

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee
held in the Wickham Room, Newington Village Hall on 21 February 2023

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

Also present was Mr Jackson, Pavilion Caretaker.

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Layer took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence None

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ruth Brown; apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Layer declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8. ii Review of Pavilion Fees.

3. Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 1 February 2023

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record.

Cllr duly signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Cllr Layer reported that he and Cllr Harvey had met with Wicksteed and the adult gym equipment will be installed in May.

4. Matters Arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2023

Cllr Layer said Maylow has been at the play area, the Sputnik will be repaired after half term.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain what work the contractor has carried out.

5. Public Question Time

No members of the public were present.

6. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO Kirsty Ling was unable to attend and sent the following report:

Crimes of note:

- 06/02/23 – High Street – Vehicle stopped for having no insurance. Vehicle seized by officers.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- 03/02/23 – Bull Inn – Fight in the pub following a funeral.
- 03/02/23 – Newington Primary School – reports of alarm going off late in the evening. No persons seen in the area.
- 04/02/23 – Bull Lane – Inft reporting a potential break to his house. On arrival officers meet with property owner and were able to establish no break had taken place.
- 13/02/23 – London Road – Inft reporting that 2 males aged between 11-15 knocked on her door claiming to be lost. They asked to come inside and for a lift in the infts car. The inft told them she would call someone for them if they gave over a number, but they refused. Inft felt the incident odd and called Police. The boys left the area and Police were unable to locate them.

ii. Community Warden report

Community Warden Georgina Springall was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following report:

- 1) Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents
- 2) Gave information to elderly resident regarding the 'befriending' free service which is available through Age UK.
- 3) Advice given to resident regarding 8-month-old dog who was not under control that she encountered whilst walking her dog in recreation ground.
- 4) Out of hours dog warden number given to resident regarding straying dog she had found Hartlip/Newington borders.
- 5) Settee fly tipped entrance to recreation ground – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 6) Resident's dog attacked by large dog (one of a pair) whilst walking in recreation ground- Advised her to report to Swale Borough Council which she did.
- 7) Out of hours dog warden number given to resident who found straying cockerpoo dog in High Street.
- 8) Suspect poison being put down in orchard area that lies between London Road and back of recreation ground. Six foxes and a badger have been found dead, without any noticeable injury, within the boundaries of this area. Not so long ago, a dog died after eating suspected poisoned chicken pieces in this orchard. A resident found a large bone that looked to be purposely placed under a log near the foxes earths. Last Spring, he apparently disposed of about eight bones he found in this area. I have warned dog walkers and put warning notices on Newington social media sites to make residents aware.
- 9) Small Optivo play area, corner of Bull Lane, littered with broken toys and stuffing from cuddly toys – Reported to Optivo for cleansing. Also, information regarding culprits passed on to their housing officers.
- 10) Complaints regarding loud music periodically heard in the early hours of the morning in Boyces Hill area – Making enquiries within area.
- 11) Assisted elderly resident with finding reputable company to help him get rid of the squirrels in his loft.

7. Recreation Ground and green spaces

i. To receive an update

The Clerk reported that the football club wants to leave the goal posts up as there is usually only one person there to get them out and the posts will be bolted in.

Cllr Layer said the goal posts would be the club's responsibility. They are close to the play area fence and the seating in the Recreation Ground.

ii. Review of Football Club fees

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to peg the fees at the current level of £1450 from 1 September - 10 July and £11 per match/ session out of season.

Cllr Harvey said there needs to be a meeting with the Club to discuss the fees and goal posts.

ACTION: Clerk to set up meeting.

iii. To consider hedging options for Recreation Ground

Cllr Layer said there needs to be a hedge from the track to the gate to the Pavilion. Some plants are still viable and the three in the play park are growing well. Copper beech would be good.

Cllr Harvey said the plants chosen were ones to encourage wildlife.

8. Pavilion

i. To receive an update

The Clerk informed Members that DRAX wants to replace the meter at the Pavilion.

Cllr Harvey said it needs to be made clear that it is not a domestic meter the company must

The Clerk reported that DRAX have been sent photos of the meter and the account is in £7885 credit, a refund has been requested.

7.20pm- Cllr Jackson joined the meeting and took the Chair.

ii. Review of Pavilion fees

Cllr Mould said the fees should be kept the same.

Cllr Harvey said there could be a winter heating surcharge to help off-set the increased energy costs.

Cllr Jackson said the Council will be receiving a rebate so is in a comfortable position, the Terms and Conditions should be amended that the Council reserves the right to make a charge towards the heating cost.

Mr Jackson said the Pavilion uses on average twenty-three units per week and the ball park uses twenty-seven units per month.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain price per unit.

It was AGREED to add to the Terms and Conditions:

Newington Parish Council, in line with other Councils, reserves the right to surcharge all users from Autumn 2023.

9. Allotments

Cllr Layer reported that the Association is going to renew the doors in April. It was thought that the hedge might need flailing but, when inspected, it was found there was no need.

10. Community Woodland

Cllr Layer informed Members that the woodland looks good following the recent tree work. The paths are clear and youngsters are making shelters.

11. Highways

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson said the Clerk had reported the brambles growing onto footpath from the slip of land between the old house and former print works and works are being programmed.

ii. 20mph wheelie bin stickers

Councillors considered the quotations.

Cllr Mould **PROPOSED** to purchase one hundred wheelie bin stickers from Stickerzilla for £95; **SECONDED** by Cllr Harvey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12. Lights

Cllr Harvey said the light in the alleyway to the car park still has not been repaired.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

There was nothing to report.

14. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said the Spring edition has been received from the printers and there will be two inserts in it. The March edition will be online and include the Summer Fete; Parish Room hire; Planning; Annual Parish Meeting; Age UK Memory Café, elections, dog poisoning incident.

ACTION: Clerk to send election details to Cllr Mould.

15. Cemetery and Churchyard

i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer said the grass has been cut and all looks good.

ii. Cemetery water invoices

Cllr Layer said that historically the water usage is low. When the meter was changed Business Stream said there had been an overpayment and this was refunded. It was then discovered an error had been made with the meters and the Council needs to repay this, Business Stream has given an ex-gratia amount of £200 due to their failings.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to pay the invoice without prejudice: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

16. Events

Cllr Jackson said some stalls have confirmed for the Village Fete. The Terms and Conditions have been circulated to the Working Group for consideration. The Clerk will work an extra two hours per month on the event until June.

Cllr Mould said he will contact the Community Warden regarding the Dog Show.

Cllr Jackson said consideration could be given to redirecting the £400 fee from the Fun Fair to the fete.

ITEM FOR FULL COUNCIL AGENDA

Cllr Harvey said there may be grants for Coronation activities. Sittingbourne has re-instated its Carnival Queen, there could be a Junior King and Queen from the school.

17. Any Other Business

Cllr Mould asked for an update on the Stockbury contractors (GRAHAM).

Cllr Jackson said that she is waiting for dates from Councillors.

Cllr Harvey said Wicksteed have been asked to avoid the area next to the fence when installing the gym equipment.

Cllr Jackson said costings for a replacement bin has been requested.

Cllr Harvey said the bin by the woodland used to be dual use, Swale Borough Council want to remove the one on the trackside. The other bin does not say dual waste.

Cllr Jackson said there is a problem with dog waste on the Recreation Ground.

ITEM FOR FULL COUNCIL

Date of Next Meeting: 21 March 2023

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 28 February 2023