

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion on 25 May 2022

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Stephen Harvey and Cllr Tony Mould, and visiting Member Cllr Ruth Brown; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were PCSO Lorraine Holmes and Mr Bob Jackson, Pavilion Caretaker

Cllr Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Georgina Springall, the Community Warden.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from minutes 19 April 2022

Cllr Jackson said all matters are covered under the agenda items.

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO Lorraine Holmes had sent the following report:

Crimes of note (20/04/21 – 23/05/22):

- No Burglary offences reported.
- Vehicle Crime offences reported: 28/04/22 – Wing mirror stolen in Church Lane.
- Criminal Damage offences reported: 03/05/22 – Patio door window smashed in Playstool Close. 16/05/22 – car windscreen punched in The Tracies.
- No Fraud offences reported.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- 20/04/22 & 28/04/22: Vehicles parking in Playstool Road, playing loud music and dropping litter. One vehicle has been issued with a Section 59 warning and will be seized on the next occasion should it be seen acting in an antisocial manner again.
- 22/05/22: Report of males possibly smoking cannabis in the recreation ground. I attended the location and spoke with one male who matched the description given to me. No evidence or paraphernalia present, words of advice given regarding smoking cannabis in public as no grounds for a search.

Other items of note:

- I will be holding a drop-in surgery at Newington Recreation Ground Pavilion on Monday 30th May between 4pm & 5pm. Following this my next surgery will be held at the Cornerstone Café, St Mary's Church on Thursday 16th June between 10-11am.

Updates of previous reported issues:

- None

PCSO Holmes reported that since she had issued a Section 59 warning to a vehicle there had been no further problems. Following the damage to the patio door in Playstool Close no entry had been gained and there were no other reports of similar incidents in the area. Prickle strips are available for fences to help residents.

Cllr Mould said the Community Warden reported that quad bikes have been on the Recreation Ground.

ACTION: Clerk to ask warden where the bikes are gaining entry.

Cllr Mould said details of the Police Surgeries will be included in the Village Voice.

Cllr Harvey said Vibe is doing one-to-one work with disengaged youth and could be of assistance.

PCSO Holmes reported there has been no issue raised about the 20mph zone, if there is concern about speeding vehicles PCSO's can set up a Speed Watch session which would give advice to drivers. A Speed Watch group could be beneficial.

Cllr Harvey said the Council is considering roundels and signage to remind drivers and this will be added to the Parish Highways Improvement Plan.

Cllr Jackson thanked PCSO Holmes for her report and for attending the meeting.

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.
- 2) Advised postal worker to report loose dogs that she felt threatened by to Swale Borough Council dog warden.
- 3) Neighbour dispute regarding dogs getting through fence into neighbour's garden and barking in the night – Advised reporting to Swale Borough Council and Optivo.
- 4) Stolen wing mirror from car parked overnight in Church Lane – Advised reporting to police.
- 5) Complaints from residents in Wickham close regarding failure from Swale Borough Council to empty their bins – Swale Borough Council aware.
- 6) 17 members from Wednesday's rural walking group, now 24 members in total, walked to Lower Halstow for pub lunch social.
- 7) Assisted elderly resident with making her Covid spring booster booking.
- 8) Residents complaining about vehicles not driving at 20mph along the High Street zone.
- 9) Vehicles still turning into Bull Lane from the High Street.
- 10) Quad bikes taken into recreation ground and driven around orchard area – Police aware.
- 11) Assisted elderly resident with booking in volunteer car lift to hospital appointment.
- 12) Resident reported to me amount of money he had found dropped on pavement - put up posts on village social media sites regarding found money but no response from residents.

Cllr Jackson asked if 20mph roundels should be commissioned.

Cllr Harvey said this would be discussed at the next Parish Highways Improvement Plan Meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate Michelle Matthew's (KCC Highways Schemes Project Manager) response.

6. Recreation Ground and green spaces

i. To receive an update

ii. Grass Cutting review

Cllr Jackson said the Football Club has raised concerns about the grass cutting, the contract is for sixteen cuts there may need to be more frequent cuts.

Cllr Harvey said there is a meeting with the Football Club on Thursday 26th May.

ACTION 1: Clerk to circulate grass cutting specification.

ACTION 2: Clerk to request meeting with contractor.

iii. Adult exercise equipment

Cllr Jackson said the scheme at Upchurch has been circulated, there has been no comment from Swale Borough Council and no comments from residents. The Running Club and the Football Club will be approached for suggestions for new equipment.

Cllr Harvey asked if the equipment would be replaced or additional to the existing equipment which is used by residents. It is not dangerous and has passed the inspections of the equipment. It could be painted.

Cllr Layer said

Cllr Jackson said the safety reports highlighted that there are no instructions on the equipment and that the paint is flaking.

7. Pavilion

i. To receive an update

Mr Jackson reported that one of the regular users is not cleaning the floor afterwards.

ACTION: Cllr Harvey to discuss the matter with the user.

Mr Jackson reported that the party went well.

ACTION: Deposit to be returned.

ii. To consider quotations for Pavilion ceiling plates

Cllr Jackson said quotes are yet to be received.

Cllr Jackson said the Committee had previously discussed adding baby changing facilities at the Pavilion and asked if Councillors want to progress this.

It was agreed to leave until there is a need.

8. Youth Club

Cllr Harvey reported that they are sending a youth worker to the fete. There will be a meeting next week to discuss youth provision in the village.

It was agreed that the Council would support a Summer holiday club for as many sessions as offered. They are wanting to use a marquee which would be taken down each day and would remain the club's responsibility. One week of activities would be good and two weeks even better. Items can be left in the Parish Room if there are no bookings. The Parish Room and lobby floor needs to be cleaned after use. It has been said the age range is too wide, if they want to run a second evening that would be good.

9. Allotments

Cllr Layer reported that there were two vacant plots at the allotments. The vegetation along the track needs cutting back.

ACTION: Clerk to contact agents.

10. Community Woodland

Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Mould for putting up the bug hotel signs.

Cllr Harvey said there needs to be an additional post at the woodland entrance to prevent quad bikes from entering.

ACTION: Clerk to contact contractor.

11. Highways

Discussed earlier in meeting.

12. Lights

There was no update regarding the installation of the new street light in Station Road.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Harvey asked if the Persimmon footpath and the one at The Tracies have re-opened yet.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KCC PROW for update on this and any other issues in the village.

14. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said a draft will be presented to Full Council.

15. Cemetery and Churchyard

i. To receive an update

ii. Cemetery complaint

Cllr Layer said the grass cutting has been an issue.

The Clerk reported that details of the complaint have been conveyed to the contractor.

Cllr Layer said the area in the complaint has been cut again, the grass may have grown a lot at the beginning of the season. The grass should be cut every two weeks.

ACTION: Clerk to circulated grass cutting specification.

Cllr Layer said there is a wobbly headstone and the family has been contacted.

16. Village Notice Board

Cllr Harvey said permission would be needed to replace the notice board. It is a legal requirement for the Parish Council to publish certain documents on the notice board.

Cllr Layer said the notice board needs to hold at least four A4 sheets.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend to Full Council the quotation from Greenbarnes, AF58, for eight A4 sheet size notice board at £681.60.

ACTION: Clerk to seek permission to replace.

17. Jubilee Fete 4 June 2022

Cllr Jackson said the plans are progressing well and the Youth Club has offered to help. There have been some additional purchases but all is within the budget.

18. Village Celebration

Cllr Jackson said the Clerk has a list of invitees.

Cllr Harvey said this is an item for the June agenda and the Clerk can send out "save the date" notices to groups.

19. Any Other Business

Cllr Harvey asked for an update o the electricity spread sheet.

The Clerk reported that she had received two hundred and twenty eight invoices and will start inputting details onto the spreadsheet.

Date of Next Meeting: 21 June 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Singed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair

Date: 31 May 2022