

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 30 November 2018 in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Debbie Haigh (Chair), Cllr Tony Mould, Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Steve Godmon, Cllr Mel Harris, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Elaine Jackson, Cllr Eric Layer, Cllr Jeannie Milburn, Cllr Richard Palmer and; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present was Ward member John Wright and two members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Graham Staff: apologies accepted.

Apologies had also been received from SBCllr Gerry Lewin (at another meeting); apology noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

3. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2018

Cllr Haigh **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

CCTV- waiting to hear back from the Hall Committee as to when they intend to install new system.

Redundant toilets- SBCllr Lewin has given his support to the toilets being demolished and the area made good.

Police surgery- PCSO John Cork will hold a monthly Police Surgery will be at Cornerstone Café commencing on Thursday 20 December.

Tree on Recreation Ground- Swale Borough Council Tree Officer is liaising with the resident.
ACTION: Clerk to follow up the Tree Preservation Order requests in the village.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

A resident said she attended the Air Quality meeting at the Pavilion and asked for an update. The pollution in the village is not improving.

Cllr Haigh said a meeting is being arranged for 17 January 2019 at 7pm in the Newington Room.

SBCllr Wright said he has been working on this issue, the air quality strategy document is moving in the right direction in terms of making the A2 an air quality controlled zone with heavy polluting vehicles being fined. James Freeman is holding a briefing for Ward Members, Swale is increasing its recycling and burning of waste and if the third plant is built the borough will be dealing with one million tons of waste per annum and this does not include scrap metal dealers and other furnaces in the borough.

Cllr Harvey said residents are concerned because Steve Wilcock, Swale Borough Council Environmental Protection Team Leader, had stated that air quality in Newington will not be an issue next year.

SBCllr Wright said he has suggested the table in the minutes of the air quality meeting should be withdrawn as it is misleading. There are no government statistics to show it will meet the target.

Cllr Harvey said he has suggested there be four tubes at different heights to check the level of pollution within the High Street, the tubes cost £75 per tube per year, the Parish Council would probably be willing to fund this. A resident has generously offered to host the equipment in their front garden and this would be a better site than the Co-op.

SBCllr Wright said there is money in the budget for this.

Cllr Haigh said it needs to be asked if action will be taken before the January meeting.

Cllr Coles said the new recycling plant at Ridham Dock will be a national recycling centre with extra traffic using the A249. This will be close enough to affect the pollution level in Newington and there will also be increased light vehicles through the village.

6. VISITORS

Borough Councillor

SBCllr Wright reported a resident has contacted him regarding the traffic scheme in Bull Lane. KCCllr Whiting is looking for schemes to be adopted by Parish Councils to be put to Kent County Council.

SBCllr Wright said he has been contacted by residents about the memorial bench on the green.

Cllr Haigh said residents have been voicing their concerns to Councillors and the Parish Council and they have been directed to KCCllr Whiting as he had championed the siting of the bench. The Parish Council objected to the original site. Residents have complained that they were not consulted but as this was not a planning matter there would have been no consultation.

SBCllr Wright said he has given the last of his grant money to Newington Village Hall towards the CCTV. The High Street railings are in stock but unfortunately it was not possible to install them during the road closure for the gas works due to the equipment used for installation. There is money left in the budget to complete the work and also the coloured tarmac needs to be refreshed.

ACTION: Clerk to request the railings be replaced and the colour tarmac refreshed.

Cllr Harvey said the issue with the dropped kerb and pavement outside the development on the site of the former Working Men's Club needs to be addressed. The clause regarding non-opening windows needs to be implemented.

Cllr Haigh thanked SBCllr Wright for attending and for his report.

7. PLANNING

i. To receive an update

Application: 18/504230/FULL Land At Mill Hill, Upchurch ME9 7PE

Proposal: Erection of 4no. stables, tack room, feed store and wash down room and construction of a 20m x 60m manege for private use and for two schooling livery clients

Cllr Harvey informed Members a decision is yet to be made.

Application: 18/505315/FULL Land At The Tracies, Newington ME9 7TQ

Proposal: Erection of 5no. detached houses with associated access and parking including detached carport to Plot 2.

Cllr Harvey informed Councillors a decision is yet to be made.

Application: 18/505431/FULL Ashfield Court Farm, School Lane, Newington ME9 7LB

Proposal: Conversion and single storey rear extension of existing triple garage together with ramped access to create an annexe for a dependent elderly relative.

Cllr Harvey informed Members a decision is yet to be made.

Application: 18/503274/FULL 82 Church Lane, Newington ME9 7JU

Proposal: Removal of condition 12 of application 16/505663/OUT (Outline application for the erection of 1 detached 2 bedroom bungalow with all matters reserved for future consideration) to allow the addition of rooms in the roof space of the approved bungalow.

Cllr Harvey said there was nothing to report.

Application: 18/505060/ADJ (Alternative reference: 18/504836/EIOUT) Binbury Park, Detling Hill, Detling, Maidstone, Kent

Proposal: Adjoining Authority Consultation from Maidstone Borough Council for Outline application (with all matters reserved apart from access) for the erection of up to 1,750 dwellings including affordable housing, 46,000 sq.m of commercial space, a hotel, a local centre, a new primary school, a park and ride facility, strategic highways improvements including new Kent Showground access/egress, accesses/roads including a new bridleway bridge, parking, associated open space, landscaping, services, and Sustainable Drainage Systems. In addition the proposals include a publicly-accessible country park including the Binbury Motte and Bailey Castle Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Cllr Harvey informed Councillors a decision is yet to be made.

Application: 18/502531/FULL 61 Playstool Road, Newington ME9 7NL

Proposal: Erection of a first floor rear extension and loft extension with front dormer (Retrospective works to 16/503414/FULL).

Cllr Harvey informed Members a decision is yet to be made.

Application: 17/506569/FULL Breach Farm Paddocks, Land North-east Of Breach Farm Bungalow, Breach Lane, Upchurch ME9 7PE

Proposal: Change of use of land to single gypsy pitch and associated development (alternative to 15/502716)

Cllr Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

Application: 17/504342/FULL Newington Working Mens Club

Proposal: Retrospective demolition of former Working Mens Club and erection of 9no. dwellings and 1no. maisonette together with carports for garaging of cars (Revised

Cllr Harvey reported there was no change to the dwellings on the High Street are being advertised for rent, if the tenant opens the window the Landlord will be prosecuted.

Application: 17/504813/FULL Car Wash, 67 High Street, Newington ME9 7JJ

Proposal: Part change of use from car wash to residential for one studio

Cllr Harvey reported the Enforcement Officer has visited and found three caravans on site although there is only permission for two caravans.

Appeals to the Planning Inspectorate

Application: 17/506345/FULL Building at Keycol Farm, Keycol Hill, Bobbing ME9 7LG // 8NA

Proposal: Demolition of pole barn attached to northern elevation and conversion of a former agricultural building into two dwellings with associated access and parking and as amended by drawing number 21187 PL06 Rev received 28.02.2018.

Planning Inspectorate ref: APP/V2255/W/18/3205056

Cllr Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

Application 17/505711/HYBRID Land at Wises Lane, Borden ME10.1GD

Proposal: Hybrid planning application with outline planning permission (all matters reserved except for access) sought for up to 595 dwellings including affordable housing; a two-form entry primary school with associated outdoor space and vehicle parking; local facilities comprising a Class A1 retail store of up to 480 sq m GIA and Class D1 medical facility of up to 560 sq m GIA; a rugby clubhouse / community building of up to 375 sq m GIA, three

standard RFU sports pitches and associated vehicle parking; a link road between Borden Lane and Chestnut Street / A249; allotments; and formal and informal open space incorporating SuDS, new planting / landscaping and ecological enhancement works. Full planning permission is sought for the erection of 80 dwellings including affordable housing, open space, associated access / roads, vehicle parking, associated services, infrastructure, landscaping and associated SuDS. For clarity - the total number of dwellings proposed across the site is up to 675

Cllr Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

Application: 16/507594/COUNTY Paradise Farm, Lower Hartlip Road, Hartlip ME9 7SU
Proposal: County Matter - phased extraction of brickearth, advance planting, access improvements, restoration and replanting back to agricultural use.

Cllr Harvey said there was nothing to report.

ii. Ref: 18/505119/FULL Address: 148 High Street Newington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7JH
Proposal: Erection of granny annexe in rear garden

Councillors considered the application.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** that no comment be made save that neighbours' comments be taken into consideration; **SECONDED** by Cllr Haigh: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

iii. Ref: 18/505142/FULL Address: 43 Church Lane Newington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7JT
Proposal: Extension to the existing permitted development rear extension, including alterations to the roof

Councillors considered the application.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to respond that while no objection was raised, it be requested that conservation standards are upheld; there be strict adherence to the dimensions and the materials used; the red line on the plan is checked for accuracy; and that neighbours' concerns be taken into account; **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

Cllr Haigh thanked Cllr Harvey for his report.

8. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

i. To receive the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 20 November 2018 and consider the recommendations

Cllr Jackson reported the Caretaker has reset the ball court timer so the flood lights are on until 8.30pm. Quotes are being obtained for the grass cutting.

Cllr Mould arrived at the meeting at 7.40pm

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 20 November as a true record.

Cllr Haigh said a sign writer will paint the memorial lettering at the bus stop but this will have to wait until the weather gets better.

ii. Newington Festival 2019

Cllr Jackson said the Clerk did not think that the Festival Committee had said they were not going to run the Festival in 2019 and that it be formally minuted that she is not prepared to run it.

Cllr Jackson, Cllr Coles and Cllr Mould stated they will not run the Festival in 2019.

Cllr Jackson said the committee was prepared to give advice and the Council has been approached by residents who seem to want to help.

Cllr Mould said it had worked well when the Scouts took over the running of the barbeque this year.

Cllr Jackson said there are willing people and we are inviting them along to a meeting on 8 January 2019 at 7pm in the Wickham Room to make it clear the committee will not run the Festival and this will also be in the Village Voice.

The Clerk said the resident thinks she is volunteering to help the committee.

ACTION: Clerk to give the resident more details.

iii. Recreation Ground including Play Area

Cllr Harvey said the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground group is doing fantastic work, a survey has been carried out and bids are being drawn up for extra funding to purchase more equipment. Maylow Construction Ltd has been appointed to carry out remedial repairs.

Cllr Jackson said a quotation for five aside goal post has been obtained and the Clerk is applying for grants.

The Clerk said the Swale Sports and Activity Grant will only pay for the goal posts and not the installation so a detailed quotation has been requested.

Cllr Coles said concern was raised that the goals might be too near the allotments.

ACTION: Cllr Layer to liaise with the Allotment Association.

Cllr Harris asked for clarity regarding item 16 of the minutes stating that parking via the top gate to the Recreation Ground for football matches has never been agreed by Full Council and raised two possible problems. Spoil from recent gas works was put there and has been made good but now the grass cutters are using the gate the verge has become rutted due to the soft muddy nature of the ground. Further vehicles using the gate will only make the matter worse. Secondly, there could be an issue with access on Sundays due to residents and their visitors parking by the dropped kerb.

Cllr Jackson said it is the same issue with the bottom gate. As the season ends in two weeks changes could be made after that time

ACTION 1: Clerk to contact Swale Borough Council and SGN to reinstate the crossover.

ACTION 2: Clerk to obtain quotations to replace the bottom gate.

Cllr Haigh thanked Cllr Jackson for her report.

9. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Mould circulated the first draft of the Village Voice. The Police Surgery, Air Quality meeting, PED update and meeting report will also be included.

Cllr Haigh thanked Cllr Mould for his sterling work.

Cllr Palmer arrived at 8.22pm.

10. FINANCE

i. Cheque list

Payee	Expenditure	Amount £	Cheque No.
Profile Business Supplies	Village Voice- November	£60.00	292
Streetlights	Maintenance	£138.30	2903
Mrs P Rowe	Litter Picking Recreation Ground and sight check equipment November 2018	£110.00	2904
Mr MJ Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance November 2018	£490.00	2905
HMRC	PAYE	£18.40	2906
CANCELLED			2907

Mr D Buckett	Internal audit	£253.00	2908
Medi Aid UK Ltd	Defibrillator cabinet	£464.35	2909
Business Stream	Cemetery water	£43.33	2910
Ms L Wright <i>For A Heavey</i>	Litter picking November	£280.50	2911
KALC	Clerks' Conference	£72.00	2912
DCK Accounting Solutions	Payroll November 2018	£30.00	2913
Mrs W Licence	Salary, expenses and SIM top up	£647.85	2914
Mr R Jackson	Pavilion expenses	£5.40	2915
Newington CE School	Reimbursement of gate repairs	£140.00	2916

Payments

23.10.18: NEST £108.11

29.10.18: Haven Power £212.00

29.10.18: ID Mobile Ltd £3.99

31.10.18: NatWest safety deposit box £43.81

01.11.18: Haven Power £212.00

05.11.18: Haven Power £702.00

Receipts

£80.00 Weight Watchers Pavilion hire

£789.39 HMRC VAT reclaim

£50.00 Mr R Jackson Pavilion Hire

£25.00 Swans Fitness Club Pavilion Hire

ii. Internal Audit report

Cllr Haigh said the internal auditor needs to be informed the Standing Orders were revised in September 2018. The Clerk has been appointed Data Protection Officer and a procedure is in place to deal with any breaches. Internal Controls are also in place.

Cllr Haigh thanked the Responsible Finance Officer for her work.

iii. Budget 2019-20

Cllr Haigh said there had been a meeting of the Finance Working Group to consider the budget. There is no major increase in expenditure and an allowance has been made for the elections in 2019. The budget makes the assumption that the difference between the loan and the cost of upgrading the street lights will be met from reserves.

ACTION: Councillors to submit comments to the Finance Working Group by 7 December 2018.

Cllr Harvey said research for grant funding has suggested that 61% of Newington properties are in the A,B and C council tax banding although this is changing with the new developments being built.

ACTION 1: Cllr Harvey to circulate the data from Swale Borough Council.

ACTION 2: Clerk to request precept calculator from Swale Borough Council.

11. WEBSITE

Cllr Haigh **PROPOSED** to register the domain name newingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk at a cost of £80 for two years and then £40 per annum thereafter; **SECONDED** by Cllr Jackson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Haigh said consideration needs to be given to Councillor email addresses for Council business, providers are very expensive although a free account could be set up by each Councillor using a provider of their choice such as gmail or yahoo. Using a personal email address could cause problems if information is inadvertently forwarded without permission. In the event of a data breach the Information Commissioner would investigate personal emails. This is also an issue regarding Freedom of Information requests. It is safer for Councillors to have a separate email account.

Cllr Palmer said under the Freedom of Information Act the Information Commissioner can request information, Councillors are exempt if they are carrying out constituency work but Council business is not exempt.

Cllr Harris said Councillors do not need.gov.uk email addresses which would be expensive and can use a free email address from gmail or yahoo. Current emails can be easily transferred to a new email address.

Councillors agreed not to have .gov.uk email addresses and to use their preferred provider.

12. CHURCHYARD AND CEMETERY

Councillors considered and approved the memorial application for the late Vincent Reed

13. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Haigh said KCCllr Whiting had responded to Cllr Palmer regarding the 20's Plenty petition.

Cllr Palmer said that he is trying to ascertain the figures and the data which had been used.

Cllr Haigh said clarification on the information given needs to be obtained from KCCllr Whiting.
Item for January agenda

14. STREET LIGHTING

Cllr Harris reported the light which had been repaired in Callaways Lane is now on all day.

ACTION: Report to contractor.

Cllr Haigh said approval to borrow the money for upgrading the lights has been received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the next step is to apply to Salix for the loan. There is a meeting with the contractor tomorrow to finalise the cost.

ACTION: Cllr Haigh to apply to Salix.

15. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

KALC

Cllr Palmer reported he had attended the AGM and also the Swale Area Committee meeting. Any major increase in the precept needs to be justified. There were two motions at the AGM, the first was to ask KCC to look 20mph limits and to support them. Second, the Police have authority to delegate to individuals, such as the PCSO could have additional power to deal with speeding.

The Police were at the Swale Area Committee and informed the committee that at least 50% of calls were social issues such as mental health. This is a problem for the ambulance service as well.

School Governor

Cllr Mould said there has been an excellent report from the new executive head teacher, there is so much going on and so many good things within the schools.

Cllr Haigh thanked the Councillors for their reports.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 30.10.18- UpARA Newsletter- *added to website*
2. 31.10.18- KALC Newsletter
3. 02.11.18- request to advertise in the Village Voice
4. 03.11.18- NHG: Programme for the Battle's Over Commemorations
5. 05.11.18- Demelza: Invitation
6. 06 11 18- SBC Newington Public Toilets
7. 08.11.18- Offer of help for Newington Festival 2019
8. 13.11.18- KCC: unsafe footway outside the development at 62-54 High Street Newington
9. 13.11.18- Resident email regarding Remembrance event- *forwarded to Newington History Group.*
10. 16.11.18- Resident email regarding Public Bench on Newington Green
11. 23.11.18- Cllr Whiting's response to Resident regarding Public Bench on Green
12. 23.11.18- TPO Officer response
13. 23.11.18- Police & Crime Commissioner Restorative Justice newsletter
14. 23.11.18- KCC consultation on the draft Kent County Council Libraries, Registration and Archives strategy for the next three years

ACTION: Cllr Godmon to respond to the consultation

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Haigh said the vicar has reported they have a youth worker in Iwade and she is interested in setting up a youth group in Newington. There will be a meeting with the church and youth worker on 13 December and Cllr Mould and Cllr Haigh will also attend.

Cllr Harvey said there is S106 from Persimmon earmarked for the New House Youth Centre and funds may be available for this.

18. HR COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Haigh reported the HR Committee has not met and that she has revisited the Clerk's objectives and this will be discussed when the committee meets in January.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 11 December 2018

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 9.12pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair

Dated: 11 December 2018