

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council  
held on 26 June 2023 in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall

Present: Cllr Tony Mould (Vice Chairman), Cllr Michael Barlow, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Elaine Jackson, Cllr Eric Layer and Cllr Chris Palmer;  
and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present were PC Jez Chittim, County Councillor Mike Baldock and Mr Bob Jackson, Pavilion Caretaker.

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Mould took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 1. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

No applications have been received yet.

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Richard Palmer (at another meeting), Cllr Steve Godmon (holiday) and Cllr Ruth Brown: apologies accepted.

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

## 4. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23 MAY 2023

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

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

ii. Matters arising from the minutes

Swale Local Heritage List

Cllr Harvey reported that there has been a meeting with representatives of the Newington History Group and a draft schedule of items has been drawn up. There is an extension of time to 17 July for nominations. When Conservation Areas are reviewed, Newington will be the first to be assessed.

Play area safety surface

Cllr Mould said a photo of the area has been sent to Wicksteed. The wet pour has a five-year guarantee.

## 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

*The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time*

It was reported that the man hole covers have been repaired.

*The meeting was reconvened.*

## 6. VISITORS

### i. Borough Councillors

SBCllr C Palmer reported that there has been a good response to the campaign for health. There will be a meeting on 21 July with the director of Medway and Swale Integrated Care Partnership and comments and issues will be passed on. There have been problems for some patients who are registered with a doctor in Medway; there are also a lot of satisfied people. The land at School Lane development went to Swale Planning Committee, both Ward members spoke against the proposal. There have been posts on Social Media thanking Cllr Harvey for his work on this. The Pond Farm Appeal starts in July.

Cllr Jackson asked if the Borough and County Councillors could make a grant towards youth provision in Newington for the summer.

SBCllr C Palmer said Swale Members' grants have been cut dramatically.

Cllr Mould thanked SBCllr C Palmer for her report.

### ii. County Councillor

KCCllr Baldock said KCC Members' grants have been cut to £3,000 and that his will make a grant of £200 towards youth provision. The Swale Western Area Committee has asked the Borough Council to provide details of all Swale owned land in the parishes, some areas may be appropriate for parishes to have or lease to allow for local planting.

Cllr Harvey said the Parish Council is trying to get some land, in particular two strips near the Recreation Ground to allow easy access.

*ACTION: Clerk to send emails to KCCllr Baldock.*

KCCllr Baldock reported that Kent County Council has stated that road are now officially in managed decline; there is a twenty-year back log of repairs. Developers are no longer being asked to contribute towards the roads and the RAC has said the roads in Kent are the worse in the country.

KCCllr Baldock said he is also assisting pupils regarding school places.

Cllr Mould thanked KCCllr Baldock for his report.

### iii. Police

PC Jez Chittim informed Members that he has been appointed as the the new Kent Police neighbourhood beat officer for Hartlip, Newington, Upchurch, Bobbing, Iwade, Lower Halstow and Kemsley Wards and that he has worked for Kent Police for seventeen years, mostly within neighbourhood policing. There will be one Officer per Ward although it will be September 2024 before the area is fully staffed. There have been issues with nuisance bikes in the village and this is being investigated.

Cllr Mould thanked PC Chittim for attending and for his report.

## 7. PLANNING

### i. To receive an update

Application: 23/501853/FULL 19 High Street, Newington ME9 7JR

Proposal: Change of use of ground floor from a residential letting agency to a hot food takeaway and restaurant (fish and chip shop service) including installation of external ventilation ducting.

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

Application: 21/504388/FULL Woodland Farm, High Oak Hill, Iwade Road, Newington Kent

Proposal: Erection of a permanent agricultural dwelling with associated parking. Location: Woodland Farm High Oak Hill Iwade Road Newington Kent

Cllr Harvey informed Members that the application was refused by SBC Planning Committee on 25 May 2023 because the applicant had not entered into a Section 106 Agreement, and without this, the application was considered unacceptable.

Application: 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 reported that a decision is yet to be made.

Application: 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 said a decision is yet to be made.

Application: 23/501647/FULL Tommy All Alone, Keycol Hill, Bobbing ME9 7LG

Proposal: Erection of single storey front extension.

Cllr Harvey informed Members that the application has been permitted.

Application: 23/501691/LAWPRO 4 Church View Cottages, Boxted Lane ME9 7LD

Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for proposed erection of an outbuilding.

Cllr Harvey reported that the application has been refused.

Application: 23/501012/FULL 60 London Road, Newington ME9 7NR

Proposal: Erection of a first floor and a two storey front extension including changes to fenestration.

Cllr Harvey informed Members that the application has been permitted.

Application: 22/505618/FULL Land At School Lane, Newington ME9 7JU

Proposal: Erection of 25no. residential dwellings with enhanced renewable energy features and the provision of a 20 space staff car park and 20 space pupil pick-up/drop-off area for Newington C of E Primary School, together with associated access, landscaping, drainage and infrastructure works (Resubmission of 21/504028/FULL)

Cllr Harvey said the application has been refused.

Application: 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.

Application: 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 reported that a decision is yet to be made.

### *Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate*

Application: 19/502206 61 Playstool Road, Newington ME9 7NL

Proposal: Retrospective application for the erection of a first floor rear extension, loft extension and lean to roof at front and side of dwelling (resubmission of 18/502531/FULL).

PINS Reference: APP/V2255/C/21/3287191

There was no update.

Application: 21/504028/FULL Land At School Lane, Newington ME9 7JU

Proposal: Erection of 25no. residential dwellings and the provision of a 20 space staff car park and 20 space pupil pick-up/drop-off area for Newington C of E Primary School, together with associated access, landscaping, drainage and infrastructure works.

PINS reference APP/V2255/W/22/3312284

Cllr Harvey said the hearing has been deferred to 11 July 2023 and will start at 10:00am at Committee Room Swale House East Street Sittingbourne ME10 3HT

ii. Ref: 22/500275/OUT PINS Ref: APP/V2255/W/23/3318448

Address: Land South of London Road Newington Kent

Proposal: Outline planning application for up to 135 dwellings with the retention of existing farm buildings, new public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access point (Access being Sought).

Cllr Harvey said Swale Borough Council has said it will not call Newington Parish Council or our experts on traffic and air quality for the hearing. There is a meeting with the Head of Majors next week.

iii. S106 spends for 16/501266/FULL

Cllr Harvey said there is £2,277.78 of s106 money which has to be spent by 1 April 2026. The Parish Council was to be involved in the discussions regarding the allocation of the money but we have since been told we cannot. There is concern that the money will go outside the village and not benefit residents. The money has been given to the Green Spaces Team and the Parish Council will have to bid for it; some officers will not deal with the Council. The developer agrees that the money was meant for Newington. The Youth Club has agreed to consult with the young people to see what they would like.

KCCllr Baldock said the money will go to Newington as agreed.

*ACTION: Cllr Harvey to send email to KCCllr Baldock.*

Cllr Mould thanked Cllr Harvey for his sterling work.

*KCCllr Baldock left the meeting.*

## **8. AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

i. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 20 June 2023 and consider the recommendations

Cllr Layer **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record: **SECONDED** by Cllr Barlow: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ii. Play Panels- to receive an update

Cllr Harvey said there will be a consultation with the Friends group.

iii. To consider quotation to paint lobby walls

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £270.00 from R Moss Ltd to paint the pavilion lobby only; **SECONDED** by Cllr Jackson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Jackson reported that a second padlock has been bought for the contractor gate to the play area. The quad bike signs have been torn down, there needs to be metal signs.

*ACTION: Cllr Harvey to obtain signs.*

Cllr Jackson asked for an update on the football clubs.

The Clerk reported that there had been no response.

*ACTION: Clerk to ascertain what Bredhurst Junior Football Club will be doing at the Fete.*

## 9. SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL LAND

Cllr Mould said the officer has said that they do not have the resource in the property team at the present time to deal with matters. It is not usual practice or common for the Council to gift parcels of land to another party, whether that be a Parish Council or another party and further approvals are being sought to see if this is something they can do if no monetary offer is being made.

Cllr Mould said a peppercorn rent could be offered.

## 10. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Layer said that there are a few empty plots available. The complaint regarding contractor cutting fence and putting pole on an allotment plot is currently with UKPN

## 11. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Mould said the next edition will be online and will include articles on Speedwatch, Kent Police and the Vibe summer event for young people. A business has asked if it can advertise. It was agreed not to accept advertisements.

Cllr Mould said the printed edition is published quarterly and sometimes Swale is slow to send it out resulting in some articles being out of date.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** for Cllr Mould to print the Village Voice and be reimbursed for paper and toner.

## 12. FINANCE

### i. Cheque list: to consider invoices for payment

Payee	Reason	Amount
Newington Village Hall <i>Paid out of meeting</i>	Hall Hire	<b>£60.00</b>
Hampshire Flag Company <i>Paid out of meeting</i>	Bunting	<b>£106.80</b>
Mr A Mould	Fete cake flags & plates	<b>£65.02</b>
Mr R Jackson	Garage keys	<b>£15.00</b>
Mr E Layer	Cemetery expenses 3.50 Recreation Ground expenses 37.02 ASB expenses 32.01 <b>Total</b>	<b>£72.53</b>
DCK Accounting	Payroll fees	<b>£36.00</b>
Mr R Jackson	Honorarium	<b>£300.00</b>
Staff	Salary	<b>£797.40</b>
HMRC	PAYE & NI	<b>£140.37</b>
Administration	Expenses	<b>£44.60</b>
Mr R Malone	Litter Picking Recreation Ground - June Litter Picking	

	<b>Total</b>	<b>£527.00</b>
Mr MJ Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance - June	<b>£625.00</b>
Mr R Burrows	Track gate keeper- June	<b>£125.00</b>
Swale Borough Council	Village Voice printing	<b>£186.25</b>

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

NatWest:- 31.05.23 £43,102.95

Nationwide:- 31.03.23 £46,034.40

Unity Trust:- 31.05.23 £59,363.46

### Payments

19.05.23	ICO	Subscription	£35.00
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### Receipts

02.05.23	Swans Fitness Club	Community Sports Room hire	£20.00
04.05.23	Vibe	Parish Room hire	£10.00
17.05.23	S Humphrey	Deposit	£50.00
24.05.23	S Russell	Parish Room hire	£20.00
24.05.23	F Smith	Parish Room hire	£20.00
26.05.23	M Cotting	Fete Stall	£20.00
30.05.23	AM Espresso Ltd	Fete stall	£20.00
30.05.23	Swans Fitness Club	Community Sports Room hire	£25.00

#### ii. Finance report

No questions were raised on the report or bank reconciliation.

#### iii. To consider quotations for electricity supplier

Deferred to next meeting.

#### iv. To consider repaying the Salix interest- free loan

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to repay the balance of the loan; there was no seconder, motion failed.

It was agreed to transfer the last payment to NatWest and ring-fence the interest for youth summer activities.

#### v. Any other finance matter received by 27 June 2023

Cllr Harvey reported that he had spoken to Vibe regarding summer activities in Newington and they will be consulting with the young people.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** that he, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Layer and the Clerk have delegated authority to liaise with Vibe; **SECONDED** by Cllr Jackson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

## 13. REVIEW OF POLICIES

#### i. Co-option Policy

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to adopt the revised Co-option Policy and also the text for the covering letter.

#### ii. Dignity at Work Policy

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to adopt the Dignity at Work Policy

### iii. Equality & Diversity Policy

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to adopt the Equality & Diversity Policy.

## **14. CIVILITY & RESPECT PLEDGE**

Cllr Mould **PROPOSED** Newington Parish Council sign the pledge; **SECONDED** by Cllr C Palmer: **2 FOR, 4 ABSTENTIONS: MOTION CARRIED.**

## **15. CHURCHYARD AND CEMETERY**

### i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer reported that there are no issues at the Cemetery, the gravel area has been weeded.

### ii. Review of Cemetery fees

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to increase the fees by 5%; **SECONDED** by Cllr Harvey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **16. HIGHWAYS AND STREET LIGHTING**

Cllr Mould said the issue with the light under the bridge still has not been resolved. Network Rail says KCC owns the light and KCC says it is Network Rail's responsibility. The light in the alleyway has been reported to Swale Borough Council (ref 17606435).

Cllr Jackson says there have been eight further requests for wheelie bin stickers.

Cllr C Palmer informed Members that she had reported a car parked at the top of Station Road, this nearly caused an accident.

## **17. SPEEDWATCH**

Councillors considered whether to budget for Speedwatch equipment and agreed to see if equipment could be borrowed or bought jointly with another Parish Council.

*ACTION: Clerk to make enquiries.*

### *ITEM FOR NEXT AGENDA*

PC Chittim said that if equipment is used as a deterrent and issues found, he can bring colleagues to the village for a speed check session.

## **18. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS**

Cllr Harvey reported that he and Cllr R Palmer has attended the KALC Swale Area Committee Annual General Meeting. A motion will be put forward to the KALC Annual General Meeting regarding the lack of Community Wardens.

## **19. CORONATION FETE 15 JULY 2023**

Cllr Mould informed Members that there are three more Working Party meetings before the Fete. Preparations are progressing well.

## **20. CORRESPONDENCE**

C1. 23.05.23- Swale Citizens Advice: letter of thanks

C2. 25.03.23- NALC CEO bulletin

C3. 26.05.23- National Highways: Planned work in Kent for the week ahead

C4. 30.05.23- Kent Local Authority Chief Executives Policy Round -up

C5. 30.05.23- SBC: Planning decisions

C6. 31.05.23- KALC Summer Conferences

C7. 31.05.23- NALC newsletter

C8. 01.06.23- NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin

C9. 02.06.23- National Highways: planned road work in Kent

C10. 02.06.23- KCC: temporary closure of Public Footpath ZR38 between London Road and Wickham Close

C11. 05.06.23- Kent Local Authority Chief Executives Policy Round -up

C12. 05.06.23- SBC: Planning decisions

- C13. 06.06.23- KALC NEWS
- C14. 08.06.23- KALC: Introduction to Planning Course 21 June
- C15. 08.06.23- KALC: Dynamic Councillor Event 22 July
- C16. 09.06.23- KALC: Training Events - Woodland Management and Community Resilience 19 July
- C17. 12.06.23- National Highways: M20 Moveable Barrier project update
- C18. 12.06.23- Swale planning decisions
- C19. 12.06.23- Kent Local Authority Chief Executives Policy Round -up
- C20. 12.06.23- Kent Police & Crime Commissioner: Update on rural policing in Kent
- C21. 13.06.23- Kent Police & Crime Commissioner newsletter - Special Edition 2023
- C22. 13.06.23- KCC: Draft Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 and Draft Kent Mineral Sites Plan - Regulation 18 Public Consultation June 2023
- C23. 15.06.23- NALC CEO bulletin
- C24. 20.06.23- D-Day 80th Anniversary celebrations
- C25. 22.06.23- NALC newsletter
- C26. 22.06.23- NALC CEO bulletin
- C27. 23.06.23- National Highways: planned road work in Kent

## **21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Harvey said the Pavilion alarm needs to be checked.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact company.*

Cllr Harvey said the arrangements for the August meetings need to be on the next agenda,

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday 25 July 2023 at 7pm**

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 25 July 2023