

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in Newington Pavilion on 22 June 2021

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 the Pavilion Caretaker.

Cllr Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

All Members were present.

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

None were declared.

### **3. Matters Arising from minutes 18 May 2021**

#### Foot Ball Club

Cllr Jackson reported that details of the soccer school have been published in the Village Voice and on the website.

#### Light under bridge

Cllr Jackson said the light in Church Lane has been reported to Network Rail.

#### Litter pick

Cllr Jackson said the litter pick was successful and well attended and she thanked all those who attended.

Cllr Harvey said that he was concerned that Inspector Joel Mitchell was unwilling to attend a meeting. The matter can be raised at the KALC Swale Area Committee as it had previously been promised that PCSOs would attend meetings if possible. There had been issues regarding remote meetings as the PCSOs were unable to do this but they were being provided with laptops.

Cllr Jackson said the Inspector had commented that Newington's issues were low level but there needs to be better communication.

*ACTION: Clerk to respond to Inspector Mitchell.*

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

No matters were raised.

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

#### i. PCSO report

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

#### Crime reports

Fraud Newington Pharmacy 27/05/21

Acorn Car Wash 06/06/21 Catapulted shot at the car wash causing damage to vehicle

Suspect threatening and abusive to a resident walking their dog.

Playstool Road mud thrown up the door of the property .Nothing seen.

Antisocial behaviour and other incidents of note:

No reports of any ASB .

ii. Community Warden report

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

- 1) Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents who are self isolating.
- 2) Tankful of fuel siphoned off and stolen while HGV driver slept in lay-by off A249 near Newington – Police aware.
- 3) White KTM motorcycle stolen from Watling Drive – Police aware.
- 4) Older children intimidating younger children in new play park in recreation ground- Monitoring area.
- 5) Tree and garden care cold callers– Reported to KCC Trading Standards and information given to warden team members.
- 6) Box of used Nitrous Oxide canisters found in village hall car park – John Cork aware.
- 7) Black sacks of household rubbish/food, some split, dumped in front garden of vacant house in Pear Tree Walk – Reported to Optivo.
- 8) Residents taking dogs into new playground area – Monitoring area.
- 9) Fly tipping of general household rubbish/ carpet/h Hoover behind communal bins in Wickham Close – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 10) Vehicle parked on highway with expired road tax and no MOT – reported to DVLA.
- 11) Large conifer trees obstructing light from residents windows – Reported to estate manager (Wickham Close).
- 12) Fly tipping (two settees and carpet underlay) in another area in Wickham Close – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 13) Arranged home library service for elderly resident finding it hard to get out.
- 14) Mobile phone found by resident in recreation ground – I posted details on village Facebook page, now returned to owner.
- 15) Concerns regarding litter and overgrown weeds etc. in ‘bumpy’ alley – reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 16) Hedgehogs dying due to touching low wire on electric fence that surrounds land in front of Moat Cottage, Iwade Road – Reported to RSPCA (can’t attend at present due to Covid but have started a case).
- 17) Duster sellers during weekend in School Lane area – Gave advice to resident.
- 18) Two electric scooters stolen from front garden in Charlotte Court – Police aware.
- 19) Fly tipping (microwave) in Wickham Close- Reported to Swale Borough Council.

Cllr Mould said the incident in the play area is of concern.

Cllr Harvey said the Council had looked into installing CCTV cameras but it would be difficult to put them in the play area, it would have to be at the Pavilion and the image would be too grainy. The issues seem to have calmed down.

Cllr Jackson said the area needs to be monitored. There have been three incidents of fly tipping and an article should go in the Village Voice.

Cllr Layer said a resident who litter picks the lanes has been told to stop by Swale Borough Council.

*ACTION: SBCllr to check.*

Cllr Jackson said the role of Community Wardens has changed.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact KCCLlr Baldock*

**6. Recreation Ground**

i. To receive an update

Cllr Harvey reported that the new signs have been installed, the seat bases are in and Glasdon will try to deliver the benches by 2 July. The Clerk will chase the company for a date and the contractor has said that if he gets the benches by 1 July he will install them for the opening. Cllr Harvey said a contractor noticed defects in the equipment and has submitted quotes to fabricate a sleeve and repair the equipment; remove graffiti from Pavilion and repaint the panel; and to repair the garage, re-secure metal flashing and paint the side nearest to the play area. The Council has spent a lot of time considering installing a metal grid but this is fraught. Another possibility would be to go out to tender to put a mural on the side of the garage. The contractor will be asked to submit an amended quotation for the garage.

*ACTION 1: Cllr Harvey to draft tender specification.*

*ACTION 2: Cllr Mould to include in the Village Voice.*

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** that if the garage repair costs less than £300, the quotation be accepted: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

#### ii. Adult equipment

Cllr Layer said the broken gym equipment needs to be replaced.

*ACTION: Clerk to seek permission to circulate Upchurch Parish Council's adult gym equipment project.*

*7.52pm Cllr Morgan joined the meeting.*

Mr Jackson asked whether when football is on, should the top gate be left open in case an ambulance is called.

Cllr Harvey said there would be time to open the gate before the ambulance arrived and the managers must be aware the gate needs to be opened.

Mr Jackson said the Football Club has marked out a five-a-side pitch but have not used the Council's goal posts, there are nets available.

*ACTION: Clerk to inform Football Club.*

Cllr Harvey said that it was good to see the Football Club Summer School being publicised and a pleasure to see excited children arriving for the sessions, it is good for the village and good for the football club.

Cllr Jackson said many people do not realise that the football club rent pays for the grass to be cut so there is no cost to the public purse.

### **7. Play Area**

#### i. To receive an update

Cllr Harvey said that 5% of the invoice will be withheld. The installer has accepted the issue with the skateboard challenge and they are contacting the manufacturer.

*ACTION: Cllr Harvey and Cllr Layer to liaise with contractor regarding the snagging issues.*

#### ii Arrangements for play area opening ceremony

Cllr Harvey said the opening will be 2pm for a start of 2.30pm. The invitations have been sent out. Cllr Mould will judge the art competition next week, there will be three categories and winners.

Councillors agreed the arrangements for the event.

### **8. Pavilion**

#### i. To receive an update

The ball court light and timer are yet to be done. The contractor will contact the caretaker to arrange to lay the pavilion flooring.

#### ii. To consider quotation for water heater

*Item deferred to next meeting.*

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to the request from Brogdale CIC to run summer activities from 17- 20 August, 9.30am-3.30pm and would accept a nominal fee of £5 per session.

### **9. Allotments**

Cllr Layer reported that tenants have been found for the vacant plots and he will propose a £50 deposit. Trees from the woodland which overhang the allotments will be cut back.

Cllr Mould said he had offered a sign requesting people not to park in front of the allotment gates.

Cllr Harvey said the driveway will be out of action on 5 July when Swale repair the track.

### **10. Community Woodland**

Cllr Harvey said the licence needs to be applied for, the felling could start in September. The fairy doors are still in place.

### **11. Highways**

#### i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson said there had been a lot of road works in the village, the companies are not working cohesively together.

Cllr Harvey said the surfacing looks better although there are dots instead of cats eyes. There is a temporary road closure in Bull Lane from 12 July. The village walk with the Highways Steward needs to be arranged.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact Aprille Hall*

#### ii. Parish Highway Improvement Plan – to receive an update

Cllr Harvey reported the plan has been submitted.

### **12. Lights**

#### Request to move street light

*Deferred to Full Council*

### **13. Footpaths and Bridleways**

Cllr Layer said there had been a complaint about overgrown hedges in Callaways Lane.

Cllr Harvey said the resident should speak to the homeowner first, hedges should not be cut back in the nesting season.

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

Cllr Mould said the next edition will be online. Included will be the playground opening; competition for garage mural; flytipping; St Mary's fund-raising winners; hall hire advert; duster sellers; summer holiday activities; school; memorial benches; Councillor vacancies and Newington Youth Club.

Cllr Jackson suggested gauging residents' responses to planting a tree for the Jubilee.

Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Mould for his work on the Village Voice.

Cllr Harvey said the Pavilion and Methodist Hall should also be publicised.

### **15. Cemetery and Churchyard**

Cllr Layer reported that the Church is getting a quote to replace the fence and remove the gate and install a bollard. The Cemetery sign has been installed.

Cllr Harvey said the sign company had provided larger signage but honoured the quote, they have asked for a favourable review.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to give a review.

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

Cllr Layer asked if the kissing gate near the Pavilion should be removed.

Cllr Harvey said there is no fence next to it, there is a gap and a hole in the ground where a tree was and this is a hazard.

Cllr Jackson said it was decided not to replace the fence as it was too expensive.

Cllr Layer said the play area grass needs cutting.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact the contractor.*

**Date of Next Meeting:** 20 July 2021

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.54pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair

Date: 29 June 2021