

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 18 September 2018 in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion.

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Stephen Harvey and Cllr Tony Mould; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).
Also present was one member of the public.

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 24 July 2018

Garage key -the Sports Club still has the key to the garage and will be removing their last items by the end of the week.

Street lights- the lamps have been replaced when possible and the light in Callaways Lane is working.

Note for residents to give to cold callers- the Community Warden has nothing suitable.

ACTION 1: Clerk to ascertain when the village was registered as a No Cold Calling Zone.

ACTION 2: Clerk to ask Community Warden for door stickers for residents.

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

Cllr Mould said Inspector West had spoken to Councillors about the Kent Police Strategy much of which was not relevant locally.

Cllr Jackson said an agenda may be useful for the next meeting.

Cllr Mould said it is important to encourage residents to report crime as this helps the Police target resources locally.

ii. Community Warden report

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

1) Attempted shares scam by phone and post to resident – Reported to KCC Trading Standards.

2) Cold callers claiming to reduce energy bills– unfortunately residents didn't have information of company. Gave advice for future cold callers.

3) Nuisance dogs coming out of house and harassing walkers on public footpath – visited resident dog owner. SBC Dog Warden will also visit resident.

4) Massive pile of fly tipping in lay by in Bull Lane, found some evidence – Reported to SBC.

5) Vehicle obstructing walk through in Westwood Walk garage area – Contacted Optivo, found out ownership of garage, problem now resolved.

- 6) *Straying German Shepherd dog along High Street and running into road – Reported to SBC and spoke to dog warden. Dog safely returned.*
- 7) *Trading Standards referral to visit elderly resident subjected to scams. Made joint visit.*
- 8) *Ongoing neighbour dispute regarding fencing and boundary – Optivo dealing with it.*
- 9) *Dog fouling, suspect one dog, in play area in Playstool Road – Monitoring area.*
- 10) *Suspected drug dealing taking place in areas in the village – Police aware.*
- 11) *Excessive dog fouling on track that leads from Callaways Lane to Island, main problem caused by two dogs – Reported to SBC Dog Warden.*
- 12) *Complaints from residents in Station Road about the amount of litter from the Chinese and Indian takeaways. People sit in their vehicles and throw the cartons and left over food out of the windows.*
- 13) *Complaints regarding barking/whining dog at all hours of the day Pear Tree Walk area – Advised residents to report to SBC and I have reported to housing association, Optivo.*
- 14) *Several vehicles in Church Lane, Callaways Lane and the car wash showroom windows broken due to large ball bearings catapulted from a vehicle. This has also occurred to vehicles and shops in Upchurch and Lower Halstow. I have advised residents affected to report damage to police who do have some leads.*
- 15) *Untaxed vehicle parked on public highway – Reported to DVLA.*
- 16) *Copycat broken car windows to vehicle in Bull Lane – Police aware.*
- 17) *Water still leaking onto grass verge and pavement back of 76 Bull Lane/fronting houses in Pear Tree Walk – Reported to KCC Highways/Drainage.*
- 18) *Abandoned bicycle in Bump Alley – Checked out not stolen.*
- 19) *Scam visit referral from KCC Trading Standards – Made joint visit.*
- 20) *Concerns for welfare of vulnerable resident – Kent police referral.*

iii. Quad bikes on the Recreation Ground

Cllr Harvey asked if there had been reports of quad bikes on the Recreation Ground recently.

Cllr Layer asked if there by laws for open spaces.

Cllr Coles said a sign could be erected which would be a deterrent.

ACTION: Clerk to check with Swale Borough Council if there are any by laws for open spaces regarding inappropriate usage.

Councillors agreed not to replace the railing panel at this time.

6. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson said there have been issues with the grass cutting which was cut on 10 September with no back up mowing, it is expected the back up team will come out within a couple of days. The back up mower is scheduled for 21 September with a main cut on 28 September and further back up maintenance on 1 October.

Cllr Coles asked whether the Council could make use of a strimmer if it was donated.

Cllr Mould said the grass cutting contract would need to be reduced if the Council undertook the work.

Cllr Harvey said the path around the Pavilion has become overgrown with weeds and needs to be treated with weed killer.

Cllr Jackson said if the grass cutting contractor needs keys to the top gate or Pavilion.

Cllr Jackson said the Football Club will address the goal post holes by the end of the month.

ACTION: Cllr Jackson to contact the Football Club at the end of the month if necessary.

Cllr Jackson said the Pavilion caretaker has given the Clerk a list of the Football Club fixtures.

Cllr Coles asked for an update on the tree at the Recreation Ground.

The Clerk reported she had sent details of the tree warden to the resident.

ACTION: Clerk to contact tree warden again for advice.

ii. To consider the quotation to adjust field gate

Councillors considered the quotation to adjust the gate and other possible solutions. If the top gate is used more the track gate may become semi-redundant. The work may be part of a bigger project.

ACTION: Cllr Harvey to liaise with contractor regarding options for the gate.

7. Play Area

i. To receive an update

Cllr Harvey reported the maintenance session held on Sunday 16 September went well and both swing frames and the climbing frame were painted. The swings are from different manufacturers, one company uses independent fitters and the other has its own fitters and will carry out safety inspections and gives quotations for work. Daniel Gooch, Swale Borough Council, will send a warden to help fit the seats.

ii. Play area inspection report

Cllr Mould said there were five moderate issues on the inspection report and the rest were either low-moderate or low issues. If the Council is going to revisit the play area, nothing needs to be done at the moment.

Cllr Harvey said Daniel Gooch informed him there was no problem with the items on the report. Cllr Harvey said he would meet with Wicksteed and arrange another meeting of the Friends group.

IT WAS AGREED that Cllr Harvey could order the swings.

Cllr Jackson said the fence between the basketball court and the play area the needs repairing.

Cllr Harvey said the fence protects the play area from balls.

ACTION: Cllr Harvey to liaise with the contract for options for the fencing.

8. Pavilion

i. To receive and update

Cllr Harvey said the plasterer will carry out the repairs on Thursday 20 September and the painter will visit after that. The builder has given the floor paint but no details of what paint was used on the walls.

ACTION: Clerk to contact builder for paint details.

Cllr Harvey reported the bulk head lights have been installed around the building and there is a minute timer on the outside lights. The heating is now working.

IT WAS AGREED that a quote be obtained to paint the ceiling repair and work authorised up to £400.

Cllr Jackson said there had been issues with the alarm system not sending out messages and this was due to the credit running down on the SIM card.

Cllr Harvey said monthly contracts are available for as little as £5 per month, there is no coverage from some networks at the Pavilion and an O2 SIM must be obtained.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain SIM card.

Cllr Harvey said that when the alarm is up and running, neighbours must be written to so that they are aware the issues have been resolved and that they be encouraged to report the alarm if it goes off.

Cllr Jackson asked how the Swans Fitness Group were paying for the Community Gym Room. The Clerk said they are being invoiced monthly.

Cllr Layer said the group is concerned about other groups using their equipment without permission.

Cllr Mould said the Council can hire the room out to other groups but they would not be permitted to use the Swans' equipment.

ii. To consider the quotation for the Pavilion fencing

Cllr Jackson said this will be considered at a later date as part of a bigger project.

9. Allotments

Cllr Layer reported the Allotment Association has paid for the trees to be cut at the community forest. There are some vacancies which will be filled from the waiting list.

10. Newington Festival 2018

Cllr Mould reported he still has not been able to finalise the accounts as he had not heard from The Bull. The winner of the barrow of booze sold some of the bottles and has donated £40 to the Festival funds.

ACTION: Cllr Jackson to contact landlord.

IT WAS AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to £100 donation from Festival surplus to the Scouts Dragon Explorers group for their hard work at the Festival.

Cllr Mould said an article will be put in the Village Voice asking for help to run next year's Festival.

11. Lights

Cllr Jackson said positive feedback has been received from residents about the repairs to the lights. The application form for permission to take out a loan and supporting evidence has been sent to KALC to submit to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

12. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Jackson said Footpath ZR691 is overgrown.

ACTION: Clerk to report to KCC PROW.

13. Village Voice

Cllr Mould circulated first draft of the Village Voice for consideration.

It was agreed to include a report on the meeting with Inspector West; Crime Stoppers; reminder to use authorised waste removal contractors; Age Concern Support for the elderly; play area report and date of Friends follow up meeting. The Community Warden will be asked about Halloween stickers. Articles are needed by 29 September.

14. Defibrillator

Cllr Jackson said the defibrillator is being delivered to Rainham Fire Station. Details of the model have been requested so as to obtain quotations for the cabinet. Dr Adigwe has agreed to it being on the surgery wall so quotes will be needed from electrician to install it.

15. Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 8.50pm.