

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25 November 2023 in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall

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

Also present were County Councillor Mike Baldock and two members of public.

1. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Cllr R Palmer reported that no applications had been received yet. He was sorry to inform Members that Steve Godmon has resigned from the Council and thanked him for his hard work for the Parish Council.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Michale Barlow (work): apologies accepted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 31 OCTOBER 2023

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

Cllr Harvey said he had previously raised that the light in the alley was not working, he also informed Members that the light was still out

The minutes were amended. Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes, as amended, as a true record of the meeting held on 31 October; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ii. Matters arising from the minutes

All items covered on agenda.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

A member of the public gave thanks that the black paint on the 20mph sign on the A2 had been removed.

The meeting was reconvened.

6. VISITORS

i. Borough Councillors

SBCllr R Palmer reported that there had been a Standards Committee hearing, the result will be appealed. From April 2024, Kent County Council will be removing its youth provision; currently there is a well-attended youth club in the village and this will be removed. The Swale Western Area Committee meeting on 30 November has youth provision on its agenda.

Cllr Harvey said it would be good to know how KCC defines statutory provision; teenagers need to be prioritised ideally there would be outreach workers. If services are to be at the New House Youth Centre, there needs to be a bus to get them there.

SBCllr C Palmer reported that she has liaised with PC Jez Chittim regarding parking problems in Church Lane, Parking Enforcement has been out and will visit more frequently to deal with the problems. There was an issue with a vehicle exiting Bull Lane meeting another vehicle driving the wrong way, this has been reported to KCC and they will look into the problem. Issues with GP and hospital appointments are ongoing. SBCllr C Palmer will attend a meeting with KCCllr Mike Baldock and Nikki Teesdale, Director of Delivery, Medway and Swale Health and Care Partnership. Newington Surgery is meant to be operating and is listed as a satellite surgery of Green Porch which is currently in special measures.

ii. County Councillor

KCCllr Baldock reported that at the next Swale Western Area Committee meeting, the main issue is that of KCC cutting youth provision from next year.

Cllr Harvey asked what statutory provision KCC will offer and how it is defined. Also, what support will third party agencies have?

KCCllr Baldock the problem is that while Swale Borough Council will say what it will cut, Kent County Council says it will cut an amount from the budget and then decide what to cut. Brogdale CIC has a portacabin at the skate park and this will struggle to continue. Groups in Sheerness are supported by the Town Council. Schools will be looked to for support and also the Police. Brogdale CIC has qualified workers and the problem is funding, the satellite work may be dropped.

The Joint Transportation Group needs better co-ordination and better local knowledge so a co-ordination group will be proposed. It would be good for Medway to be involved but there is an issue of resources.

Cllr R Palmer thanked KCCllr Baldock for his report.

7. PLANNING

i. To receive an update

Ref: 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 the application has been permitted.

Ref: 23/503792/FULL Moat View, Church Lane, Newington ME9 7JX

Proposal: Erection of a detached dwelling for a disabled person with associated parking and minor landscaping works (Resubmission 22/504968/FULL).

Cllr Harvey reported that the application has been refused

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 reported 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 a decision is yet to be made.

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 said a decision is yet to be made.

Not in Newington

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 reported that a decision is yet to be made.

ii. Ref: 23/504879/FULL

Address: 61 Playstool Road Newington Sittingbourne Kent 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.

Councillors considered the application and had no objections to the current application but requested that if permitted, it will be monitored carefully.

Cllr Harvey reported that residents of Eden Meadow have been told of a proposal and the indicative drawing shows that it could join The Tracies.

Ref: 23/504502/FULL Woodland Farm, High Oak Hill, Iwade Road, Newington ME9 7HY

Proposal: Erection of a permanent agricultural dwelling with associated parking (Resubmission 21/504388/FULL)

Councillor discussed and agreed the response to the proposal.

Cllr Harvey said that he is concerned about the proposed changes to planning at Swale with the Head of Planning, and not the Committee, making the decisions. Planning should be decided by democratically elected Members.

KCCllr Baldock said the proposal is yet to be agreed and that he will oppose the changes as it would take away Members' powers.

Cllr R Palmer thanked Cllr Harvey for his report.

8. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

i. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 21 November 2023 and consider the recommendations

Cllr Jackson reported that the vegetation had been cut back hard by the allotments and an apology had been received; Cllr Harvey and Cllr Layer will meet the Claims Inspector at the Recreation Ground on Friday; a homeless couple have been sleeping in a tent at the Recreation Ground and they have been signposted to agencies for help; UKPN has agreed to pay for the allotment fence repairs as a gesture of goodwill.

ACTION: Clerk to inform contractor to carry out the work.

Cllr Jackson reported that the Committee discussed the possibility of extending the Pavilion and quotations are being obtained; trees are needed for the Cemetery.

Cllr Layer **PROPOSED** five silver birch trees be purchased for the Cemetery; **SECONDED** by Cllr R Palmer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION: Clerk to chase contractor regarding the planting of the saplings.

Cllr Layer **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Harvey.

ii. To consider quotations for notice board

Waiting for further quotes.

iii. To consider quotation for servicing Pavilion alarm and CCTV cameras

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** that the quotation of £192 for the servicing of the Pavilion alarm and CCTV cameras be accepted: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Mr Jackson said a new SIM card is needed for the system.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain best method for the alarm.

iv. To consider quotation to install additional camera at the Pavilion

Cllr Jackson said that quotes have yet to be received. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to a budget of £200 for an additional camera.

v. To consider sharing cost of Church Lane light repair and to adopt the light.

Cllr R Palmer thanked Cllr Mould and Mr Godmon for meeting with KCC and Network Rail.

Network Rail has agreed to pay half the costs and the Parish Council will have to pay the other half and take on responsibility for the light, the cost has been estimated at £10,000.

Cllr Mould said the junction box will have to be moved.

Cllr R Palmer **PROPOSED** that the Parish Council contribute up to £5,000 and take on responsibility of the light: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Layer said there will be a burial next month and the Hippobag will be left by the fence for collection. Councillors agreed to pay for the grave digger's fees which can be reclaimed from the Children's Funeral Fund.

9. SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL LAND

The matter is with the legal team. Councillors agreed not to pursue the acquisition of the land next to the bus stop and just to proceed with the transfer of the two strips of land in Orchard Drive.

10. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Mould said the next edition should be a paper edition but as it will get to the printers late, it will be an online version instead.

11. FINANCE

i. Cheque list: to consider invoices for payment

Payee	Reason	Amount
Maylow Construction Ltd	Repair to play area gate	£174.00
DCK Accounting	Payroll fees – November	£36.00
Mr R Malone	Litter Picking Recreation Ground - Nov	
	Litter Picking	
	Total	£527.00
Mr MJ Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance - Nov	£625.00
Mr R Burrows	Track gate keeper- Nov	£125.00
Administration	Expenses	£32.50

Mrs W Licence	Signage reimbursement	£83.94
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It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to make the payments

ii. Finance report

No matters were raised.

iii. Any other finance matter received by 31 October 2023

Cllr R Palmer said there is a budget meeting on Monday 4 December at 10am and all Members are welcome to attend.

Bank Accounts

NatWest:- 31.10.23 £46,520.85

Nationwide:- 31.03.23 £46,034.40

Unity Trust:- 31.10.23 £61,319.34

Payments

05.10.23	HugoFox	Website	£244.68
19.10.23	DRAX	Electricity	£433.40

Receipts

03.10.23	Swale Borough Council	Precept and lighting grant	£30,055.50
04.10.23	Mr R Jackson	Parish Room Hire	£15.00
04.10.23	Mrs C Palmer	Parish Room deposit	£50.00
09.10.23	Bournes Funeral Service Ltd	Cemetery fees	£3,477.65
12.10.23	Vibe	Parish Room Hire	£20.00
20.10.23	High & Sons Funeral Directors	Cemetery fees	£3,306.00
25.10.23	DRAX	Compensation	£100.00
26.10.23	Stalisfield Parish Council	Share of SLCC fees	£55.80
29.09.23	Swans Fitness Club	Community Sports Hall hire and deposit	£20.00

12. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Cuffley reported that Speedwatch sessions are continuing and two vehicles have been recorded travelling excessive speeds.

13. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Mould said that the integration of The Cherries is a large investment for the school and is now a nursery class which will feed into the school.

Cllr Havery asked if it will have the same admissions policy.

Cllr Mould said the school is not at full capacity. When the new development starts the car park will not be available. There will be an Ofsted inspection in 2024/5.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

C1. 01.11.23- NALC: Newsletter

C2. 01.11.23- Swale Borough Council: consultation on draft parking policy

C3. 01.11.23- KALC: Newsletter

C4. 01.11.23- KALC: training flyers

C5. 02.11.23- NALC: CEO newsletter

C6. 02.11.23- Swale Borough Council: Draft Street Trading Policy

C7. 03.11.23- National Highways: M2 junction 5 improvement scheme - Stockbury Roundabout weekend closure

C8. 06.11.23- Swale Borough Council: policy round up

C9. 06.11.23- KALC: Community Awards Scheme 2024

C10. 07.11.23- Kent Police Rural Matters

- C11. 08.11.23- NALC newsletter
- C12. 09.11.23- NALC CEO bulletin
- C13. 09.11.23- KALC training events
- C14. 10.11.23- National Highways works
- C15. 13.11.23- Swale Borough Council: policy round up
- C16. 16.11.23- KCC Highways: Urgent Road Closure - Bricklands, Newington - 21st November 2023
- C17. 16.11.23- NALC CEO bulletin
- C18. 16.11.23- National Highways: M2 junction 5 update
- C19. 17.11.23- National Highways: works update
- C20. 20.11.23- Swale Borough Council: policy round up
- C21. 23.11.23- NALC: CEO bulletin
- C22. 24.11.23- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Bull Lane, Newington - 23rd November
- C23. 24.11.23- National Highways works

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other matters were raised.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 12 December 2023 at 7pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.23pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 12 December 2023