

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion on 20 February 2024

Present: Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Ruth Brown, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Tony Mould, Cllr Chris Palmer and visiting Member Cllr Richard Palmer; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

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

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Elaine Jackson (personal) and Cllr Michael Barlow (work); apologies accepted.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2024**

Cllr Layer reported that grant applications for Youth provision have been submitted.

Cllr Harvey said he remained concerned about the outreach work and how this will be monitored.

*ACTION: Clerk to request monthly reports.*

### **4. Public Question Time**

No members of the public were present.

### **5. Anti-Social Behaviour**

Cllr Layer reported that PC Jez Chittim hopes to attend the next Full Council meeting and has reported:

I have reviewed ASB calls into the police from Newington for the last month period. There has only been one call categorised as ASB and this was on 22/01/2024. The call was to NISA shop in the High Street, reporting 4x nuisance youths continuously stood outside opening and closing the entrance door to the shop. They eventually got bored and left prior to police attendance.

Cllr Harvey reported a caravan has been dumped in Playstool Road.

*ACTION: Cllr R Palmer to report.*

### **6. Recreation Ground and green spaces**

#### i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer informed Members the annual inspection has been completed and no major issues were raised by the inspector. There is some graffiti on top of the multi-play unit and this will be removed.

Cllr Harvey said there had been posts on social media regarding the play area.

*ACTION: Clerk to report to insurance company.*

#### ii. Community Woodland update

Cllr Layer reported the tree works at the woodland have been completed.

Cllr Harvey said the contractor said the wood chippings could be scattered on the woodland paths, this could be a project for the school.

Cllr Layer said a resident has reported the dog waste bin is full and that the Friends of Newington Trees is in disrepair. There has been no decision regarding the play panels.

iii. Review of Football Club fees

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that the football fees be kept at current rate £1450 and £11 per extra session, for one more year.

**7. Pavilion**

i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer said the Pavilion CCTV camera will be installed on 23 February. Quotes need to be obtained for a new hand dryer in the toilet.

*ACTION: Clerk.*

ii. Pavilion alarm

The Clerk reported the company has suggested upgrading the system to a monitored system which means there is no need to worry about topping up the sim card however, this will require a quotation to be sent to install this unit and there is a yearly monitoring cost of £174+VAT. This system will only work if the area has good GPRS signal. The sim card needs a code to top up online.

*ACTION: Clerk to take sim card home to top up.*

iii. Pavilion extension

Cllr Harvey said a structural engineer is needed.

*ACTION: Cllr Mould to take to local expert.*

Cllr Layer asked if there could be parking at the top of the field.

Cllr Harvey said there could be security issues and potential illegal incursion.

iv. To consider quotations for notice board

Details of notice boards had been circulated.

*ACTION: Ask contractor if he has any ideas for external notice boards and ask for quote to refurbish High Street notice board.*

v. Review of Pavilion fees

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to keep the current fees of £5 per hour for resident; £10 per hour per commercial/ non-resident and £50 deposit.

Cllr Harvey said a specification for a temporary pavilion cleaner needs to be agreed. The tender has been published on the website and will be a temporary contract. There needs to be an initial spring clean.

*ACTION: Cllr Harvey to contact local cleaner.*

Cllr Harvey asked for an update on the saplings planting.

The Clerk said the contractor has been reminded.

Cllr Layer said the contractor had the saplings before Christmas and the ground has been too wet.

**8. Allotments**

Cllr Layer informed Members that the trees have been cut back and a delivery of manure has been received.

**9. Highways**

i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer said there will be a HIP meeting on 5 March. Pot holes have been reported.

Cllr Brown said there are still problems with vehicles turning into Bull Lane from the A2.

Cllr Harvey said it will be raised at the HIP meeting.

ii. To consider quotations for 20mph signs

Councillors considered the quotations.

Cllr Mould said thirty signs from Street Solutions at £13.74 each and clips at £2.08 each should be purchased.

*ACTION 1: Clerk to ascertain who installed Lower Halstow 20mph repeater signs.*

*ACTION 2: Clerk to obtain quotations for installing signs.*

Cllr Harvey said the bus stops need to be washed down.

Cllr R Palmer said a date for the annual litter pick needs to be agreed.

Cllr Layer said there had been an email about the litter at the station.

Cllr R Palmer said he has been trying to contact Network Rail.

Cllr Harvey said this needs to be discussed at Full Council.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact Network Rail to arrange clearance of litter and mess.*

It was agreed to hold the annual litter pick on 27 April starting at 9.30am.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact village groups.*

Cllr C Palmer reported that she has been liaising with PC Chittim regarding dangerous parking at the top of Station Road.

Cllr Harvey said this will be raised at the HIP meeting.

*ACTION: Cllr C Palmer to forward emails.*

Cllr Layer said there is flooding in Boxted Lane.

## **10. Lights**

No matters were raised.

## **11. Footpaths and Bridleways**

No matters were raised.

## **12. Village Voice and media**

Cllr Mould gave an update on the Village Voice which will be an online edition. The Spring Clean and Speed Watch will be included.

## **13. Cemetery and Churchyard**

i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer informed Members the posts have been installed at the Cemetery.

ii. To consider exhumation policy

Councillors agreed that they had no objections but would need to be satisfied that all requirements have been met.

## **14. Events**

Cllr Layer said the Working Group has met. There has been an offer of a loan of a tent for teas.

*ACTION: Fete Working Group to obtain quotations for PA system,*

## **15. Portrait of King Charles III**

Councillors agreed to accept the offer of a free framed portrait of the King.

## **16. Any Other Business**

No other matters were raised.

**Date of Next Meeting: 19 March 2024**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.11pm

Signed a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 27 February 2024