

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 20 August 2019 in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion.

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

Also present were two members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Dean Coles (holiday); apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 18 June 2019

Cllr Jackson reported that Savills, the Rochester Bridge Trust land agents have a quote for the work and are checking the proposed work to ensure that the hole in the track does not open up again. The Allotment Association has written to the Council about the matter. The Clerk said that she has informed them of the situation and that the urgency of the work has been stressed to Savills.

Cllr Mould said a local structural engineer has said the hole needs shuttering installed.

Cllr Harvey said the foliage needs to be cut back.

Cllr Jackson said the new litter pickers have been appointed.

Cllr Jackson said the graffiti on the garage was reported to 101 but as there are no known lines of enquiry due to there being no CCTV around the area that might have caught the incident and no witnesses being known at this time, the report has been filed pending any further information coming to light. Swale Borough Council has said it can remove the graffiti but this would also remove the paint on the garage. The garage could be repainted with anti-graffiti paint.

Cllr Geldard said he knew of a Council which used stripes of yellow, black and brown to deter graffiti.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate anti-graffiti paint.

4. Public Question Time

Mr Jackson, the Pavilion Caretaker reported that hirers have asked whether there is a fridge at the Pavilion. There is an old fridge which is not very good.

Cllr Harvey said that a fridge could cause issues regarding food being left. Hirers could use cool boxes.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

There was no report from the PCSO.

ACTION: Clerk to invite the PCSO to the Full Council meeting or to send a report if not available.

ii. Community Warden report

Community Warden Georgina Springall was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following report:

- 1) *Key fob found in Orchard Drive – Information put on Newington Facebook page.*
- 2) *Neighbour dispute regarding overhanging shrubs cut back – Optivo aware.*
- 3) *Complaints regarding barking dogs – Advised reporting to Swale Borough Council and filling in diaries. which has been done.*
- 4) *Complaints from resident regarding early morning smoky grass cutting fires – Resident spoke to neighbour and now these have ceased.*
- 5) *Fly tipping in Mill Lane – Swale Borough Council and KCC aware.*
- 6) *Vehicles entering High Street from Callaways Lane during road closure – Police aware and did attend.*
- 7) *Dog fouling on pavement in St. Marks Close – Sprayed and monitoring area.*
- 8) *New graffiti covering Parish Council garages on recreation ground and on teenage shelter.*
- 9) *Wire fence at edge of recreation ground needs tightening – youths entering field this way and residents are complaining.*
- 10) *Resident fly tipping garden waste top of Orchard Drive – Monitoring area.*
- 11) *More fly tipping in Mill Lane, completely blocking highway – Reported to KCC Highways.*
- 12) *Household rubbish dumped at side of track at entrance to recreation ground – Moved to bin area.*
- 13) *Several broken tree branches, two been there a while, on green in Bramley Close – Reported to Swale Borough Council*
- 14) *Dog bin overflowing, not been in emptied, situated at entrance to picnic area on recreation ground – Reported to Swale Borough Council*
- 15) *Another key fob with two front door keys on it found on top of wall at bus stop next to car wash – Handed in to pharmacy and posted on Newington village Facebook page.*
- 16) *Tree branch obstructing pavement on High Street, next to bus stop – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 17) *Metal bed springs fly tipped in Bramley Close – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 18) *Tree down obstructing footpath next to Moat cottage – Reported to KCC Public Right of Way.*

Cllr Harvey reported the Community Warden had told him that the safety fencing on the Public Right of Way through the Persimmon site is too narrow, the developer has said it would be rectified.

ACTION: agenda item to ascertain if resolved.

Cllr Harvey informed that Ms Springall is going to contact Swale Borough Council and Optivo regarding the nettles growing through the fences of the houses overlooking the fields in Pear Tree Walk.

Cllr Layer said the recreation ground fence (item 9) has broken due to the children climbing over the top, the fence needs to be tightened.

ACTION: Contact the contractor for a quotation.

Cllr Harvey and Cllr Layer will meet the contractor.

Cllr Jackson said the biggest issue in the Community Warden's report is flytipping.

Cllr Harvey said there could be correlation between the increase in flytipping and KCC's new policy at the waste recycling centres.

6. S106 Funds

Cllr Harvey said the S106 money from the Jones's development is dedicated to children's play area as the developer would not make provision on their site. Persimmon has also declined provision on their site, some of the S106 money could go towards the zipwire fencing, there have also been grants from the County and Borough Councillors towards the fencing. The

friends of Newington Recreation Ground have submitted a report and hope that there will be a budget for the children's play area at the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Jackson said the S106 money is for the benefit of the village, all the money spent to date has been concentrated at the Recreation Ground, should the Council be looking elsewhere.

Cllr Layer said there is no land available unless the school would donate some.

Cllr Mould said the school wants to keep the site for security. There are many children using the play area and the Council needs to look at the equipment, some of it is virtually redundant.

Cllr Layer said the football club is parking at the bottom of the Recreation Ground, parking needs to be at the top.

Cllr Jackson said there needs to be a plan as to what the Council envisages for the site. Does the fitness equipment need to be renewed or replaced?

Cllr Mould said work on the fitness equipment is maintenance and that he would rather see the play area be upgraded than having a bench.

Cllr Harvey said the condition of the S106 money is that it is for "off site sports provision" for Newington Recreation Ground. Consideration could be given to a path to the play area allowing disabled access. Persimmon did not want a children's play area on their site which is a private estate.

Cllr Mould said there is land at Denham Close but the land owner will only give this if the Parish Council supported development.

Cllr Jackson said the consensus of the Committee was for the remaining money be used for a new play area or an upgrade of the existing site.

Cllr Harvey reported that the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground are fund raising for a disabled access roundabout, there needs to be a mulch path to the roundabout and two springers would make the site look inclusive. Fencing would also need to be considered. The developer will pay £54,000 to Swale Borough Council at the end of the month with the remainder of the S106 money when the 108th dwelling is occupied. Swale Borough Council will audit the expenditure and Persimmon have the right to know all the Parish Council's expenditure.

ACTION: Clerk to provide figures for Full Council.

7. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson reported that the two Ward Members have agreed £400 each towards the zipwire fencing and KCCllr Whiting has agreed £1,000. The application to the Swale Sports & Activity Grant Fund towards the zipwire fencing has been declined.

ii. To consider revised quotations for footpath

Councillors agreed that the existing footpath behind the Pavilion is cleared to ascertain whether further work needs to be carried out.

iii. To consider quotation to clear footpath from compound to public path

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quote of £225 from Countrywide to clear the path and remove the waste.

16. Newington Roman Temple

Councillors considered the information from Newington History Group regarding the recently excavated Roman Temple at the site off 99 The High Street. The school was not considered a suitable site as there would be no access; the woodland area could be subject of vandalism; it could be placed next to the Pavilion; the High Street, by the old toilets, would be central and easily accessible; the village green would need agreement of KCC and residents should also be consulted; the cemetery could also be a possibility although a Faculty may be necessary as it is consecrated ground.

Councillors agreed to recommend to Full Council that the preferred location for the temple would be the site where the toilets were as this was also the area where there was the meeting

of the roads. If there was not room the second choice of site would be at the Cemetery subject to whether this would be permitted on consecrated ground.

ACTION: Cllr Harvey to research whether the temple could be sited at the Cemetery.

8. Pavilion

To consider quotations for Pavilion flooring

Councillors considered the quotations for the flooring.

Cllr Mould questioned whether the work needed to be carried out, it would be a large spend for the Fitness Room when there was little income being generated.

Cllr Jackson said the room could be considered if there were other users. The footballers enter the Pavilion in their football boots.

It was agreed to defer the matter until there were more bookings for the Pavilion.

9. Defibrillator

There was nothing to report.

10. Allotments

Cllr Jackson said the Allotment Association has written regarding the hole in the track. The Parish Council will continue to put pressure on Savills.

11. Highways

Cllr Jackson said there is a meeting Thursday 22 August at 7pm in the Village Hall concerning the replacement of the gas main on A2 (Newington). It is important for Councillors to attend if possible so that the Council can be seen to be raising the issues brought up at Full Council. Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Mould for printing flyers which were delivered with the Village Voice. Details have also posted on website.

Cllr Jackson said Cllr Coles has reported that an articulated lorry went down Bull Lane at 11pm on Wednesday 14 August, Cllr Coles had previously suggested to KCCllr Whiting that the signage needs to be improved.

12. Lights

There was nothing to report.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Jackson said the footpath through the Persimmon development needs to be monitored.

Cllr Mould reported that he had checked PROW ZR66 and the path was clear.

14. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said the front page of the Village Voice will contain a report of the meeting about the gas main replacement on the A2. There will be an article about flytipping and an article from the Newington History Group.

Cllr Jackson said the new website is looking good and thanked the Clerk for her work.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to ask a resident to take photos for the website.

15. Social Media

Cllr Mould said there could be a restricted Facebook page for information only.

Cllr Harvey said the page could have a link to the Parish Council website.

Cllr Jackson said consideration must be given to what the Council wants from a Social Media presence and be mindful of the Clerk's hours.

Cllr Geldard said more people use Social Media than websites and the function for comments can be turned off.

Item for Full Council to consider.

ACTION 1: Cllr Geldard to write a report for Full Council.

ACTION 2: Clerk to add roles of the Parish Council and Councillors to the website.

17. Any Other Business

No other matter was raised.

Date of Next Meeting: 17 September 2019

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair
27 August 2019