

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish held on 25 May 2021  
in Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Tony Mould (Chairman), Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Elaine Jackson, Cllr Eric Layer, Cllr James Morgan and Cllr Richard Palmer.  
Mrs Wendy Licence Clerk.

Also present were County Councillor Mike Baldock, Ward Councillor Alan Horton and one member of the public.

Cllr Mould welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Steve Godmon: apologies accepted.

## **2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 30 April 2019**

Cllr Palmer **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting; **SECONDED** by Cllr Harvey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Mould duly signed the minutes as a true record.

## **3. Matters Arising from the minutes**

Cllr Mould said the format of the last meeting was excellent and the relevant village organisations were invited. The Council is planning a similar meeting in July and it will be a celebration of the village

## **4. Report of the Chairman of Newington Parish Council**

The Council has functioned well throughout the lockdown, with Amenities Committee, Planning Committee and Full Council holding meetings via Zoom.

Debbie Haigh and Richard Geldard, left the Council this year and I would like to thank them for their work and service.

The Parish Council, in conjunction with the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground have, over a number of years, planned, financed, and overseen the construction of the new playground. The official opening is on Saturday 3rd July.

We have expanded and refurbished the car park providing extra parking for the Allotments, Football club, Playground, and users of the recreation ground and community woodland.

We have repaired the recreation ground track and installed speed bumps and are in the process of erecting a height barrier.

We have continued to publish the Village Voice on line and we are preparing a printed version to be delivered next month

We are in the process of replacing flooring and installing a new water heater in the Pavilion.

The Parish Council is taking part in the Great British Spring Clean on Saturday 5 June, meeting at the Village Hall at 9.00am.

I would like to extend my thanks:

To Stephen Harvey as Chairman of the Planning Committee for his hard work throughout the year responding promptly and efficiently to the numerous applications brought before the Council.

To Elaine Jackson as Chair of Amenities (who we nearly lost to Covid) for her hard work

The Amenities Committee is the work horse of the Parish Council (thanks to Eric who took over as Vice Chairman while Elaine was in hospital).

To Steve Godmon Chairman of the Finance Working Party for overseeing the Council's spending.

To Eric Layer Chairman of the Churchyard and Cemetery Working Party.

To Richard Palmer and James Morgan for their service on various committees and external bodies

And of course, to Wendy Licence for her help and guidance over the difficult year,

## **5. Responsible Finance Officer's report of the Parish Council**

### **2019- 2020**

The Independent Internal Auditor completed the audit of year-end accounts to 31 March 2020 on 13 July 2020 and was submitted to PKF Littlejohn immediately after the July Full Council meeting, the deadlines for the audit were extended in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Changes in legislation had been made in order to help smaller authorities in the performance of their duties as a result of the restrictions of movement and limitations on social contact necessary to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Full details of the Annual return and finance documents can be viewed on the Parish Council website

### **2020- 2021**

The Precept for 2020- 2021 was £51,542 which and the additional council tax for band D properties in the parish being £54.85 compared to £52.69 in 2019/20, an increase of 4.10% The forecast budget requirement for the year was £59,662 (ex VAT).

Total receipts were £79,358 which included a VAT reclaim of £3,585; a contribution of £375 from KCCllr Whiting's Members Grant fund toward hand sanitisers to help prevent the spread of COVID-19; £10,000 Government COVID-19 grant administered by SBC; £150 towards play area repairs from SBCllr Palmer's Members' Fund; £125.75 for hand sanitising facility at the Pavilion from SBCllr Horton's Members' Fund. The Council also received £50 compensation from NatWest and this was donated to Swale Citizens Advice. Receipts from hire of the Pavilion were £160, down from £575 the previous year, due to the pandemic and Government restrictions.

Total payments were £63,141 (ex VAT)

The bank balance at 31 March 2021 was £92,540

### **Annual Governance and Accountability Return**

The Independent Internal Auditor will conduct the audit of year-end accounts to 31 March 2021 on 8 June and the Council will sign off the AGAR at its meeting on 29 June.

### **2021-22**

The Precept requirement for 2021-22 is £ 54,256, the additional Council Tax for band D properties in the parish remains the same at £ 54.85.

## **6. To receive questions and comments from parishioners.**

Cllr Layer thanked Cllr Mould for his sterling work as Chairman of the Parish Council.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

No other matters were raised.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.12pm

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