

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 18 June 2019 in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion.

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

Also present was one member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

All Members were present

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 21 May 2019

Item 8 of the minutes was amended to read *"It was agreed to hold the picnic on 10 August."* Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2019 as amended. Cllr Jackson duly signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Cllr Jackson reported the work on the oak tree at the Recreation Ground had been completed and a resident has sent a letter of thanks to the Parish Council for arranging the work.

Cllr Jackson said the lights in Allsworth Close had been ordered as the same specification as the rest of the Parish Council's lights.

Cllr Harvey said there are covenants on the houses in Allsworth Close as to what is permitted for the houses and front gardens. Residents had expressed concern the new lights were not similar to what had been replaced. The contractor had said they could replace the lights with something similar.

ACTION: Clerk to check the order placed with the contractor.

Cllr Jackson said the light output level has been lowered on the light near the Church Lane alley, a shield has been fitted and the lantern angled down as much as possible towards the Station Road gardens

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO John Cork was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following report:

No reports of anti-social behaviour.

Criminal damage to dwelling in Church Lane 06/05/19

Burglary in Wardwell Lane. Newington- scrap metal taken.29/05/2019.

Criminal damage to vehicle parked outside 24 Playstool Road ,Newington 26/05/2019 .

Caravan taken off the drive in Bull Lane ,Newington 12/06/2019.

Cllr Coles asked where the incident was in Bull Lane, there is not enough detail in the report.

ACTION: Clerk to ask PCSO Cork for further details.

ii. Community Warden report

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

- 1) *Complaints from resident that one side of footpath that leads from High Street to Wickham Close not cleared and now tall stinging nettles encroaching on her property – Reported to KCC Public Rights of Way.*
- 2) *Pathway that runs between orchards and back of Pear Tree Walk getting obstructed with weeds – Reported to KCC Highways.*
- 3) *New large coloured graffiti on side of Parish Council garages in recreation ground – Informed Clerk.*
- 4) *Nitrous oxide canisters and balloons found on corner of Playstool Road and London Road – Reported to PCSO John Cork.*
- 5) *Excessive dog fouling on track that leads from Callaways Lane to Monkey Island. Approximately thirty piles, mainly from one dog – Sprayed and monitoring area.*
- 6) *Neighbour dispute – Reports to Optivo.*
- 7) *Concerns for wellbeing of resident – checked out.*
- 8) *Fly tipping Mill Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 9) *Fly Tipping Boxted Lane, two large lorry tyres – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 10) *Cracking tarmac and holes in pavement outside houses 24, 28 and 29 Pear Tree Walk – Reported to KCC Highways.*
- 11) *Vehicles driving out from Callaways Lane onto High Street (Road closure) – Police were made aware.*
- 12) *Sink hole re-opened at side of track that leads to recreation ground – Made Cllr Harvey and Cllr Coles aware – Closed gate (now locked).*
- 13) *Garden ornaments stolen from front garden of house in Lower Hartlip Road – Police aware.*
- 14) *Dead cat found on London Road – Taken to Borden vets to check for chip.*
- 15) *Resident filling SBC litter bins with household rubbish – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 16) *Water leak in High Street – Southern Water attended.*

Cllr Coles said the Council must support Ms Springall in regards to her anti dog fouling campaign.

Cllr Jackson said the pavements in Orchard Drive are in a poor state since the gas works and also at the bottom of Pear Tree Walk, the ruts are quite deep and dangerous. The repair work needs to be checked.

Cllr Harvey said there needs to be a meeting with the Highway Steward.

The Clerk said she had contacted Ms Hall but had not had a response for a date.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Highway Steward again.

Cllr Harvey reported that he had attended the KALC Swale Area Committee meeting and had raised concerns with Chief Inspector Alan Rogers about 101 reporting and this has been improved, the online reporting has been simplified. Also raised was whether incidents called in by the Community Warden affected the statistics in Newington, Chief Inspector Rogers said he thought Wardens can report matters.

The Clerk said she had reported the graffiti on the Parish Council garage.

ACTION: Clerk to ask if Swale will remove the graffiti and how much it will cost.

6. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson reported that a quotation to fill the sink hole in the track with semi-dry cement has been obtained and asked whether this would resolve the problem.

Cllr Harvey said a local expert has informed him that the hole needs wooden shuttering and three cubic metres of cement.

Cllr Jackson said the school had been advised that this was not the best option but it did work. Cllr Coles said the problem is from the land on the other side being lower than the track and this is causing the problem, it is the landowner's responsibility.

Cllr Jackson said there is a Health & Safety issue with the track.

Cllr Harvey said the Bridge Wardens Trust is the landowner and AC Goatham is the leaseholder.

ACTION 1: Clerk to obtain further quotations

ACTION 2: Clerk to contact the Rochester Bridge Wardens Trust and AC Goatham.

ACTION 3; Clerk to confirm with contractor that he is putting shuttering in.

Cllr Coles said gabion cages might have to be used.

Cllr Layer said this would be on neighbouring land.

Cllr Coles had brought to Councillors attention an issue with adult play equipment on the Isle of Sheppey. Swale Borough Council are going to instigate inspections of all their equipment. Should the Parish Council ask Swale what the new legislation is?

Cllr Harvey said no issues were high-lighted on the last inspection.

Cllr Jackson said the inspection report identified pinch points and movement but these were low to medium risk.

Cllr Harvey said there were rust holes on the equipment where the child was hurt and a parent was present so there was no liability on Swale Borough Council. The Parish Council's equipment is under the previous legislation. The Parish Council's safety inspector will commission the new cableway and she could be asked to carry out a complete inspection.

ACTION 1: Clerk to seek advice from Craigdene.

ACTION 2: Clerk to book Craigdene to commission the cableway.

ii. To consider quotation for fencing at ball court

Cllr Jackson informed Members that KCCllr Whiting has agreed a grant of £1,000 towards the fencing.

Cllr Harvey said the Friends of Newington Recreation ground have secured a grant of £2,000 towards the cableway from KCCllr Whiting, the surplus budget could be used towards the remainder of the fencing. Two quotes have been obtained and a third quote is expected but the contractor may not be able to install the fence in time for the completion of the cableway. Councillors discussed the quotations and said the quotes need to be for the same specification.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain revised quotes.

Item for Full Council agenda.

Cllr Harvey reported the cableway will be installed on 18 July.

Cllr Layer asked what impact on the insurance the cableway will have.

The Clerk said it will cost an extra £244 for public liability plus any increase in asset value. The Asset Register has the Philadelphia goal posts on which are no longer at the Recreation Ground and this may cancel out any increase in the asset value.

iii. To consider revised quotations for foot path

Cllr Mould said the internal footpath option seemed sensible.

Councillors considered three quotations. A welfare unit was not necessary; Herras fencing would be needed to protect the public when the footpath is laid to the pavilion. Concern was raised that the grass is a higher level than the footpath and this could be resolved by including a lip to prevent random run down onto the footpath. The fencing contractors have said that they would pull the fence over and this could damage the new path, the posts would have to be cut off.

The meeting was adjourned for Councillors to inspect the current footpath layout.

The meeting was reconvened.

The existing footpath was considered to be adequate and the kissing gate and old fencing rails need to be removed.

ACTION: Clerk to request revised quotes for the removal of the kissing gate; clearance of vegetation from existing footpath; remove disused fencing and a new path with kerbstones to hold water back within the pavilion compound.

iv. Play area signage

Cllr Harvey said the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground have been awarded a grant for bins and a sign at the play area. The sign will be a stock sign with no reference to the group or the Parish Council.

Councillors agreed to the sign.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground.

7. Pavilion

i. To receive an update

Cllr Coles was thanked for repairing the hole in the store cupboard.

Cllr Jackson said quotes need to be obtained for a baby changing unit.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotations.

Cllr Coles asked if proper signage could be obtained for the Pavilion.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotations for First Aid Kit point; First Aid Kit kept here; toilet; Community Fitness Room and Parish Room and circulate to Members.

Cllr Jackson said the use of the Fitness Room had been raised previously and what would happen if someone else wanted to use it. The Swans Fitness group has been asked if they would be willing to permit other people to use their equipment and have said that:

The equipment is only the type used at home and is not strong enough to be used by more energetic people. We have up to sixteen people there each week, so it is used a lot by the ladies.

The insurance is just for us, as more of a social group. So could not be used by anyone else. The ladies would not be happy for more people queuing up to use the machines.

If you wanted stronger machines they would need to go in the other room and moved into the garage when not needed. Any insurance on them would need a maintenance person and gym instructor as per endless conversations with different insurance companies.

The flooring upgrade would be nice as ours is not very good.

Cllr Jackson said consideration needs to be given to whether there should be new flooring. The Council could be approached by another group such as a book club or chess club to use the room, the Pavilion is a community facility.

Cllr Harvey said a new resident had said she would be keen for there to be a young mums fitness group. If another group want to use the room the Swans would have to move their equipment. The room is currently used for one hour per week.

Cllr Coles said another group might not want to use the Swans' equipment. They would need their own insurance and the room might not be big enough.

Cllr Jackson said that if there was interest from another hirer, the Swans would be asked to move their equipment.

Cllr Mould said the Council has a facility which is currently only being used for one hour per week.

ii. To consider quotations for a point-of-use boiler for the toilet and gym room.

Cllr Jackson said one quote has been received and further quotes are being sought.

Cllr Jackson informed Members that an enquiry has been received to hire the Pavilion for a baby shower on Sunday 25 August 12 noon – 4pm and they would like to have a toddler bouncy castle outside the compound.

Councillors agreed that the hirer could have a toddler bouncy castle as long as it is from a proper company and that only those at the event be permitted to use it. A copy of the company's insurance would need to be obtained.

8. Village Picnic

Cllr Jackson said the Amenities Committee set a date for the Village Picnic. After the Annual Parish Meeting, the Committee discussed the cableway and suggested an opening event and it was agreed to hold a picnic.

The Clerk said that advice from Came & Co is that if the picnic is being publicised or promoted someone needs to take responsibility for it or it becomes the Parish Council's responsibility by default.

Councillors **AGREED** not to hold a Village Picnic.

9. Autumn Litter Pick

Date needs to be agreed.

10. Defibrillator

There were no problems with the defibrillators.

11. Allotments

Cllr Layer said there is no track access as the gate has been locked following the hole. There are some plot holders who need to use their cars.

12. Highways

Cllr Jackson said the Clerk will liaise with the Highways Steward for a Parish visit.

13. Lights

Cllr Layer reported a resident was concerned about a light at Edwin's Place, Iwade Road and had asked for a shade, and that he had mentioned this to the engineer who had said it was not necessary and that he would come back if it were an issue.

ACTION: Clerk to contact contractor to remedy the issue.

Cllr Coles said the lights on the telegraph poles were being upgraded.

Cllr Jackson said the Parish Council has received thanks from a resident regarding the new lights in St Mary's View.

14. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Jackson said the Council has been informed of a Diversion Order for ZR61.

15. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said the school has achieved an Ofsted rate of Good and there will be an article in the Village Voice. Also to be included, the lighting upgrade; Church draw; advertisement for a new litter picker; Church Peace Day; Councillor vacancy and ASB issues.

16. Any Other Business

No other business was raised.

Date of Next Meeting: 23 July 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.07pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair

Date 25 June 2019