

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Tuesday 22 May 2018 in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion.

Present: Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Sue Brewster, Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Ray Cuffley Cllr Stephen Harvey Cllr Tony Mould and Cllr Richard Palmer; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present was one member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Layer took the Chair.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Elaine Jackson: apologies accepted

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Palmer declared an interest in item 12 Any Other Business as he owns a company which sells AEDs.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 17 April 2018

- Tree Preservation Order and tree survey - a Tree Preservation Order on the Oak Trees on foot path ZR66a and advice from the Swale Borough Council Tree Officer have been requested but the Officer has indicated that he has a very heavy workload to turnaround in one day a week. He will try to make a site visit when he is next in the area to undertake an amenity evaluation assessment and will report back afterwards

ACTION: Clerk to contact Paul Hegley again.

- PFL Electrical - there has been no response to the notice of termination of contract.
- Lorries in Church Lane- there has been no response from Gallaghers.
- The Parsonage Farm money is being released.

4. Public Question Time

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.

A resident asked what would happen to the Gym Room when the Sports Club moved out. The Swans would like to continue meeting. Between ten and sixteen members meet every week and they pay £2 per session although the Sports Club has waived the fee for the remainder of their tenancy.

Cllr Palmer said grants are available and the Swans need to put a proposal together.

The meeting was reconvened.

This item was brought forward

6. Recreation Ground

i. Newington Community Sports Club

Cllr Harvey said the Council was grateful to the email from the Sports Club and the assurance that has been given regarding the clearance of the equipment. The Parish Council was sorry to see the Sports Club close and is delighted the Swans want to continue to meet as a new group. Councillors will help the Swans with obtaining grants if needed.

Cllr Coles he was pleased the Swans group wants to continue and the group will need to put a proposal together. The Sports Club will be vacating the room on 24 July 2018. The Swans will be able to rent the room at the community rate of £5 per hour.

Cllr Harvey said there could be a partition in the Gym Room to store the equipment and this would allow other groups to use the room at other times.

Councillors thanked the representative of the Swans group for attending the meeting.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

No report had been received.

ii. Community Warden report

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

- 1) *New dog fouling penalty notices put up on track from Callaways Lane to Monkey Island.*
- 2) *Complaints from residents that lamp post situated at rear of houses 64/66 Pear Tree Walk still not working*
- 3) *Concerns regarding safety of flint wall that was severely damaged by lorry at bottom of Bull Lane – contacted Building Control, (unsafe structures) and they sent out inspector who put up metal fencing for safety.*
- 4) *Neighbour dispute - Joint visit with PCSO to mediate with both parties.*
- 5) *Dog bin in Wickham Close not emptied and overflowing – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 6) *Suspected abandoned vehicle in Station Road, Station car park.*
- 7) *Vehicle parked in village hall car park with no tax or MOT, registered with a SORN. Reported to Swale Borough Council., now removed.*
- 8) *Vehicle parked in Orchard Drive with no tax or MOT, previously reported to DVLA and Swale Borough Council, now removed.*
- 9) *New concrete path at rear of houses in Orchard Drive and next to recreation ground driven on by youth on mini quad bike whilst still wet.*
- 10) *£1,000 newly planted trees on private land in London Road stolen – Police aware. Visited resident and gave him 'Smart water' kit.*
- 11) *Successful bingo club afternoon, discussed latest scams and keeping safe.*
- 12) *Severe flooding in Boxted Lane.*
- 13) *Youths cooking on disposable barbecues in woods on Monkey Island. Concerns regarding risk of fires – PCSO aware.*
- 14) *Large amount of fly tipping blocking High Oak Hill – Reported to Swale Borough Council and KCC Highways.*
- 15) *Nuisance youths on illegal motor cycles in areas around village and travelling on main highways – PCSO aware.*
- 16) *Swale Borough Council village bin in Church Lane being filled with household rubbish by resident – monitoring area.*
- 17) *Youth frequently taking her dog into play area situated between Bull Lane and Playstool Road – Reported her to Optivo housing.*
- 18) *Tools stolen overnight from van parked in Playstool Road.*
- 19) *Tools stolen from van parked on Boyces Hill.*
- 20) *Several residents complaining about the land in front of Moat Cottage being completely stripped of all trees/shrubs and levelled. Also concerns that 'moat' is completely dry.*
- 21) *Two very successful meetings this month of the new art group at St. Mary's church.*
- 22) *Residents 'tame' Red Tailed Hawk flown away and has not returned!*
- 23) *Concerned elderly resident receiving bailiff letters at her address addressed to other person – Contacted company and notified them on correct address.*
- 24) *Builders working in new doctors' surgery premises putting wood etc. in High Street bin – spoke to them and now removed.*
- 25) *Good feedback from residents regarding the Fun Fair.*

Cllr Coles said the parking wardens are in the village more frequently now some of the car parks in Sittingbourne are closed and asked if it would continue when the town car parks are open again.

Cllr Cuffley said he had been assured parking fines are not revenue generating.

Cllr Harvey said it would be good to clamp down on pavement parking.

Cllr Palmer said it is not an offence to park on the pavement.

Cllr Coles said the issues of parking in the village should be reported back and discussed at Full Council.

Cllr Harvey reported a circular disc cutter was stolen from SGN workers in Playstool Close.

Cllr Coles said there needs to be a schedule of gas works for the village. KCCllr Whiting is aware of the container in the turning circle and SGN has been fined for the inconvenience caused, the village should receive the money.

6. Recreation Ground

ii. Fun Fair

Cllr Harvey reported the Fun Fair went well and the deposit has been returned. There have been very positive comments about the weekend.

iii. To consider the quotations for grass cutting

The Clerk reported she had only received one quotation which was circulated to Members.

Cllr Layer reported he met a contractor who was interested in tendering for the work. The grass has been cut.

Cllr Harvey said the Foorball Club should be approached to see if they are willing to cut the grass in return for a reduction of rent. Grasstex should be invoiced for the cost of the padlock if they do not return the key.

Councillors agreed the work should be split into two contracts and sent out to contractors.

iv. To receive any other update

Cllr Layer said he will meet Daniel Gooch, Swale Borough Council, to discuss the play area at 10am on 20 June, Cllr Palmer will also attend. The S106 money from Parsonage Farm is being paid to the Parish Council.

7. Allotments

Cllr Coles reported the Allotment Association has made an excellent job of the garden around the village sign.

8. Newington Festival 2018

Cllr Mould reported to Members that £2300 in advertising has been received, there is still space available.

Cllr Coles said there is a contingency plan in place to fill extra space in the programme.

8. Lights

Cllr Layer said a meeting will be set up with the contractor to discuss the way forward for the street lights.

9. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Brewster reported the rubbish has been removed from the footpath, names were found in the rubbish and Swale Borough Council will pursue this. The vans are still on the bridge.

10. Village Voice

There will be no Village Voice for June.

11. Village Hall CCTV

Cllr Coles informed Members that the Village Hall Committee want to replace the CCTV system.

The Clerk informed Councillors that the Parish Council has just paid £571 to ADT for the annual maintenance contract for the CCTV to 31 March 2019.

Cllr Harvey said the CCTV is for the car park and the equipment is in the Village Hall. If the cameras do not work the contractor needs to be called out.

Cllr Coles said the Village Hall Committee could install their own secondary CCTV system if they wished.

12. Any Other Business

Cllr Harvey reported the litter bin near the former Working Men's Club has been dumped in The Bull's car park.

ACTION: Clerk to report to Swale Borough Council

Cllr Palmer said the doctor's surgery is due to open soon and asked if a defibrillator has been approved.

The Clerk reported she is applying for one from the Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

Date of Next Meeting: 19 June 2018

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 8.45pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair
29 May 2018