

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion on 23 August 2022

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chairman), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Mike Barlow, Cllr Stephen Harvey and Cllr Tony Mould; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present was Mr Bob Jackson, Pavilion Caretaker.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ruth Brown (personal); apology accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from minutes 19 July 2022

Cllr Harvey said he will contact Cllr Godmon regarding the garage mural paint. The mural has been a huge success as deterring graffiti.

4. Public Question Time

No members of the public were in attendance.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO Lorraine Holmes was unable to attend and had submitted the following report:

Crimes of note (19/07/22 – 22/08/22):

- No Burglary offences reported
- Vehicle Crime offences reported: 28/07/22 – attempted theft of motorbike in St Martin's Close. 29/07/22 – theft of three catalytic converters from a car sales office on London Road. 14/08/22 – number plates stolen from vehicle parked in the Village Hall car park.
- No Criminal Damage offences reported
- No Fraud offences reported.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- Two reports received on 06/08/22 and 22/08/22 of persons trespassing around the rear gardens of Merton Drive. On both occasions police dog units were in attendance but did not locate any offenders.

Other items of note:

- Unfortunately, I won't be in attendance at the next Cornerstone café for my drop- in surgery as I am away on holiday in September. If you need to speak to me beforehand then please email/phone me.

Updates of previous reported issues:

- I am currently looking to identify safe and appropriate sites along London Road/High Street/Church Lane in order to conduct speed checks.

ii. Community Warden report

Community Warden Georgina Springall submitted the following report:

- 1) Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents.

- 2) Neighbour dispute – Optivo and police aware.
- 3) Broken bottles and litter in alleyway between Station Road and Church Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council for cleansing.
- 4) ‘No Cold Callers’ sticker given to elderly resident.
- 5) Advice given to resident involved with ongoing neighbour dispute.
- 6) Fly tipping in High Street, behind bus shelter – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 7) Neighbour dispute regarding noise and other issues – Advice given.
- 8) Visit to Newington Court care home and discussed clubs/groups suitable for their residents to attend. Also discussed KCC home library service and gave them information and leaflets so they can subscribe.
- 9) Concerns from residents regarding highways maintenance truck parking on pavement and causing obstruction- Monitoring area and advice given.
- 10) Concerns from residents regarding increasing traffic speeding through Callaways Lane since Bull Lane was made ‘no entry’.
- 11) Resident’s granddaughter lost her phone in orchard area behind Pond Farm.
- 12) Concerns regarding dog owner resident finding someone had put a white chalk cross on her gate post. She was also aware of similar markings put on other dog owner posts in Oad Street area – Advised to report to police.
- 13) Vehicle entered Bull Lane from High Street (through no entry signs) and parked in Bull car park – Spoke to driver who was genuinely very apologetic and had not realised it was now ‘no entry’.
- 14) Dustbin bag of large Koi Carp dumped at side of footpath next to Moat Cottage. Moat cottage owners disposed of bag correctly and will look on their CCTV for evidence.

6. Recreation Ground and green spaces

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Layer for meeting with the Football Club.

Cllr Layer said it was established that the goals had not been moved far, the club is trying to conserve the pitch for five-a-side games. The five-a-side pitch has to have a two-metre strip either side but they have not been able to do this because of the vegetation, they have been told we can have this cut back. There will only be youngster and not adults playing. The club is fully insured. The situation will be monitored.

Cllr Harvey said the Football Club advised the Council when we installed the five-a-side goals. The critical issue is that although the new goal posts may only be slightly nearer the play area but when the posts are not there the post holes must be securely covered.

ACTION: Clerk to request Football Club ensures the post holes are securely covered.

Cllr Harvey reported that some trees in the Community Woodland have ash die-back.

ACTION: Clerk to request contractor to mark affected ash trees and ascertain date for work.

ii. To review Litter picking specification

Councillors agreed the specification for the work.

ACTION: Clerk to ask contractor for comments.

Cllr Jackson said the annual safety inspection has been ordered, it is £5 more than last year.

Cllr Layer asked for an update on the bolt covers.

The Clerk said that she has been chasing Wicksteed.

ACTION: Clerk to chase.

7. Pavilion

i. To receive an update

Having received no further quotes for alternatives to plates for the pavilion ceiling, it was agreed to proceed with the quote for individual plates over the heaters.

ACTION: Clerk to contact contractor.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to refund the deposit for the party hire on 21 August.

ii. To consider quotations for Pavilion roof repair

Cllr Jackson said the Council is still waiting to receive quotations.

8. Youth Club

The Clerk reported that the Youth Club starts again on 6 September.

Mr Jackson said the Youth Club is still not wiping down the tables after their sessions.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** that the peppercorn rent of £5 per session continue for the Youth Club: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the Youth Club and remind them of the terms of hire.

Cllr Layer reported that the activity day on 28 July was well-attended.

9. Allotments

Cllr Layer reported that the allotments were fully tenanted and that there is now a waiting list.

10. Community Woodland

Already covered.

11. Highways

Cllr Harvey said there will be a full report to Full Council.

12. Lights

There was nothing to report.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Jackson reported that the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church has cleared Bumpy Alley.

ACTION: Clerk to thank the church, inform them of the autumn litter pick and seek permission to publicly thank the church.

14. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould circulated the first draft of the Village Voice which will be an online edition; the litter picking tender and cemetery maintenance tenders will be included.

Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Mould for his sterling work on the publication.

15. Cemetery and Churchyard

i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer reported that the Cemetery and Churchyard are looking good. The memorial bench has been installed and the family is pleased with it.

ii. To review maintenance specification

Cllr Layer said there needs to be more cuts in the spring as this is a time when complaints are received.

Cllr Mould said there needs to be more flexibility.

It was agreed to add that additional cuts in consultation with Councillors.

16. Events

i. Celebration of Village Activities 8 September 2022

Cllr Jackson said the Committee needs to consider the arrangements. The Table Tennis Club would like to set up one or two tables to give a demonstration and to let people have a go.

Cllr Harvey said that would be a good idea. At the Annual Parish Meeting in 2019, coffee and cakes were served by a former Parish Councillor; this event could have wine, soft drinks and nibbles.

ACTION 1: Clerk to request sound system.

ACTION 2: Clerk to invite County Councillor and Borough Councillors to give a brief report.

ACTION 3: Clerk to ask WI if they will pour the drinks.

It was agreed that Parish Council Chairmen give reports to the meeting.

ii. Fete 2023- to consider request from Fun Fair to be in attendance at Fete 2023

Cllr Harvey said the Fun Fair had requested that they attend the Village Fete in 2023. The Council needs to decide if it will hold another Fete, it would have to be June or later.

Cllr Mould said if there is to be a Fete, planning must start in October or November.

Cllr Barlow asked if the Fun Fair would take away from other activities.

Cllr Harvey said the Fun Fair had said this does not happen elsewhere.

Cllr Barlow said the Council needs to set a date and invite the Fun Fair, it would be good to have the Fete and if the Fun Fair can come that would be a bonus.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Fun Fair if they have a date in July 2023.

Village Fete- item for next agenda.

17. Any Other Business

No other matters were raised.

Date of Next Meeting: 20 September 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.16pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 30 August 2022