

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 17 September 2019 in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion.

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

Also present was PCSO John Cork

1. Apologies for Absence

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

Apologies had been received from Cllr Elaine Jackson (holiday) and Cllr Ryan Condron (work); apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 20 August 2019

Cllr Layer reported the hole in track next to the Recreation Ground has been repaired.

Cllr Layer said Persimmons Homes have offered to keep the Roman temple on site and the archaeologists will be rebuilding the foundations as they discovered them.

Cllr Coles said Persimmon is working with KCC regarding this matter and thanked Cllr Harvey for his help liaising with Planning.

4. Public Question Time

No members of the public were present.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO Cork reported that incidents of anti social behaviour had been low in the village, there had been an egging of a house in the High Street. There have been numerous reports of drug dealing from a property in Church Lane and information is being gathered. There has been a break in at Outdoor Pursuits, Wormdale Farm and this is being monitored.

There had been a road closure on the A2 as someone had been found dead in a house and had been deceased for several months.

PCSO Cork said that he covers a wide area including the Ilse of Sheppey and will attend the Cornerstone Café when possible.

Cllr Harvey said there is an issue with a dog waste bin on a telegraph pole which, evidence shows, is on highways land, a land owner has said he will remove the bin.

PCSO Cork said that as the bin is not the property of the land owner it would be criminal damage if he takes the bin down.

Cllr Coles said the Community Warden has reported pigeons being shot.

PCSO Cork said anyone shooting must tell Kent Police and a report is raised and the Police checks to ensures it is legal.

Cllr Harvey said he was concerned that the Community Warden had reported a *Youth shooting birds and firing at weathervane in residents back gardens from his upstairs window*

PCSO Cork said he had given the resident the appropriate advice and there has been no further incidents.

PCSO Cork said there had been an issue with tents being erected by Sainsburys in Sittingbourne, the Police have attended and it is down to Swale Borough Council to take appropriate action.

Nothing has been taken from the Persimmon site since security has been employed. There is an issue with gas canisters throughout the Borough. People have been stopped and someone was stopped from driving, the Police are good at confiscating these items from young people. Knife crime is being targeted and parks are being patrolled.

Cllr Layer thanked PCSO Cork for attending and for his report.

PCSO Cork left the meeting

ii. Community Warden report

Community Warden Georgina Springall was unable to attend and sent a report:

- 1) *Youth shooting birds and firing at weathervane in residents back gardens from his upstairs window – Reported to PCSO.*
- 2) *Another bed spring fly tipped in Playstool Road – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 3) *Footpath that runs from High Street to Iwade Road (diverted around Persimmon building site) completely obstructed with vegetation – Reported to KCC Public Right of Ways.*
- 4) *Resident leaving excess rubbish and household items next to bins that dustman will not remove – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 5) *Rear entrance to Newington Manor grounds that had been made secure years ago has been broken down – Neighbouring resident kindly re-secured it.*
- 6) *Abandoned vehicle with no MOT or tax in village hall car park – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 7) *Concerns from resident regarding the shooting of pigeons on stubble farmland at rear of his premises – checked out legalities which states that it is allowed as long as operated by farmer, crop owner or on their behalf. Have tried nonlethal options, bangers and made judgement that crop damage is significant! They also have to keep a fact log of shoot dates .*
- 8) *Communal bins not been emptied in Wickham Close and household rubbish next to them – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 9) *Excessive amount of dog fouling on footpath that leads from Callaways Lane to Wormdale Farm – Monitoring area.*
- 10) *Complaint from resident regarding dogs that bark and lunge at fence at side of footpath that runs behind The Manor - Checked and metal fence very secure.*
- 11) *Branches fly tipped on grass area in Bull Lane at rear of houses in Playstool Road – Spoke to resident who said they would remove them.*
- 12) *Resident letting dog out without lead on side road to foul on green – Reported to Swale Borough Council dog warden.*
- 13) *Fly tipping outside allotment gates - Reported to Swale Borough Council who now claim it is not their responsibility to remove.*
- 14) *Male seen erecting tent on verge entrance to orchard area – monitoring area.*
- 15) *HGV and bus wedged together on High Street outside Co op area – Police attended, assisted with traffic control.*
- 16) *Suspected drug dealing in station area – Reported to PCSO.*

6. S106 Funds

Cllr Harvey reported the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground have part funding for a see saw and for a disabled access roundabout. There needs to be an accessible path to the play area and also a couple of smaller items to ensure the area is part of the main play area, the fencing will also need extending. There is £60,500 S106 funding available and there needs to be a budget for the play area. The Friends group will raise additional funding.

Cllr Coles asked whether the figures for the roundabout are quotes or estimates.

Cllr Harvey said the figures are quotes and a second provider will be sought to quote.
Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to recommend to Full Council that £50,000 be earmarked for the play area; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.
The Clerk asked that all quotations and invoices be made out to Newington Parish Council to ensure a clear audit trail for the Independent Internal Auditor, External Auditor and Persimmon Homes. There will need to be more than one quotation.

7. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer reported that he had completed the play equipment safety course and that he has sight check the equipment. The bearings on the sputnik need to be replaced.

ACTION 1: Clerk to obtain a quotation for the repairs to the sputnik.

ACTION 2: Clerk to request the playground inspector to inspect the equipment and for Cllr Layer to attend.

ACTION 3: Clerk to ascertain from the insurance company how often sight checks need to be completed.

ii. To consider quotation to paint the garage

Councillors considered the quotations to paint the garage using anti graffiti paint and oil based masonry paint.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain how easy it is to clean off the graffiti and how long anti graffiti paint lasts.

Cllr Harvey said another option would be for a school to paint the garage.

Cllr Coles said it could be a project for the Youth Club to do at half term.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to liaise with the Youth Club leaders.

8. Pavilion

i. To receive an update

Councillors reviewed the rent for the Youth Club and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to keep it the same rate and review it in six months time.

ii. To consider quotation for extra CCTV camera at the Pavilion

Cllr Harvey said it had been reported that bottles and cans have been thrown at the Pavilion and a CCTV camera needs to be installed at the end of the Pavilion.

The Clerk said she is still waiting to receive a quotation.

9. Defibrillator

Cllr layer said that he and Cllr Palmer regularly check the defibrillator in the High Street and that there are no issues with it.

10. Allotments

Cllr Layer said there was nothing to report.

11. Highways

Cllr Layer reported the proposed gas main replacement has been deferred to next year. Wardwell Lane was closed for maintenance work on the powerlines.

12. Lights

Cllr Layer reported that a meeting is being arranged with the contractor.

Cllr Coles asked for an update regarding the upgrade of the remainder of the lights.

The Clerk said the contractor is waiting for UK Power Networks to connect the columns and there needs to be a road close to connect one of the lights.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

ACTION: Clerk to check the progress of the clearance of the footpath at the Persimmon development.

14. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said he had been asked by the church if an A5 insert can be included in the Village Voice, it has been agreed that this will be accepted from village organisations and charities.

The front page will have the ruling on Pond Farm; the litter pick will be advertised and the date will be 19 October at 9.15am outside the village hall; the Cemetery maintenance contract and hedge cutting tender will be advertised; the new website will be promoted; Newington History Group's commemoration mugs included.

Cllr Layer said the new website is excellent and the updates are good. There is a new Facebook page which is seeking reports from local villages.

Cllr Harvey said there is the potential for links between this and a Newington page.

Cllr Geldard said he is finalising a Parish Council Facebook page and also drafting a Social Media policy.

15. Social Media Policy

Deferred to Full Council.

16. Any Other Business

Cllr Mould said the footpath from the parking area to the school playground will be completed by half term. There will be a Rock Week (times tables) at Lower Halstow School.

Cllr Layer said a quote has been received to tighten the fence at the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Coles said a rail along the top if the fence will make it easier for people to climb over it. If a gateway is created it will increase the footfall through the alleyway.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Optivo to contribute towards the repairs.

The Clerk reported that Alan Blackburn, KCC Highways, had contacted her regarding an application to put a memorial bench on the green.

Cllr Harvey said the Parish Council has suggested to the resident that a bench could go at the Cemetery or the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council is aware of the objections from residents and the existing bench at the green is little used.

Date of Next Meeting: 22 October 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.41pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair

Date: 24 September 2019