

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held remotely on  
18 August 2020.

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr James Morgan and Cllr Tony Mould; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).  
Also present was Mr Jackson (pavilion caretaker).

## 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ryan Condron (work) and Cllr Richard Geldard (work); apologies accepted.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

## 3. Matters Arising from minutes 21 July 2020

Cllr Jackson reported that the hedge along the track has been cut back.  
Cllr Layer said the gate is still shut.

## 4. Public Question Time

*The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time*

Mr Jackson reported that the neighbour to the track has asked if something could be arranged with regards to the opening and closing of the track gate. The allotment holders could have extra keys.

Cllr Jackson said if further keys were issued there would need to be a register of key holders.

Cllr Layer said there has been confrontation regarding the gate being locked.

Cllr Harvey said the car could be locked at a certain time and the allotment holders be informed of this. The car park is not exclusive to the allotment holders.

Cllr Jackson said the car park is also used by dog walkers and parents and carers of young people on the play area.

Cllr Morgan asked if this was a service the Council could buy. It could be done on a one-month trial.

Cllr Mould said if the gate is to be opened and closed regularly, it needs to be done by someone living nearby and it is a commitment.

It was **AGREED** that a sum of £20 per week be offered.

*ACTION 1: Mr Jackson to ask the neighbour if he would be willing to continue to open and close the gate.*

*ACTION 2: Clerk to inform the Allotments Association that the gate will be open from 7am-5pm.*

## 5. Anti-Social Behaviour

### i. PCSO report

PCSO John Cork was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following report:

*Sus event. Males trying gate at a property in Keycol Hill 04/08*

*Bad driving reported in the High Street Honda car 04/08*

*Merton Drive: theft of a pedal cycle 06/08*

*Wickham Close: Criminal damage to a vehicle 09/08*

*Pear Tree Walk: Criminal damage to a window 10/08*

*Pear Tree Walk: nuisance vehicle 15/08*

*Bramley Close: TV taken from skip 17/08*

*The only report of ASB was with the youths outside the CO-OP trying to taking a bike. Males have been identified and do not come from the village*

*No report of drug dealing since the incident in Church Lane and Playstool Close.*

*If any resident needs to contact me they can call be direct or call 101 or report it online.*

## ii. Community Warden report

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

- 1) *Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents who are self-isolating.*
- 2) *Concerns from resident about vehicles driving too fast and close to her whilst riding her pony – visited resident and posted road safety advice on village Facebook page.*
- 3) *Residents disturbed and kept awake at night/early hours of the morning by young residents newly moved in to neighbouring house – Advised to report to Swale Borough Council to be given diaries to record noise.*
- 4) *Dog barking during the day/night Playstool Road/Frank Apps area- visited owner who will make changes to alleviate the situation.*
- 5) *Dog barking during the day/night Pear Tree Walk area – visited owner.*
- 6) *Fly tipping Wickham Close, furniture from flat recently vacated- Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 7) *Complaints from resident regarding nuisance fires – advised to report to Swale Borough Council Environmental Department.*
- 8) *Suspicious male seen in early hours taking photos of parked vehicles – advised resident to report all noted details to Kent Police.*
- 9) *Neighbour dispute – made visits to both parties, arranging meeting with residents, myself and PCSO John Cork.*
- 10) *Bicycle stolen from shed that was burgled – Police aware.*
- 11) *Living room window smashed, possibly with brick – Police aware.*
- 12) *Distributing handy sized sanitizers to residents (especially those who have been self-isolating and now venturing out) given to me by Cllr Mould*
- 13) *Complaints from resident regarding two dogs from same household, Orchard Drive area, frequently barking – Advised to report to Swale Borough Council*

Cllr Jackson said the welfare visits are a positive initiative. The problem of dogs barking in Pear Tree Walk has been on Social Media.

Cllr Harvey said item 8 is a concern.

Cllr Morgan said that there seems to be an increase in anti-social behaviour and criminality. PCSO Cork could be asked for comments to be put in the Village Voice.

## **6. Recreation Ground**

### i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson said the football club has started playing again and have commented on the good condition of the pitch.

Cllr Harvey said the football club do not seem to give notice of when they will be playing. The Council should be kept informed and if the club is going to play at other times they need to book.

Cllr Morgan said if the pitch is being hired out, the club must inform the Council.

Councillors had met prior to the meeting and agreed that the commemorative tree could be planted on a site near the garage.

### ii. s106 Money

Cllr Jackson said the Council has had several quotations for paths and flooring in the Community Sports Room.

Cllr Harvey said the Council needs to ascertain costs. There is an access path to the rear of the pavilion, there needs to be a path to the front. The gate from the track needs addressing; LED lights for the ball court; KCC Highways needs to resolve the problem with the crossover to the top access gate; an external light for the pavilion; the garage could be painted and hidden with trellis to prevent further graffiti.

Cllr Mould said planters outside the pavilion would be good.

Cllr Harvey said quotes need to be obtained. A contractor is going to quote for some items. The track gate could be padlocked with access for ambulances in an emergency.

Cllr Morgan said the track gate is not needed as there is another gate at the top of the field.

Cllr Harvey said if the track gate is not going to be used, it could be left and not made obvious.

The contractors have been told that a path to the play area will go alongside the fence.

Cllr Jackson said if the gate can be padlocked this would be financially beneficial.

*ACTION: Clerk to chase contractors for gate, parking blocks and LED quotes.*

Cllr Morgan said he had reservations about laying parking blocks behind the houses and the car park near the allotments needs to be accessible.

Cllr Layer said the car park is a big area and could be made bigger.

Cllr Morgan said it would be better and cheaper to clear the car park.

Cllr Jackson said there should not be parking on the Recreation ground at all.

*ACTION: Cllr Mould to contact contractor for a quote to clear the car park.*

Cllr Harvey said there will be approximately £15,000 left from the s106 money and the Council might want to raise further funds, raise the precept or use reserves.

## **8. Pavilion**

Cllr Jackson said a replacement fire extinguisher will be ordered.

## **9. Allotments**

Cllr Layer reported the allotment holders were pleased that the hedge had been cut back and that they would like the gate to be opened.

## **10. Highways**

Cllr Mould said that he is looking at the Parish Highway Improvement Plan.

Cllr Jackson said there are road works on the A2, possibly to replace the light on the island.

## **11. Lights**

The street light maintenance will be on the agenda for Full Council.

## **12. Footpaths and Bridleways**

No matters were raised.

## **13. Environment**

Cllr Jackson said the £250 Swale Environment Grant must be spent or returned; Swale Borough Council will not give the Parish Council any more grants until the grants have been spent.

Cllr Harvey said the money could buy four thousand daffodil bulbs the planting of which would be very hard work. 25k of bulbs cost £30 and contain 450-500 bulbs; a bulb planter costs £10.99. The Parish Council only owns the cemetery and the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Jackson said the volunteer who used to fill the village planters is no longer able to do this, a local nursery could be asked to do this.

## **14. Village Voice and media**

Councillors considered the article from the Newington History Group to be too long and that it could be cut down.

Cllr Mould said there will be articles on planning and the environment.

*Cllr Mould left the meeting*

### **15. Christmas Decorations**

Cllr Jackson said there had been suggestions of wooden decorations and also wreaths to go on the lamp posts but there may be issues with putting these on the lamp posts.

*ACTION: Clerk to ascertain if this would be permitted.*

Cllr Harvey said the Council could get a lit tree for The Bull garden and this would be good for the pub and also for local people. The Car Wash could also be approached.

Cllr Morgan said the Council could get permission to put a light on the village green and have solar powered lights.

Cllr Jackson said there is a risk that it might get stolen or vandalised or blow into the road. We do not want to return the grant and it would be good to have something for the village.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact the Bull and the car Wash to ascertain if they would be will to have a Christmas tree.*

### **16. Any Other Business**

Cllr Harvey asked for an update on the insurance claim for the light in Bull Lane.

The Clerk said that she has not heard back.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact the insurance company.*

**Date of Next Meeting:** 22 September 2020

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair

Date: 25 August 2020