

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 21 May 2019 in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion.

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Stephen Harvey and Cllr Tony Mould; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were Community Warden Georgina Springall and one member of the public.

## 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Eric Layer (holiday): apology accepted.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

## 3. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

## 4. Anti-Social Behaviour

Ms Springall had sent a report prior to the meeting:

- 1) *Concerns regarding damaged, unlocked open gate to farm land off School Lane (site of new house sales office) – Contacted land owner who said he would come down and make secure.*
- 2) *Green waste fly tipped in car park area end of track in recreation ground.*
- 3) *Complaints from residents regarding building works noise from resident in The Willows – Monitoring area.*
- 4) *Successful monthly bingo group meeting. This month several residents and their carers also attended from Newington care home.*
- 5) *Resident suspected of car dealing again in Wickham Close. This has been reported to KCC Trading Standards.*
- 6) *Dog fouling again on footpath that leads across crop field from Wickham Close to Mill Lane – Monitoring area.*
- 7) *Fly tipping in Mill Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 8) *Vehicles parking on double yellow lines top of Station Road from early evening causing obstruction – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 9) *Two empty boxes and approximately thirty-six empty nitrous oxide cannisters and balloons found dumped on verge at top of Orchard Drive – PCSO John Cork aware.*
- 10) *Suspicious transit van cruising up and down Bull Lane whilst resident was working (unseen) under his car. At the time, several tools were laid out on the pavement. Man came out of vehicle and approached tools. When he saw resident present, he made excuses and hurriedly went back to his van – All vehicle details and male description reported to police.*
- 11) *Pile of alloy wheels stolen from resident's drive.*
- 12) *Excessive litter in parking area outside allotments.*
- 13) *Concerns regarding safety of dog let out without being on a lead on road area – Monitoring area.*
- 14) *Concerns regarding car wreckage parked in residential area – spoke to owner who has arranged for car breakers to collect.*

*15) Car regularly parked on pavement causing obstruction – Visited owners.*

Ms Springall reported that her anti dog fouling campaign has had a measure of success with only one problem area and notices have been put up. The Art Group is going well and the judging for the Best Front Garden Competition will start in June. Cllr Jackson thanked Ms Springall for attending and for her report.

**5. Recreation Ground**

i. To receive an update

Tree at Recreation Ground

The resident has said that her gate is inaccessible access needs to be through her house.

ii. To consider quotation for fencing at ball court

Cllr Harvey said there is a need for fencing to protect the users of the cable way from being hit by balls from the ball court. A wooden fence would be damaged and a chain link fence could be noisy. The Play Area inspector recommended a 4m high cricket net or football netting. Any fence could become a target for bored youngsters.

Cllr Mould said golf netting would be more substantial.

Cllr Coles said netting could invite climbing and it becomes shabby and dirty very quickly. The Pavilion compound fence is anti-vandal and very good. Similar fencing would give a uniform look to the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Harvey said that when the zip wire is installed it cannot be used until there is a safety inspection, Wicksteed will take up to ten days to carry out an inspection, Craigdene can come out straightaway.

Cllr Jackson said a Risk Assessment needs to be carried out on the zip wire and maintenance frequency needs to be ascertained.

Cllr Harvey said the Council could enter into a maintenance contract or Maylow Construction Ltd would be willing to carry out ongoing checks.

Cllr Coles said there is different legislation for zip wires, the Council could take preventative measures but Councillors are not qualified to do this.

Cllr Harvey said Swale Borough Council has offered a place on its safety inspection course.

*ACTION 1: Cllr Harvey to seek advice on zip wire safety checks and maintenance from Craigdene.*

*ACTION 2: Clerk to seek further quotations for the fencing.*

iii. To consider revised quotations for foot path

Cllr Jackson reported that only one quotation has been received so far.

Cllr Harvey said he has met with another contractor.

Cllr Jackson said the new five-aside football goals are being well-used.

Cllr Coles said he has expansion foam and plaster board and will repair the patch in the chair cupboard.

Cllr Harvey said quotations need to be obtained for the flooring in the cloakroom, entrance lobby and gym. The gym room is currently only used one hour per week, it has been mentioned the possibility of having a group for younger ladies and also a men's group. The Swans look after the room. Flooring quotes need to be obtained for the three area with the gym room being refloored if there is greater usage.

Cllr Jackson said the gym room belongs to the Parish Council and if there were to be another group interested, the swans could be asked to remove their equipment. The Swans could be contacted to ascertain if they are open to the idea of other groups using the room and their equipment, the groups would pay for the maintenance of the equipment. The swans need to be informed the Council is considering flooring options.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact the Swans.*

Cllr Mould said the Youth Group has been well attended. They have been told room hire is £5 per session and that this will be reviewed in September. It is good the room is being used, this is what it was refurbished for.

Cllr Harvey said the Youth Group is planning activities for the summer and that it has been requested that this will be for the right aged school children and for Newington children. The Youth group was started in Newington School and the leaders have accepted the proposal.

Cllr Harvey said he had informed the Youth Group that the Parish Council could promote the club in the Village Voice. The Parish Council could try to obtain S106 money if the Youth Group were to draw up a proposal.

Cllr Mould said the S106 money has been earmarked for youth provision in Maidstone.

Cllr Harvey said KCC can be told to claw back the youth provision at Quinton as no youth in Newington can access it. If the Youth Club can offer a provision in the summer, the Parish Council can ask for the money to come back to Swale.

## **6. Pavilion**

Mr Jackson, the Pavilion caretaker, reported that hot water is only available in the kitchen.

*ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotations for a point-of-use boiler for the toilet and gym room.*

## **7. Village Picnic**

Cllr Jackson said the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground have suggested a village event for the opening of the zip wire. It will be an event for residents to bring their own picnic and games to. The Parish Council will not be running the event but simply facilitating it.

It was agreed to hold the picnic on 10 August.

## **8. Autumn Litter Pick**

Cllr Jackson said the Spring Litter Pick was a catalyst for another event.

It was agreed to hold it on 28 September.

Cllr Jackson said someone will need to go around and collect the bags of litter and give out new ones.

## **9. Defibrillator**

Cllr Jackson said this needs to be a quarterly agenda item with regular updates from those responsible for checking the defibrillators.

## **10. Allotments**

There was no report.

## **12. Highways**

Cllr Coles said the traffic has been held up from Key Street roundabout through the village to Playstool Road, as the pot holes were being marked with paint. There was nothing being marked in Newington. The Parish Council needs to emphasis to the Ward Members that work needs to be carried out in Newington. The markings on the speed bumps in Playstool Road have worn.

## **13. Lights**

Cllr Jackson LED upgrade work is continuing. The lights for Allsworth Close will be the same as the rest of the village.

Cllr Harvey said he was concerned because the houses in Allsworth Close have a covenant in their deeds regarding the gardens and the property. The contractor said that there could be similar lights but the specification was altered. The lights in St Matthews Close will similarly be affected. The Parish Council has over-riden all the regulations that residents have signed up to. When KCC upgraded the lights on the A2 heritage lights were used in the High Street.

*ACTION: Clerk to check the specification for the lights.*

Cllr Coles said that previously, when he looked out towards Brookes Place, the turning circle had an orange light and it was impossible to see beyond it. The LED lights now make it possible to see through to Cranbrook Wood.

Cllr Jackson said a resident in Church Lane has emailed to say the new LED lights shine into his house.

Cllr Coles said a shield needs to be put on the light.

Cllr Jackson said the angle of the light can be adjusted.

#### **14. Footpaths and Bridleways**

Cllr Harvey asked for an update on the dog bin in Callaways Lane.

The Clerk said she had sent the Land Registry document to Open Reach, Open Reach have sent a photo clearly showing the light is next to the road and not on private land.

#### **15. Village Voice and media**

Cllr Mould circulated a draft of the Village Voice.

Cllr Harvey said there needs to be articles from all village groups.

#### **16. Annual Parish Meeting**

Cllr Mould said the format of the Annual Parish Meeting was excellent and that it should be recommended to Full Council to have the same format every year.

#### **17. Any Other Business**

Cllr Jackson said the Newington Festival 2020 needs to be on the agenda in September.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 18 June 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.