

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held remotely on
21 July 2020.

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Richard Geldard, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr James Morgan, Cllr Tony Mould and visiting Member Cllr Richard Palmer; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).
Also present was one member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ryan Condron (work); apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising

Cllr Jackson said the Community Warden has reported the car repair businesses in Bull Lane and Playstool Road to Swale Borough Council.

Cllr Palmer reported that he has been raising the issues with Swale Environment and also Swale Planning Enforcement, details of any business activities need to be sent to Planning Enforcement.

Cllr Harvey said the play area has been re-opened and notices have been put up reminding people that they must use sanitiser and follow current Government guidelines.

Cllr Mould said the advice could be put in the Village Voice.

ACTION: Cllr Harvey to send details to Cllr Mould.

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:

Van damaged High Street Newington 07/06/20

Hasted Road group of youths occasionally turning in vehicles and having parties in the fields behind Hasted Road. House to house was conducted and residents have all my contact details if they see anything happening.

Drug activity in Newington Church Lane, Station Car-park. Regular patrols in the area and CPT Team are aware and have been patrolling and all intel has been submitted.

Suspect male who lives in Church Lane is believed to have been dealing drugs was threaten my unknown males and another male assaulted in Playstool Close believed to also been involved with drugs.

No reports of any ASB.

Any issues in the area residents can call 101 or call PCSO Cork on 07772226217.

Cllr Jackson said the report highlights drug activity in Church Lane.

Cllr Palmer said that the developments are ongoing and intelligence is being passed on and raised with the local Chief Inspector. Intelligence is being gathered regarding higher up the chain but this does not help local people.

ii. Community Warden report

- 1) *Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents who are self-isolating.*
- 2) *Arranged and delivered repeat prescriptions for residents self-isolating.*
- 3) *Recommended the weekly rural walk for residents. Group of six, keeping a social distance.*
- 4) *Reported suspected scrap car business to Swale Borough Council Planning.*
- 5) *Freezer fly tipped in Bull Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 6) *Large open back truck full of garden waste parked completely on pavement causing obstruction to pedestrians- Found owner who moved it onto their drive.*
- 7) *Issues regarding a resident leaving their bins on highway again – Swale Borough Council aware.*
- 8) *Two separate loads of fly tipping in Mill Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 9) *Dogs running out from private residence onto public footpath worrying walkers and dog walkers – Reported to Swale Borough Council dog warden.*
- 10) *Obstruction to right of way on pathway at rear of gardens – Reported to Optivo.*
- 11) *Two youths on bikes, stopped and attempted to let residents tyre down whilst car parked on drive. Neighbour saw them and called out, they then quickly cycled away.*
- 12) *Resident in car being very inconsiderate to other resident whilst riding her horse in Iwade Road. Drove too fast and too close to horse and failed to give way.*

Suggesting we could perhaps put a small article in The Village Voice about road safety concerning walkers, cyclists and horses being ridden on the surrounding lanes/roads.

Cllr Mould said that he will include articles about road safety and fly-tipping in the Village Voice. Cllr Jackson said that she will raise the problems of fly-tipping with KCCllr Whiting at Full Council.

Cllr Harvey said it needs to be explained in the Village Voice how to report fly-tipping.

6. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson said that the play area is being used and that the bearings on the sputnik need to be replaced and also the chains on the swings.

The Clerk said the contractor was unable to replace the bearings because of lockdown but has been asked when the work will be done when restrictions were being eased. No decision has been made regarding the swing chains.

Cllr Layer said the decision was delayed due to the play area project.

Cllr Harvey said that there needs to be a recommendation from Full Council.

Cllr Layer reported that the trees and hedges at the allotment track needs to be cut back urgently as cars cannot use the track.

The Clerk said that she has reported it twice to the agents.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up.

Cllr Harvey reported that he and Cllr Layer have met potential bidders for the play area tender, the deadline for submissions is 31 July. A meeting of the panel will need to be arranged and how the panel meets will need to be reviewed.

Cllr Layer said that a meeting via Zoom is not appropriate as there will be papers to look at.

Cllr Jackson said there will be an extraordinary meeting of the Council to ratify the decision.

ii. s106 Money

Cllr Jackson said Swale has received £54,05.22 (85% of total due) of the s106 money to date. The outstanding 15% of the contribution will be payable after the occupation of the 107th dwelling unit. The final 15% payment is due being £9,427.25 (plus relevant indexation).

Cllr Harvey said that the Committee needs to look at ways of using the money which must be spent on the Recreation Ground. Parking blocks at the Orchard Drive gate will enable parking to be away from the play area. Southern Gas networks spoilt the dropped kerb access. When

the play ground work is completed it will be difficult to have vehicular access through the track gate. The Council does not like parking near the play area. The Committee should meet there in August to consider ideas. The quotations will have been accepted by the next Committee meeting and the expenditure from the s106 money is £50,000 and the friends of Newington recreation ground will make a grant of £60,000 towards the project. One of the potential bidders raised an issue with the vehicular access from the track as vehicles will damage the new path to the play area. The gate might need to be reconfigured and a site meeting in needed to look at this.

Cllr Jackson said that it could be difficult to assimilate what is needed and the Council needs to be certain before embarking on another project. There could be issues with cash flow as the Council has to pay the VAT and then reclaim it.

Cllr Layer said the track gate needs replacing at some point as it is broken.

It was **AGREED** for the Amenities Committee to meet at the Pavilion in August.

Cllr Mould said the Newington History Group have asked about the planting of the commemoration tree, the best time to plant the tree is November.

Item for September agenda

7. Pavilion

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson reported that the contractor has repaired the veranda ceiling. The hand sanitiser station has been ordered and the Pavilion Caretaker has offered to install it.

ii. To consider the re-opening of the Pavilion

Cllr Jackson said the Council has not been asked for a date to open the Pavilion.

Cllr Layer said the Swans Fitness Group want to start back at some point.

Cllr Jackson said the Youth Club have collected their First Aid kit. The Pavilion needs cleaning and the issue is how often it should be cleaned.

Cllr Geldard said there needs to be a COVID-19 Risk Assessment carried out on the Pavilion.

Cllr Harvey said the Community Gym should be safe as only one group uses it, the toilet would be different and would need a Risk Assessment.

Cllr Jackson asked if the Football Club has given a date for when they will play again at the Recreation Ground.

The Clerk said that she had not heard from the Football Club. Action with Communities in Rural England has templates for Village Halls and it might be possible to adapt this.

Cllr Palmer said Government guidelines must be followed. Each hirer should be responsible for cleaning and for supplying sanitisers.

Cllr Mould said the toilet is used by all hirers and this would be a risk of cross contamination.

Cllr Jackson said the Council needs to understand what is to be required from each hirer.

Groups having their own Risk Assessment is a good idea, the Council needs to make sure there is sufficient hand sanitiser and soap.

Cllr Palmer said hand dryers are an issue and paper towels are ideal but could leave a mess.

Cllr Jackson said the hand dryer can be disabled. Consideration needs to be given to a cleaning regime.

Cllr Morgan said the toilet is not the only area of concern and cleaning will be a huge undertaking from the Caretaker. If the Pavilion is opened users need to be documented for test and trace. There could be damage to the Council's reputation if a second group uses the Pavilion and they are unaware of a previous group.

Cllr Palmer said that no one can guarantee things are safe and measures have to be implemented to reduce the risk. It is a small Pavilion with few regular users. A Risk Assessment template can be sent to the Swans Fitness Group.

Cllr Harvey said the Pavilion might be used for the Assessment Panel meeting. The Council has not heard from the football club and the Youth Club finishes this week until September,

so it will only be the Swans Fitness Group. It would be a good idea not to take any casual lettings.

Item for Full Council.

iii. Smart meter at the Pavilion

Cllr Jackson said that a smart meter is not compulsory and there may be a charge to keep a high power supply. There is an issue as the old meter is Bakelite.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to proceed if a smart meter can be fitted at no charge and not to proceed if there is a charge; **SECONDED** by Cllr Mould: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Morgan said that he was tasked with getting toilet signage and that this is being progressed.

8. Allotments

Cllr Layer said the issue is the hedge along the track which needs cutting back. The toilet at the allotments is being cleaned daily following advice from the National Allotment Society.

Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Layer for his report.

9. Highways

Cllr Jackson said that bollards on the island on A2/ Playstool Road junction have been replaced but the light has been tarmacked over. This is where a fatal accident happened and it is also a place where pedestrians cross.

Cllr Palmer said KCC Highways carried out a Risk Assessment and a light was needed.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KCCllr Whiting.

Cllr Harvey informed Members that he will represent the Parish Council at an Air Quality seminar in August.

Cllr Jackson said the drains have sunk in the new surface on the A2.

Cllr Palmer said the contractor has to wait at least six weeks before the ironwork can be raised.

10. Lights

Cllr Harvey asked for an update on the damaged light in Bull Lane.

The Clerk reported that she has been contacted by the haulier's insurance company which is looking into the matter.

11. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Palmer said the overgrown vegetation on the pavement between Hillside and Rook Lane has been reported.

Cllr Mould said the path has been cleared.

12. Village Voice and media

i. To receive an update

Cllr Mould said there will be a panning report, articles on fly-tipping and also road safety; the reopening of the play area; Councillor vacancy. There is an article on Dickens from the Newington History Group.

Cllr Jackson said there had been details of the hedgerow campaign from Swale Borough Council.

ii. To consider request from Sittingbourne Community First Responders for publicity of activities and to request donations in the Village Voice and on the Website and Social Media

Cllr Jackson said the Sittingbourne First Responders wanting to publicise their organisation and also want to raise funds.

Cllr Harvey said there should not be an article in the Village Voice as when the Newsletter reverts to paper there would be limited space for such articles. It could be publicised on the website as a local group.

It was **AGREED** not to have an article in the Village Voice but to allow an article on the Parish Council website.

ACTION: Clerk to publish on website.

13. Any Other Business

No other business was raised.

Date of Next Meeting: 18 August 2020

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair

Date: 28 July 2020