

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 26 August 2025 in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall

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

Also present was Mr Bob Jackson, Pavilion caretaker.

Cllr Harvey read out the meeting statement of respect:

*The Council reminds all present that we are required to treat each other with courtesy
and respect, in accordance with the Nolan Principles and the Council's Code of
Conduct. Harassment, personal attacks or disruptive behaviour will not be tolerated*

1. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

i. To receive an update and to co-opt new Members

No applications had been received.

ii. To appoint new Members to Committees or Working Groups

Deferred to item 7.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Chris Palmer and Cllr Richard Palmer (holiday); and
Cllr Ruth Brown (medical): apologies accepted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS OR LOBBYING

None were declared.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 APRIL AND 29 JULY 2025

i. To consider the minutes of the meetings and if in order sign as a true record

Cllr Layer **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting of 29 April as a true record:

SECONDED by Cllr Barlow: **AGREE UNANIMOUSLY.**

Cllr Harvey duly signed the minutes as a true record.

Cllr Layer **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting of 29 July as a true record:

SECONDED by Cllr Barlow: **AGREE UNANIMOUSLY.**

Cllr Harvey duly signed the minutes as a true record.

ii. Clerk's report

The Clerk reported that she is still chasing Southern Water for compensation of the extra cost
incurred due to the signage remaining after the works had been completed.

The decision on the grant applications is expected soon.

There have been issues with DRAX since they changed the account number for the street
lights; only one invoice is being received DRAX has stated the other contract ended on 1
November 2024.

Cllr Harvey said all contracts were renewed at the same time.

iii. Matters arising from the minutes

All matters on the agenda

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No matters were raised.

6. VISITORS

i. Borough Councillors

SBCllr R Palmer had submitted the following report:

We have dealt with neighbours' disputes; however, Southern Housing and Kent Police are now aware, and the Council's Community Safety Partnership is coordinating agencies.

Additionally, there is another neighbour dispute, but we are awaiting a response from the relevant team at Swale Borough Council.

We have requested a deep clean of the high street, and this will be followed up early in September.

Cllr Harvey thanked SBCllr R Palmer for his report.

ii. County Councillor

KCCllr Palmer had submitted the following report:

I have reported several roads and pavements that require cutting back or weeding, etc.

I have also reported the blocked Public Rights of Way (PROW) ZR 55 & 57; however, ZR 55 is due to be closed for a few months.

School places are in short supply in Swale, particularly in Sittingbourne and on the Isle of Sheppey.

Kent County Council is overspending, and 95% of its budget is allocated to statutory services, according to the information I've been given. Some savings may be made in contracts and the way things are working. Other savings may be achieved by revising how services are provided (some may be returned in-house).

The major expenditures are in education, school transport for those with disabilities and Social Care.

Cllr Harvey thanked KCCllr Palmer for his report.

7. PARISH COUNCIL

Review of Planning Committee Membership

Cllr Harvey informed members that KALC has advised that all Parish Councillors on the Planning Committee is unlawful.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that Cllr Harvey be appointed Chairman of the Planning Committee; and Cllr Barlow, Cllr Brown, Cllr Godmon, Cllr Layer, Cllr Jackson be members of the Committee.

8. PLANNING

Planning Update

Ref: 25/502474/FULL Playstool Close, Newington ME9 7NJ

Proposal: Demolition of exiting porch and erection of a two storey side extension.

Awaiting decision.

Ref: 25/502150/FULL 96 Church Lane, Newington ME9 7JU

Proposal: Erection of 1.09m fence along front boundary (retrospective).

Application permitted.

Ref: : 25/502702/FULL 90 Bull Lane, Newington ME9 7NA

Proposal: Loft Conversion with a new roof, front and side dormers and a Juliet balcony.

Erection of two storey side and rear extensions, a single storey rear extension and front porch.

Awaiting decision.

Ref: 25/502710/FULL Plot 6, The Pheasantry, Wardwell Lane, Lower Halstow ME9 7ER
Proposal: Change of use of land for the stationing of one mobile home units with associated utility blocks, touring caravan, parking, boundary fencing with access and vehicle access gates including insertion of a cesspool for Gypsy occupation.

Awaiting decision.

Ref: 25/502714/FULL Plot 7, The Pheasantry, Wardwell Lane, Lower Halstow ME9 7ER
Proposal: Change of use of land for the stationing of one mobile home units with associated utility blocks, touring caravan, parking, boundary fencing with access and vehicle access gates including insertion of a cesspool for Gypsy occupation.

Awaiting decision.

Ref: : 25/502707/FULL Plot 5, The Pheasantry, Wardwell Lane, Lower Halstow ME9 7ER
Proposal: Change of use of land for the stationing of two mobile home units with associated utility blocks, touring caravans, parking, boundary fencing with access and vehicle access gates including insertion of hardstanding and a cesspool for Gypsy occupation.

Awaiting decision.

Ref: 25/502147/SUB 128 High Street Newington ME9 7JH
Proposal: Submission of details pursuant to conditions 34 - Footpath inhibitor, 35 - Visibility splays & 36 - Travel plan, Subject to 21/505722/OUT

Awaiting decision.

Ref: 25/501640/REM Land At Pond Farm, London Road, Newington
Proposal: Approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale sought) for erection of 135 residential dwellings, including retention of existing farm buildings, public open space, landscaping, sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access pursuant to 22/500275/OUT.

Awaiting decision.

Ref: 25/501032/FULL 39 High Street, Newington ME9 7JR
Proposal: Change of use of ground floor, from office use to Fish and chips hot food take away including demolition of existing garage, provision of 2no. parking spaces, commercial bin storage, installation of extraction duct and changes to fenestration.

Awaiting decision.

Ref: 25/501080/FULL 35-37 High Street, Newington ME9 7JR
Proposal: Demolition of existing bake room and store, and erection of a single storey rear extension with flat roof.

Awaiting decision.

Ref: 25/500761/FULL Land West Of Church Lane, Newington
Proposal: Erection of 90 no. residential dwellings, together with associated access, open space, landscaping, drainage, infrastructure works and earthworks, and the provision of car parking spaces for existing residents.

Awaiting decision.

Ref: 25/500551/FULL Plots 21 And 22 The Pheasantry Wardwell Lane, Newington ME9 7ER
Change of use of land to use for the provision of 4no. gypsy and traveller pitches including the stationing of 4no. static residential units, 4no. touring units, and erection of 3no. day rooms, together with the formation of access road(s) and the provision of structural landscaping and parking (part retrospective).

Awaiting decision.

Ref: 24/504613/FULL The Pheasantry, Wardwell Lane, Lower Halstow ME9 7ER
Proposal: Change of use of agricultural land to 2no. Gypsy/Traveller pitches each with 1no. mobile home and a touring caravan including a shared day room and 6no. parking spaces.
Application validated: Tuesday 12 Nov 2024
Status: Awaiting decision

Not in Newington

Ref: 22/503654/EIOUT Land To The West Of Bobbing ME9 8QL
Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for a mixed used development comprising up to 2,500 dwellings, a 5.21 ha commercial employment zone including doctors' surgery, a 4.35 ha sports hub (and sports pitches), 3FE primary school, community facilities, local retail provision, public open space, children's play areas and associated parking, servicing, utilities, footpath and cycle links, drainage, ground and other infrastructure.
 Awaiting decision.

Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate

Fir View 109/111 London Road, Newington ME9 7RH
Appeal against enforcement notice: The unauthorised stationing of a static caravan in breach of condition (3) of planning permission 16/508699/FULL.
PINS reference APP/V2255/C/24/3341780
 Awaiting decision.

Ref: 23/503792/FULL Moat View, Church Lane, Newington ME9 7JX
Proposal: Erection of a detached dwelling for a disabled person with associated parking and minor landscaping works.
PINS reference: APP/V2255/W/24/3337218
 Appeal dismissed- 15 August 2025.

9. AMENITIES

i. To consider quotation for replacement lantern

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £565 from Streetlights to replace the lantern: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION: Cllr Barlow to ascertain which other lamp is not working.

ii. To consider quotation to refurbish eastern bus stop and for Parish Room maintenance

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to accept quotation 3 (from JAL Decorators Ltd) for £402.19 to refurbish bus stops and for Parish Room maintenance; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

iii. To consider quotations to install external tap and external sockets at Pavilion

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to accept quotation 1 (from Watson Electrical Services) for ££400; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION: Clerk to check date for survey of Pavilion electrics

iii. To consider quotation to install Village Sign and replace garden posts

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £4934.00 from Maylow Construction Ltd to replace the village sign on a metal post with collar, install the original plaque and replace existing corner posts garden area; **SECONDED** by Cllr Jackson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Cllr Jackson reported that there were issues with the football teams not communicating with each other regarding pitch usage; they should be liaising with the Clerk.

Cllr Harvey said a calendar could be set up on Outlook or HugoFox.

ACTION 1: Clerk to arrange contract meeting with Bredhurst Junior Football Club for the beginning of September.

ACTION 2: Clerk to check calendar facilities on Hugofox.

Cllr Jackson reported that the garage is untidy.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Youth Club.

10. SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL LAND

The Clerk reported that the deed had been signed and was waiting for the document.

11. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Mould reported that the next edition of the Village Voice will be a printed version and will include an update on the village sign and the autumn litter pick.

It was agreed that the litter pick will take place on Saturday 20 September.

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to purchase fifteen litter pickers: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Harvey informed members that he has liaised with Cllr Barlow regarding Facebook; this would be for information only. The Chairman, Clerk and Cllr Brown, as joint editor of the Village Voice, would be administrators. The alerts from the website are excellent.

12. FINANCE

i. Cheque list: to consider invoices for payment

Payee	Reason	Amount
C Parsons	Pavilion deposit refund	£50.00
Business Stream	Cemetery water	£39.67
Stone Works	Bus shelter memorial plaques: paint inscriptions	£220.00
DCK Accounting	Payroll fees	£37.80
Mr R Malone	Litter Picking: Street and Recreation Ground - August	£566.30
Mr MJ Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance - August	£625.00
Mr R Burrows	Track gate keeper- August	£100.00
Mrs W Licence	Salary	£1464.78
HMRC	PAYE & NI	£578.30
Mrs W Licence	Expenses	£48.70
Commercial Services	Grounds maintenance: April- June	£1941.48
Business Stream	Pavilion and recreation ground water	£144.94
Railton TPC Ltd	Preparation of Technical Note objecting to proposed development west of Church Lane, Newington.	£1,350.00

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to make the payments; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**

ii. Finance report

No comments were raised.

iii. Any other finance matter received by 26 August 2025**Bank accounts:**

NatWest:- 31.07.25 £48,07.08

Nationwide:- 31.03.25 £47,934.02

Unity Trust:- 31.07.25 £41,559.27

Receipts

04.07.25	Swans Fitness Group	Community Sports Room hire	£15.00
07.07.25	Light & Life Church	Parish Room hire and deposit	£80.00
11.02.25	NISA	Fete sponsorship	£195.00
12.07.25	Resident	Spring bulbs sponsorship	£2.50
12.07.25	Fete	Stalls/ bulbs/ sign donation	£649.50
28.07.25	Resident	Spring bulbs sponsorship	£10.00
29.07.25	Resident	Spring bulbs sponsorship	£15.00
30.07.25	Resident	Spring bulbs sponsorship	£30.00

Payments

01.07.25	HugoFox	Website	£23.99
16.07.25	DRAX	Footway lighting	£203.12
18.07.25	DRAX	Pavilion electricity	£59.95
28.07.25	NatWest	Credit card	£172.10

13. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

No meetings had taken place.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 29.07.25- Kent Highways: Temporary Road Closure - Iwade Road, Newington - 9th September 2025
2. 30.07.25- Swale Borough Council: Local Government Reorganisation workshops
3. 31.07.25- NALC: CEO bulletin
4. 31.07.25- KALC: Training bulletin
5. 01.08.25- Swale Borough Council: Review of Area Committees
6. 04.08.25- Swale Borough Council: JKC Policy round-up
7. 05.08.25- KCC Highways: Highway Information Pack
8. 05.08.25- Feedback on mental health training
9. 05.08.25- KALC Newsletter
10. 05.08.25- Swale Borough Council: Area Committee meetings.
11. 05.08.25- KCC Highways- update on Iwade Road works
12. 06.08.25- National Highways: Drainage and Vegetation Clearance Works M2 junctions 4 - 5
13. 07.08.25- resident concerns about golf practise at Recreation Ground
14. 07.08.25- NALC CEO bulletin
15. 08.08.25- Kent County Council Official Opposition Newsletter

Cllr Harvey said the Council acknowledges official communications from The Government, Kent County Council, Swale Borough Council, Parish Councils, Police & Crime Commissioner, KALC and NALC.

Councillors agreed that communications from an "Official Opposition" group or other party are unwarranted.

- 16. 08.08.25- KALC: call for motions for consideration at the upcoming KALC Annual General Meeting
- 17. 08.08.25- KALC: Invitation to free online information webinars for Swale - Community Resilience
- 18. 11.08.25- Swale Borough Council: JKC Policy Round-Up
- 19. 12.08.25- KALC: Annual Finance Conference 12 September
- 20. 14.08.25- NALC CEO bulletin
- 21. 18.08.25- SBC: Policy Update
- 22. 18.08.25- KALC bulletin
- 23. 21.08.25- NALC CEO bulletin

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Jackson informed Members that the Pavilion Caretaker had spoken to the person practicing golf at the Recreation Ground.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 30 September 2025 at 7pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman
Date: 30 September 2025