

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 16 April 2019 in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion.

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Tony Mould, visiting Member Cllr Jeannie Milburn; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were PCSO John Cork and PCSO Ryan Atherton

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Graham Staff and Cllr Jeannie Milburn; apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

This item was brought forward on the agenda

i. PCSO report

PCSO Cork reported there have been problems with nuisance bikes in Newington and also the surrounding villages. A resident reported a cold caller from Scope but this proved to be legitimate.

PCSO Atherton said the Police have a description of face coverings and helmets. The bikes can be seized if they do not have insurance or if off-road without the land owners permission. PCSO Cork said the bikes can be seized if they are on the trackway as it is not a public road. The Police are getting results through intelligence and reports from residents.

Cllr Harvey said the Council has been concerned about drug use in the woods, in particular gas canisters.

PCSO Cork said the canisters are everywhere.

PCSO Cork said there had been an attempted break in at the old car sales and there is concern because of the asbestos on the roof and also the petrol tanks. There was a disturbance at the car wash between passers-by and staff.

Cllr Jackson said there have been problems with parking at the school.

PCSO Cork reported he had been contacted by residents who are concerned that vehicles have been driving on a new flower bed. The school is very good and is proactive in dealing with complaints. Parents can use the church car park but some chose not to. The area is being monitored.

Cllr Coles said the new development off the High Street has uncovered lots of archaeology and there have been problems with people going on the site.

PCSO Cork said building sites are always an attraction for criminals.

PCSO Cork reported a brand-new Audi sports car had been recovered from St Marys View, the car had been stolen from a house burglary in Ashford.

PCSO Cork said the Police Surgery at the Cornerstone Café is going well and that he attends as much as possible. Residents can seek advice and purse chains are also available. The Police are targeting Anti-Social Behaviour hotspots, Newington is not in an Anti-Social Behaviour hotspot, if residents report crimes the area will receive regular visits. There is an answerphone message to call 101 or report online if PCSO Cork is not available.

Cllr Jackson thanked PCSO Cork and PCSO Atherton for attending and for their reports.

ii. Community Warden report

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

- 1) *Two youths suspected of smoking cannabis in recreation ground area – PCSO John Cork aware.*
- 2) *Bonnet stolen from Environmental Agency Landrover which was parked in Playstool Road – Police aware.*
- 3) *Dog fouling on footpath that leads to watercress beds off Wardwell Lane.*
- 4) *Reports of excessive water running down back path of Pear Tree walk again. Maybe due to swimming pool being emptied in Bull Lane – Monitoring area.*
- 5) *Excessive dog fouling on verges rear of houses in Pear Tree walk.*
- 6) *Met up with Swale Borough Council Environmental Warden and put up new large dog fouling penalty signs in bad areas of dog fouling.*
- 7) *Delivered Swale Borough Council dog fouling awareness letters to houses in Pear Tree Walk.*
- 8) *Concerns regarding use of disabled parking bay – checked out with Swale Borough Council and unless post of conditions next to it, the bay is just a ‘courtesy’ bay and incorrect usage can’t be enforced.*
- 9) *Concerns regarding welfare of elderly couple – Social Services aware.*
- 10) *Complaints from elderly resident regarding young children playing football in Playstool Close in close proximity to his front wall and car. Visited parent and spoke to children and have reached a happy compromise.*
- 11) *Art group proving to be a great success. From May, group will be meeting back in the Church on 1st and 3rd Friday mornings of each month.*

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 19 March 2019

Cllr Harvey said the Swale Tree Officer’s email was helpful, however there is still the need to preserve on of the few remaining mature trees on village land.

ACTION: Clerk to request the Tree Preservation Orders be made.

4. Public Question Time

No Members of the public were present.

6. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Harvey reported the five-aside football goals have been installed. All the work in the playground had been completed with the contractor carrying out extra work free of charge. The Friends of Newington Recreation Ground have been proactive and have secured funding for a litter bin and are at stage two of a Postcode Lottery bid for a disabled roundabout which is designed to be used by wheel chair users as well as abled bodied children.

Cllr Jackson said the grass cutters came out last Sunday to cut the grass again, the company is very proactive and allowed for the Easter holidays so came early.

Cllr Harvey said that when the play area was strimmed they did not sweep off the safety surfaces.

Cllr Layer said if the area is cut every two weeks this will be minimal.

Cllr Jackson said the keys have not been returned by Landscape Services.

The Clerk said she has requested this several times but has had no response.

ii. To consider proposal for a cableway

Cllr Harvey reported three quotations have been received, grass tile surfacing has been requested as this is easy to maintain. The cableway could be funded by the money from Jones Homes. Contractors have been asked if they can install this before the summer holidays. It would be good to ascertain the views of the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground and ask

Full Council for a budget so as to be able to liaise with Daniel Gooch, Swale Borough Council. The choice of cableway be agreed by Cllrs Layer, Harvey and Palmer and Friends of Newington Recreation Ground and then approved by Cllr Jackson.

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to recommend to Full Council that a cableway be installed up to a budget of £11,000 subject to the opinion of the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground and Swale Borough Council: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

iii. To consider revised quotations for foot path

Cllr Mould asked what benefit the path will be, the quotes are for a significant amount and the Parish Council must be responsible in its expenditure.

Cllr Coles said currently there is no all-purpose access to the Pavilion, there is no disabled access.

Cllr Mould said if the path at the edge of the Recreation ground is used, the new path could start at the kissing-gate. This option makes sense as there is lighting within the compound so this would achieve access with lighting.

Cllr Harvey said if the interior path were improved, access could be through the back gate.

Cllr Jackson said a safety surface within the compound could mean a play group might be interested in using the Pavilion.

Cllr Harvey said if the back entrance became the main entrance for pedestrians, the other side of the Pavilion compound could be fenced off so the goal posts would not pose a hazard.

Cllr Coles said the new path could either go around the compound or the existing path could be improved.

Cllr Harvey said the existing lights could be used.

ACTION 1: Cllr Coles to draft new specification.

ACTION 2: Clerk to obtain quotations.

7. Pavilion

i. To receive an update

Cllr Coles reported that the loose plaster in the store room was caused by pipe vibration and either a vibration sponge needs to be put in or a hole needs to be left to remedy the issue. There might need to be a new piece of plaster board installed.

ACTION: Cllr Coles to rectify the problem.

ii. To consider youth group letting

Cllr Mould reported there has been a trial of a new youth club at the school and this has received a lot of interest. The Church wants to start using the Pavilion for the youth club from 1 May 2019 from 4-6pm, with the club being from 4.15- 5.45pm. There is a meeting on Friday 26 April.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to offer the Parish Room for May, June, July and August at a rate of £5 per session, to be reviewed for September.

Cllr Jackson said the church needs to consider the numbers of children attending and the needs of the club.

Cllr Mould said the youth worker has seen the room and has indicated she wants a table tennis table.

Cllr Harvey said equipment could be stored in the garage.

8. Defibrillator

Cllr Jackson said Cllr Milburn and Cllr Palmer have indicated they will be happy to run another training session.

9. Allotments

Cllr Layer reported that the new fence has been installed up to the gate. Anti-climbing spikes have been purchased and the Allotment Association is discussing whether to install them. There is a bar across the shed to prevent theft of equipment.

10. Highways

Cllr Coles said he has concerns about the appalling workmanship of recent road works. The work was finished a week ahead of schedule. In the cordoned off area pot holes were not filled; the manhole cover was not reset; only two foot of the white lining has been done; the zebra crossing paint work is virtually non-existent, the damaged railings have been replaced with square box section and not round box section; only the new section has been painted but the existing ones were left. The road was left dirty, it should have been swept.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KCCllr Whiting for a report for Full Council.

Cllr Mould said there should be an article in the Village Voice that the matter has been discussed and a complaint raised.

ACTION: Cllr Harvey to write article.

Cllr Coles said Bull Lane, Playstool Road and Callaways Lane corners are full of dirt. The white lines, especially on the speed humps have faded and cars have hit the speed humps because the driver is not aware of it.

Cllr Jackson said KCCllr Whiting should be asked where the responsibility lies.

Cllr Coles said Borden and Bobbing have SLOW DOWN road markings but not Newington.

Cllr Coles said the Village Walk with the Highways Steward needs to be reinstated.

ACTION 1: Clerk to contact Highway Steward.

ACTION 2: Clerk to report speed bump markings to KCC.

Cllr Harvey said Swale have met with the developer of land off 99 High Street, there is now regular cleaning of the road and the developer has offered to clean neighbours' driveways.

Cllr Jackson reported that KCCllr Whiting has suggested that the replacement of the Speed Indicator Device could be an item for a Parish Highways Improvement Plan.

Cllr Coles asked how often the roads are litter picked.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate schedule to Councillors.

11. Lights

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson informed Members that KCC has been contacted regarding the street light in Boxted Lane to see if they will cut back the vegetation, KCC will not touch it because it is on an electricity pole. This has been reported to UK Power Networks who are concerned that the vegetation may affect the overhead power cables and will cut back the vegetation. The Parish Council has had a quotation to clear the vegetation by a contractor but needs to wait to see if UK Power Networks will carry out the maintenance.

Cllr Harvey asked if the light in Allsworth Close would be repaired.

The Clerk said if the repair is more than a lamp replacement it is not covered by the maintenance contract and will be replaced when the lights are upgraded.

ii. Pear Tree Walk light

This will be remedied when the lights are upgraded to LEDs.

12. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Mould said there is still a dispute regarding the dog bin in Callaways Lane.

Cllr Harvey said the document sent by the resident was not a Land Registry document but a copy of the Ordnance Survey map.

ACTION 1: Clerk to inform resident the Council is waiting for Land Registry details.

ACTION 2: Cllr Godmon to obtain Land Registry details.

13. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould asked whether the Parish Council will hold the Best Kept Garden Competition again.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to hold the competition again and for it to be included in the Village Voice.

There will be an article on the Highways workmanship; reporting crime on 101 online; Annual Parish Council meeting date; a report from the Annual Parish Meeting.

14. Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr Harvey said that instead of sitting around the table, Councillors could face the public and then turn around to face the speakers later on the agenda.

Cllr Mould said speaker should be given a maximum of three minutes to speak.

Cllr Jackson said she will liaise with Cllr Milburn regarding the refreshments.

Currently have 13 groups plus The Wickham Trust attending to give reports.

15. Any Other Business

No further matters were raised

Date of Next Meeting: 21 May 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 23 April 2019