

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 December 2023 in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall

Present: Cllr Richard Palmer (Chairman), Cllr Tony Mould (Vice Chairman),
Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Eric Layer and Cllr Chris Palmer;
and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)
Also present was Ms Rebecca O'Neill, Brogdale CIC

1. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Cllr R Palmer welcomed everyone to the meeting. No application had been received for the vacancy. The second vacancy is currently being advertised.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ruth Brown (holiday) and Cllr Elaine Jackson (personal): apologies accepted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2023

i. To consider the minutes of the meetings and if in order sign as a true record

Cllr Layer **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes, as amended, as a true record of the meeting held on 28 November; **SECONDED** by Cllr Mould: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ii. Matters arising from the minutes

Cllr R Palmer reported that the Clerk has chased Swale Borough Council (SBC) regarding the alley light, SBC is still waiting for UK Power Networks (UKPN) to attend. Cllr R Palmer has contacted UKPN CEO and the matter is being investigated.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Ms O'Neill addressed the Council about Youth provision within the Borough. Kent County Council (KCC) will stop funding youth services from 1 April 2024 and Brogdale CIC is looking to alternative bodies for funding. The KCC Family Hubs are aimed at families with young children and does not provide anything for teenagers. Details of cost of sessions will be sent to the Clerk.

Cllr R Palmer thanked Ms O'Neill for attending the meeting and for her presentation.

6. VISITORS

i. Borough Councillors

SBCllr R Palmer reported that there had been no issues in Newington since the last meeting although residents have reported pot hole issues in Medway.

SBCllr C Palmer reported that KCC Highways had responded to complaints about drivers turning right into Bull Lane from the A2 that they could not deal with anything unless there are accidents at the junction. KCC Highways has no money for signage.

Cllr Harvey asked about the proposed changes to democracy at SBC.

SBCllr R Palmer said he would oppose the changes. Residents are having difficulties in contacting the planning officers and they need to make formal complaints.

ii. County Councillor

There was no report from the County Councillor.

7. PLANNING

i. To receive an update

Ref: 23/504502/FULL Woodland Farm, High Oak Hill, Iwade Road, Newington ME9 7HY

Proposal: Erection of a permanent agricultural dwelling with associated parking (Resubmission 21/504388/FULL)

Cllr Harvey reported that a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/501005/FULL 77 High Street, Newington ME9 7JJ

Proposal: Erection of 10 no. detached C3 dwellinghouses with repositioned vehicular access from public highway.

Cllr Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 23/501222/LBC 55-57 High Street, Newington ME9 7JJ

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for the internal alterations including removal walls, doors, two set of stairs, external alterations including erection of a first floor north elevation extension, insertion of balcony, roof lights and changes to fenestration including conversion of outbuilding.

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

Ref: 23/501221/FULL 55-57 High Street, Newington ME9 7JJ

Proposal: Conversion of restaurant and existing two residential flats into a 6no. two bedroom and 1no. one bedroom residential flats including erection of a first floor north elevation extension, insertion of balconies and changes to fenestration. Conversion of existing outbuilding to an office.

Cllr Harvey reported that a decision is yet to be made.

Not in Newington

Ref: 22/503654/EIOUT Land To The West Of Bobbing, ME9 8QL

Proposal: Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for a mixed used development comprising up to 2,500 dwellings, a 4.99ha commercial employment zone including doctors surgery, a 4.2ha sports hub, primary school, community facilities, local retail provision, public open space, children's play areas and associated parking, servicing, utilities, footpath and cycle links, drainage, ground and other infrastructure.

Cllr Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

ii. Ref: 23/505365/OUT

Address: Land To The Rear Of Eden Meadow, Newington ME9 7JH

Proposal: Outline planning application for up to 25no. residential dwellings (all matters reserved except for access)

Councillors considered the application and noted that the proposal is outside the built-up boundary and that it would impact on air quality in the village. It is close to a Listed Building and it also impacts on the visual amenity as it will be seen from the footpath. There may also be ecological issues. The proposal does not comply with parking standards and the applicant is classing the site as suburban but it is in the rural area; for developments in the suburb the requirement is 2- 3 spaces, in rural areas it is 3+ spaces. The planning statement shows cars in Eden Meadow being parked up to the junction of the A2. Anyone walking into the village would have no pavement for part of the way.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the application.

8. AMENITIES

To consider quotation for notice board

Deferred to Amenities Committee as still waiting for quotation.

9. SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL LAND

Cllr R Palmer said the matter is still with SBC's legal team.

10. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Mould said the next edition will be an online version for January and a draft will be circulated for approval. The February edition will be a paper version.

11. FINANCE

i. Cheque list: to consider invoices for payment

Payee	Reason	Amount
DCK Accounting	Payroll fees – December	30.00
	VAT	6.00
	Total	£36.00
Mr T Oku	Cemetery – grave digging	£600.00
JTF Roofing Ltd	Pavilion roof repairs	£1980.00
Mr R Malone	Litter Picking Recreation Ground - Dec	
	Litter Picking	
	Total	£527.00
Mr MJ Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance - Dec	£625.00
Mr R Burrows	Track gate keeper- Dec	£100.00
Mr R Jackson	Honorarium	£300.00
Staff	Salary	
HMRC	PAYE & NI	
Administration	Expenses	£53.00

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to make the payments.

ii. Finance report

No matters were raised.

iii. To consider CPRE membership renewal

Councillors considered the renewal of the membership subscription and noted that last year, the Council paid £60 (an increase from the previous year of £36). CPRE is seeking an increased payment of £84. Concern was raised about poor communication from CPRE.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to pay a subscription of £60.00; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **2- FOR, 2 - AGAINST, 1- ABSTENTION**: the Chairman used his casting vote in favour- **MOTION CARRIED**.

iv. Budget 2024-25

Councillors discussed the budget; £30,000 would be ringfenced from reserves for the Pavilion extension and £5,000 for youth provision. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to set a budget of £79,018.

v. Precept 2024-25

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to set the Precept at £59,053.

vi. Any other finance matter received by 12 December 2023**Payments**

20.11.23	DRAX	Electricity	£459.45
----------	------	-------------	---------

Receipts

02.11.23	Dignity Funeral Directors	Cemetery fees	£1820.00
24.11.23	Vibe	Parish Room Hire	£25.00
24.11.23	Bredhurst Junior Football Club	Pitch fees	£1450.00
29.09.23	Swans Fitness Club	Community Sports Room hire	£20.00

12. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr R Palmer reported that sessions could not be held in inclement weather.

13. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr R Palmer reported that the Village Hall Management Committee is trying to keep its fees down to support village groups.

Cllr Layer reported the Bingo Club is struggling to cover its costs.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

C1. 29.11.23- KALC training bulletin

C2. 30.11.23- NALC CEO bulletin

C3. 01.12.23- Kent County Council: Family Hub and Commissioned Youth Decision

C4. 01.12.23- Kent County Council: Emergency Road Closure - Iwade Road, Newington - 30 November 2023

C5. 04.12.23- KCC Highways: Urgent Road Closure - Bull Lane, Newington - 11th December 2023

C6. 07.12.23- NALC CEO bulletin

C7. 07.12.23- Consultation on the Swale Borough Council draft Corporate Plan

C8. 07.12.23 Urgent Road Closure - Raspberry Hill Lane, Iwade - 13th December 2023

C9. 07.12.23- KALC newsletter and training bulletin

C10. 11.12.23- SBC: JKC policy round-up

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Mould said he had received a request from an ice cream vendor to attend the fete.

ACTION: Clerk to respond.

Cllr Harvey reported he had met with contractors regarding extending the Pavilion, expert advice from a structural engineer and architect is needed, the Council will also have to apply for planning permission.

ITEM FOR AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 30 January 2024 at 7pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 30 January 2024