

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 30 January 2024  
in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall

Present: Cllr Richard Palmer (Chairman), Cllr Tony Mould (Vice Chairman), Cllr Ruth Brown, Cllr Stephen Harvey, and Cllr Eric Layer; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present were County Councillor Mike Baldock and one member of the public.

Cllr Palmer welcomed everyone to the meeting

## 1. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Cllr Palmer said no applications had been received yet.

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ray Cuffley (at another meeting), Cllr Elaine Jackson (personal); and Cllr Chris Palmer (personal): apologies accepted.

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

## 4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 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 of the meeting as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Brown: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Palmer duly signed the minutes as a true record.

ii. Matters arising from the minutes

All matters on agenda.

## 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No matters were raised.

## 6. VISITORS

i. County Councillor

KCCllr Baldock reported that nothing had happened at Newington with direct relevance to Newington.

ii. Borough Councillor

SBCllr Palmer reported that there will be a consultation on Planning Enforcement. SBCllr C Palmer has been in contact with Police Officer Jez Chittim regarding parking issues at the top of Station Road, this has been raised with the Swale Parking Enforcement Team. Ward Members have been dealing with housing issues and have also requested reviews concerning the road work in Church Lane and the A2.

## 7. PLANNING

### i. To receive an update

Ref: 23/504879/FULL 61 Playstool Road, Newington ME9 7NL

Proposal: Erection of a first floor rear extension, roof alterations to extend existing loft extension, including alterations to front and side of roof.

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

Ref: 23/505365/OUT 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)

Cllr Harvey said a decision is yet to be made

Ref: 23/504502/FULL Woodland Farm, High Oak Hill, Iwade Road, Newington ME9 7HY (Resubmission 21/504388/FULL)

Application validated: Wednesday 18 October 2023

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 informed Councillors that 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 the application has been permitted.

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 the application has been permitted.

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: 23/505381/FULL

Address: 46 High Street Newington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7JL

Proposal: Erection of rear store room and 'WC' including changes to fenestration. (Retrospective)

Councillors considered the application and had no comment to make.

### iii. Ref: 23/505625/FULL

Address: 2 Merton Drive Newington Kent ME9 7FT

Proposal: Erection of single-storey rear extension with 1no. rooflight.

Councillors considered the application and had no comment to make.

iv. Ref: 23/505840/FULL

Address: Digswell Lower Hartlip Road Hartlip Kent ME9 7SX

Proposal: Demolition of 2no. commercial premises (Use Class E) and erection of 4no. dwellings together with associated parking, refuse and cycle stores, and landscaping.

Councillors considered the application and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to the proposal.

*ACTION: Cllr Harvey to draft response.*

Cllr Harvey expressed concern that the Planning Officers can only be contacted on Wednesday mornings, the officers often do not answer the phone or call and emails are not responded to.

KCCllr Baldock said Swale Members have been assured that answerphones were not on during Wednesdays. An update on application 22/503654/EIOUT Land to The West Of Bobbing: National Highways have raised concern that they have not received any of the additional information requested. He has suggested that Swale should not keep things on the list if nothing is happening; if there is nothing new then there is no evidence for planning permission.

Cllr Palmer thanked Cllr Harvey for his report.

## **8. AMENITIES**

i. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 23 January 2024 and consider the recommendations

ii. Review of Football Club fees

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to defer the decision to Amenities.

iii. To consider quotation for notice board

Cllr Harvey said the contractor has emailed a design.

*ACTION: Clerk to circulate email and other options.*

iv. To consider youth provision in Newington

Cllr Palmer reported that Medway Council were unable to tender for youth provision or offer advice.

Councillors considered the proposal from Brogdale CIC and agreed that residents need to be informed that, following the withdrawal of youth provision by Kent County Council from 1 April, this will be funded from the Parish Council's reserves. The Parish Council needs to know what back-up Brogdale CIC has with regards to training and personnel; there needs to be a service level agreement drafted; a copy of their Public Liability Insurance needs to be obtained.

Cllr Palmer **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £10,349 (not including admin or safeguarding time) and proposal from Brogdale CIC, for a one-year agreement: **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

*ACTION: Clerk to apply for funding.*

v. To consider quotation for Recreation Ground Maintenance

Cllr Layer **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £2,218.91 for grounds maintenance from Landscape Services; **SECONDED** by Cllr Brown: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

vi. To consider quotation for addition CCTV camera at the Pavilion

Cllr Palmer **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £425 from Spy Alarms for an additional camera: **SECONDED** by Cllr Mould **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

vii. To consider quotation for Cemetery post

Cllr Layer reported that concern has been raised that visitors to the Cemetery are parking along the path.

Cllr Layer **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £485 from ATS for lockable fold down post and six wooden posts; **SECONDED** by Cllr Brown: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

viii. To consider quotations for annual play area inspection

Councillors considered the quotations for the inspection.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to accept the quote of £235 for an accompanied visit and inspection from The Play Inspection Company Ltd; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record. Cllr Layer duly signed the minutes.

## 9. SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL LAND

Cllr Palmer reported that the matter is still with Swale Borough Council's legal team.

*ACTION: Clerk to forward correspondence to SBCllr R Palmer.*

## 10. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Mould reported that the next edition will be a printed version and will include planning, advert for Pavilion cleaner, Fete, Newington History Group's 2025 calendar photo request and usual items.

## 11. FINANCE

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

Payee	Reason	Amount
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	Recreation Ground maintenance	711.00
	April/ May/ June VAT	142.20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£853.20</b>
Business Stream	Cemetery Water	<b>£29.64</b>
DCK Accounting	Payroll fees – January	<b>£36.00</b>
Maylow Construction	Fence repairs	<b>£390.00</b>
Mr R Malone	Litter Picking Recreation Ground - Jan	<b>Total</b>
	Litter Picking	
Mr MJ Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance - Jan	<b>£625.00</b>
Mr R Burrows	Track gate keeper- Jan	<b>£100.00</b>
Administration	Expenses	<b>£38.55</b>
Mrs W Licence	Hippobag balance	<b>£23.22</b>
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	Recreation Ground maintenance -Oct/ Nov/ Dec	<b>£592.50</b>
Business Stream	Pavilion and recreation Ground Water	<b>£32.86</b>
Mr E Layer	Sundries	<b>£20.47</b>

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

### ii. Finance report

No questions were raised

iii. Any other finance matter received by 30 January 2024Bank accounts

NatWest:- 05.01.24 £46,628.78

Nationwide:- 31.03.23 £46,034.40

Unity Trust:- 31.12.23 £50,622.20

**Payments**

20.12.23	DRAX	Electricity- Pavilion and lighting	£465.76
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**Receipts**

20.12.23	Swans Fitness Club	Community Sports Room hire	£10.00
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Cllr Palmer reported that UK Power Networks has agreed wayleave payments backdated six-years.

**12. SPEEDWATCH**

Cllr Palmer reported that sessions started again in the New Year and speeding is still an issue with PC Jez Chittim delivering letters to offenders. Also there has been incidents of bad driving from some motorists. A motorist had been abusive to the team and was contacted by the Police Officer.

Cllr Layer said the roundels need to be refreshed. Lower Halstow Parish Council was contacted regarding their 20mph signs which were part of the scheme they had paid for.

*ACTION: Clerk to circulate details of signage.*

**13. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS**

Cllr Mould reported that Newington has a full school roll. Cherries is now combined with the school and working well, it has trained teachers and offers excellent services.

**14. CORRESPONDENCE**

C1. 14.12.23- NALC CEO bulletin

C2. 15.12.23- National Highways update

C3. 18.12.23- JKC policy round-up

C4. 20.12.23- Kent Police Rural Matters and slides

C5. 21.12.23- NALC CEO bulletin

C6. 08.01.24- JKC Policy round up

C7. 09.01.24- KCC Highways- Emergency Road Closure - Church Lane, Newington - 4th January 2024

C8. 09.01.24- National Highways: M2 Junction 5 update

C9. 10.01.24- KALC training

C10. 10.01.24- KALC newsletter

C11. 11.01.24- NALC CEO bulletin

C12. 12.01.24- SBCllr Palmer: request for feedback on Swale weekly update

C13. 22.01.24- SBC: JKC Policy Round-Up 19 January 2024

C14. 24.01.24- KCC: Consultation for Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39

C15- 25.01.24- NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin

C16. 26.01.24- Newington Village Hall: car park suspension

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Palmer said a resident has raised issues with parking to the Police Officer who is looking into the matter.

Cllr Palmer said there needs to be a meeting to discuss the Highways Improvement Plan.

*ACTION: Cllr Harvey to contact Jennie Watson, KCC Highways Community Engagement Team Leader.*

KCCllr Baldock said Swale has a planning liaison officer who can be contacted if no response from planning officers.

Cllr Brown reported that she has again, met an oncoming car driving turning into Bull Lane. The driver said his SatNav was guiding him.

Cllr Palmer said KCC Highways informs the provider of changes and SatNavs have to be updated by the driver.

Cllr Layer said better signage would help.

Cllr Layer informed Members that he had reported flytipping on the land at the top of Orchard Drive and this was removed.

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday 27 February 2024 at 7pm**

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 7.54pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 27 February 2024