

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on
21 January 2020 in the Wickham Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Richard Geldard and Cllr Stephen Harvey; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present was PCSO John Cork and Mr Bob Jackson, the Pavilion Caretaker.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ryan Condron (work); Cllr James Morgan (work) and Cllr Tony Mould (unwell); apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jackson declared a pecuniary interest in item 8. iii. Review of Pavilion rent.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 19 November 2019

Cllr Harvey for an update on the ANPR camera (November Full Council).

ACTION: Clerk to investigate.

Cllr Jackson said the May meeting should start to consider the Christmas decorations.

The Clerk said Swale Borough Council has paid the Festive Grant, they might be will to allow the Parish Council to keep it for this year.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Swale Borough Council.

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO Cork reported that a steam cleaner had been stolen from Kent Car Centre and the matter is being investigated, the incident has been recorded on CCTV. Ball bearings have been fired at Acorn Car Wash on two occasions, no other car wash has been targeted. There has been damage to the front door of a house in Pear Tree Walk, this was not a burglary and the culprit is known. There has been an issue with a car parked on the pavement in Playstool Close and this has been resolved by a colleague. There has been drug dealing in Church Lane and details have been passed to the Community Policing Team. Police are looking into the accident involving a ten-year old girl, there were two older youths involved in the accident. There have been tools stolen from a works van on the Watling Place development. There have been problems with nuisance bikes in Monkey Island. Rogue workmen have been touting for roofing work and a colleague has visited the victim to give reassurance. On 13 January someone trying to open a car door was disturbed. S car mirror has been damaged in Church Lane and a garage has been broken into.

Cllr Harvey asked if SmartWater is offered to victims of burglary.

PCSO Cork said the kits are available from the Community Safety Unit and the Community Warden. Marking kits are also available in shops. If property is marked it can help the Police to link offences to a suspect.

Cllr Harvey asked if there is any pattern to the break-in at the Methodist Church.

PCSO Cork reported that there has been a spate of break-ins in churches, nothing was stolen and the culprit is after money. SmartWater kits have been given out. The problem is the amount of damage caused.

Cllr Jackson thanked PCSO Cork for attending and for his report.

Cllr Cork left the meeting.

ii. Community Warden report

Ms Springall, the Community Warden was not in attendance at the meeting but had sent the following report for December and January:

- 1) *Two suspicious older youths seen in recreation ground – Reported to Police who were looking for them*
- 2) *Resident complaining about excessive dog fouling on track to Monkey Island- Monitoring area.*
- 3) *Young 10 year old girl involved in car accident on High Street – Police and ambulance attended. Fortunately, she was not hurt just shocked and badly shaken.*
- 4) *Complaint from resident regarding large quantity of rubbish on site at the back of Rooks Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 5) *Excessive dog fouling on recreation ground – Requested large ‘dog fouling’ signs from Swale Borough Council.*
- 6) *Network rail vehicle and other vehicles parked in Church Lane vandalised overnight – Police aware.*
- 7) *Excessive dog fouling in St. Marys Close, suspect from one dog – monitoring area and delivered Swale Borough Council dog fouling letters to neighbouring houses.*
- 8) *Elderly resident accidentally buying products from Ebay without realising he was connected to ‘one click purchase’ – With Cllr Palmer’s help, we deleted his account.*
- 9) *Large empty cardboard boxes fly tipped at end of track in recreation ground – Reported to Swale Borough Council who would not remove it so referred to Dene.*
- 10) *Methodist church in Church Lane broken into but nothing stolen – Police aware.*
- 11) *Tree down causing obstruction on footpath at back of Moat Cottage – Reported to KCC Right of Ways.*
- 12) *Fridge fly tipped in Wardwell Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council*
- 13) *Complaints from residents regarding lamp post not working in Church Lane, outside Methodist Church – Contacted Clerk who advised not connected yet.*
- 14) *Rogue workmen attempting to get work from elderly resident (gutter cleaning). Fortunately, she told him to go away – I made reassurance visits and helped with safeguarding tactics.*
- 15) *Steam cleaner stolen from Kent Car Centre, (theft with suspect on their CCTV) – Police aware.*
- 16) *Ball bearings catapulted through Car wash reception window causing damage to glass and vehicle, day time (3rd Jan) – police aware.*
- 17) *Tools stolen from works van – Police aware.*
- 18) *More residents met up for Wednesday’s regular rural walk – Ten in total*
- 19) *Dog fouling around village areas has increased this month – Monitoring areas.*
- 20) *More rogue workmen touting for roofing work from elderly residents – Attempting to get more information, number plates on vans etc. to pass onto KCC Trading Standards.*
- 21) *Another ball bearing attack on car wash newly replaced front windows, damaging two this was done overnight 10/1st Jan – Police aware.*
- 22) *Tree damage on Boyces Hill, broken branches thrown into Ellens Field – Police aware.*
- 23) *Front door window smashed with a brick in Pear Tree Walk – Police aware.*
- 24) *Two youths riding quad bike on road (no number plates) then down foot path to Monkey Island and through woods. They told dog walkers present they had permission from landowner. Contacted the landowners who said no permission granted.*
- 25) *Tree down in footpath that leads from High Street through to side of new Persimmon estate – Reported to KCC Right of Ways.*

- 26) *Excess rubbish at side of house off Church Lane area, been there since last September – Reported to Optivo.*
- 27) *Dog walker reported to me that there was a sheep with its head stuck in stock fencing in a field at the side of footpath that leads to Wormdale Farm– I went and released it and checked it was ok. Made the owners aware.*
- 28) *Resident complaining about banks outside new estate opposite school eroding and soil going into School Lane – KCC Highways aware.*
- 29) *Resident in Wickham Close having trouble in finding out who new landlord is to enable him to purchase gate fob for gate that leads into Station Road – Cllr Palmer found out the relevant information.*

6. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer said the Play Area Inspector has raised concerns about the chains on the swings being worn and need to be replaced when 40% worn. The sputnik needs to be repaired as this is one piece of equipment as having identified to be kept. The safety surfacing will be addressed when the play area is revamped. The basket swing seat was put in the wrong way round and Councillors can address this. The seesaw will be replaced.

Cllr Harvey said proposed the sputnik be repaired

It was agreed that the new litter bin be installed in between the two seats by the chain link fence.

ii. Friends of Newington Recreation Ground

Cllr Harvey said the next meeting of the group is on Wednesday 22 January.

iii. Additional dog waste bin

Cllr Jackson said the new dog bin has been installed in Callaways Lane and the old one is ready to be collected.

Cllr Layer said that he will collect the bin.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain resident's phone number for Cllr Layer.

iv. To consider quotations for grass cutting

Cllr Jackson said three quotations have been received.

It was agreed to defer decision to Full Council pending further information from a contractor.

v. Review of Football Club rent

Cllr Jackson said there has been a bi-annual agreement with the Football Club and the rent has been £1450 for the past two years.

Cllr Harvey said the Club were pleased with the refurbishment of the pavilion and now it also has a defibrillator.

Cllr Layer said the grass cutting will cost more and the Club has asked for an extra cut.

Cllr Harvey said the Club's trials need to be advertised in Newington.

Cllr Jackson said the Club must inform the Clerk when there are friendly matches in the Summer.

Cllr Harvey reported that last year the Council had arranged interviews at the Pavilion and found the Football Club were playing a game.

The Clerk said that she has repeatedly asked for a fixture list but this has not been forthcoming.

Cllr Jackson **PORPOSED** the rent should be £1650pa fixed for two years; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

vi. To consider specification for play area

Item deferred to Full Council

8. Pavilion

i. To receive an update

Mr Jackson reported that since the extra CCTV camera has been installed there has been no issues.

ii. Graffiti on Pavilion

Cllr Jackson said there is graffiti on two sides of the Pavilion.

Cllr Geldard said different types of paint could be used or perhaps it could be pebble-dashed or a bobbly surface put on it to make it more difficult to graffiti.

Cllr Harvey said the problem with pebble-dash is that it can be sharp and there could be an issue if a child runs into it. Professional advice was to leave the garage.

Cllr Layer said the Council will be spending a lot of money on the play area, it would be good to remove the graffiti from the garage. The hole in the garage needs to be repaired.

ACTION; Clerk to get a quote to remove the graffiti from the garage.

Cllr Geldard said a jet washer might remove the graffiti.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Swale Borough Council for advice and ask for a quotation.

Mr Jackson said that he would paint over the graffiti on the Pavilion.

Cllr Harvey said the same paint as the bus shelter could be used.

iii. Review of Pavilion rent

Cllr Jackson left the room and took no part in the discussion.

Cllr Layer said it would be right to increase the rent by a small amount.

Cllr Geldard said running costs increase.

Cllr Harvey said a 10% increase will make the rent £5.50 and £11. The Pavilion is a village amenity.

Item deferred to Full Council

Cllr Jackson returned to the room.

9. Defibrillator

Mr Jackson reported the defibrillator at the Pavilion is in order.

Cllr Harvey informed members that Cllr Palmer has another defibrillator for the Village Hall.

Cllr Geldard said there could be another training session.

10. Allotments

Cllr Layer said there was nothing to report.

11. Highways

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson said there have been no updates on the gas works on the A2.

Cllr Jackson said the house opposite the entrance to Playstool Road has had to repair his fence five times because lorries keep hitting it. The Golf Course and Wormdale Farm have the same issue. There needs to be a sign on the A2 to stop lorries turning into Playstool Road, the sign is actually in Playstool Road and by the time lorries see the sign it is too late.

ACTION: Clerk to ask KCC Highways if a sign can be erected on the A2.

ii. Parish Highways Improvement Plan

Item deferred to Full Council

12. Environment

i. Bulb planting

Cllr Harvey said that he is going to contact the Forestry Commission to carry out an assessment of the Community Woodland. Half of the bulbs will be for the woodland and half will be elsewhere in the village.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain prices for bulbs.

ii. Newington Litter Pick

Cllr Harvey said the litter pick took place late March last year.

It was agreed that the litter pick will be on 4 April.

ACTION: Clerk to ask village groups if they could identify areas to be covered and ask if they would like to help.

13. Lights

Cllr Jackson said some columns were due to be replaced in Church Lane but this did not happen

ACTION 1: Clerk to chase the contractor regarding the maintenance contract.

ACTION 2: Clerk to chase contractors for quotes to repair the doors.

14. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Harvey said the Community Warden had reported that a tree had come down causing obstruction on the footpath at back of Moat Cottage. Notice of footpath closures has been received by the Council.

15. Village Voice and media

The Clerk said that Cllr Mould has requested a report from the Planning Committee meeting and also an article on the precept and a report of the Council's activities.

Cllr Harvey asked if a bike marking session could be arranged.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Community Warden.

16. Any Other Business

The Clerk reported that the Newington History Group wants to plant an oak tree at the Recreation Ground in Spring and have requested a meeting with Councillors.

Cllr Layer said careful consideration needs to be given to where it is planted and it needs to be put on hold until the footprint of the play area is agreed.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the History Group and arrange a meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: 18 February 2020

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

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Date: 28 January 2020