04.07.22	Swans Fitness Club	Community Sports Room hire	£15.00
13.07.22	Jubilee fete	Cash	£83.55
13.07.22	Mrs Hunt	Pavilion hire and deposit	£70.00
20.07.22	Drax Energy	Refund	£3,798.13
22.07.22	Mr & Mrs Clark	Memorial bench	£1,038.98
25.07.22	Mr R Jackson	Parish Room hire	£30.00
29.07.22	Swans Fitness Club	Community Sports Room hire	£15.00

ii. Pavilion energy costs

It was agreed to send meter readings every month and to ask if this can be submitted online.

iii. Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd- Option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to continue with the SAAA central external auditor.

Cllr Palmer thanked Cllr Godmon for his work on finance.

14. CHURCHYARD AND CEMETERY

Cllr Layer reported that the memorial bench has been installed. The grass is being cut satisfactorily. The maintenance specification has been agreed by Amenities Committee and will go out to tender.

15. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Palmer reported that the Parish Highways Improvement Plan Working Group (Cllr Palmer, Cllr Mould, Cllr Harvey and Cllr Layer) has met. Some items on the Parish Highways Improvement Plan (PHIP), have been completed: the 20mph scheme; the zig zag lines and yellow lines outside the school have been refreshed. These are items asked for by residents. Concern has been raised that some drivers are not adhering to the 20mph limit and consideration is being given to what measures can be taken to remind drivers.

Cllr Harvey said he has asked Michelle Matthews, Mid Kent Project Schemes Manager, KCC Highways, if stickers can be put on lamp posts. An extra bollard is needed outside the former Working Men's Club but this requires a Road Traffic Order which costs £600. Making the road a red route is being pursued; enforcement of the 20mph limit is being considered; Wardwell Lane signage- the limit is 20mph at the Lower Halstow end of the lane; the Wickham Close activated sign- this is too old to use; roundels can be installed and clarification regarding this is being sought.

Cllr Palmer said KCC had previously said it would look into installing a speed table but there is a new team. The Police have been approached to hold Speed Watch sessions; they want a local Speed Watch team and will come out if there is evidence to show a need for them to do this.

Cllr Harvey said a PHIP meeting needs to be held in September and will report back to the Full Council meeting.

KCCllr Baldock said Rural Lanes was a Kent scheme, in 1997 a survey of the entire county was carried out. It was recommended that this be included in Borough Councils Local Plans. There is no provision to get areas not designated as Rural Lanes to be added, KCC does not have a policy for this.

16. STREET LIGHTING

Cllr Palmer reported the light in Station Road still has not been replaced.

ACTION: Clerk to chase.

17. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Harvey said at the last meeting the future of PCSOs was discussed; a new Area Commander is due next month; Southern Water will be at the next meeting and an explanation regarding the lack of information will be requested.

Cllr Palmer said the next Swale West Area Committee is on 1 September.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 03.08.22- resident concern regarding dead tree at junction of Church Lane and School Lane

Cllr Layer said the land belong to Swale Borough Council.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain ownership.

2. 03.08.22- Kent PCC newsletter

3. 03.08.22- KALC Newsletter July 2022

4. 03.08.22- SBC Western Area Committee: LCWIP Everyday Trips Survey

5. 03.08.22- South East Water: temporary hosepipe ban

6. 02.08.22- Western Area Committee - Workshop for Walking and Cycling Project

7. 02.08.22- NALC CEO bulletin

8. 05.08.22- KCC Budget Consultation 2023-2024

9. 10.08.22- Local Government Bulletin

10. 11.08.22- NALC CEO bulletin

11. 15.08.22- Resident email regarding football pitch

12. 15.08.22- Swale Borough Council: Area Committees – September 2022 round of meetings

13. 15.08.22- Swale Borough Council: CONFIRMED DATE - Western Area Committee - Workshop for Walking and Cycling Project - 15 September

14. 16.08.22- Kent's Plan Bee July 2022 Summary Newsletter.

15. 16.08.22- NALC CEO bulletin

16. 16.08.22- National Highways: M2 junction 5 improvement scheme – newsletter

17. 16.08.22- Plymouth Brethren Christian Church report

18. 24.08.22- KALC events flyer

19. 24.08.22- KCC Highways: Urgent Road Closure - School Lane, Newington - 1st September 2022

20. 26.08.22- email regarding exercise equipment

21. 30.08.22- resident concern regarding ZR65

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other matters were raised.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 27 September 2022 at 7pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.53pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 27 September 2022