

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in Newington Pavilion on 18 May 2021

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr James Morgan and Cllr Tony Mould; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk). Also present was Mr Jackson the Pavilion Caretaker.

Cllr Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Richard Geldard; apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from minutes 20 April 2021

Cllr Jackson said the Newington Spring Clean is scheduled for 5 June

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

Cllr Jackson offered the Council's condolences for the death of PCSO Julia James. The inspector was unable to attend the meeting but would like to know what issues the Council is concerned about. It was agreed to invite him to another meeting.

i. PCSO report

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

Crimes of note

Three vehicles damaged on a drive in Wickham Close suspect has been spoken to.

Rotavator in a box was taken from a property in Church Lane and later on a male rang the doorbell of the victim offering garden equipment for sale. CCTV footage taken and has been placed onto Police Caught on Camera.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

Obstruction outside Acorn Car Wash 05/05/21

RTC Boxted Lane; no problems vehicle was not stolen and recovered by owner 03/05/21

Drugs reported from a property in Watling Drive, Police are looking into the address.

Issues with Happy Pants Animal Sanctuary: Rural Team are looking into issues and Swale Borough Council into planning conditions

Parents had been letting their children play in the new play area. Reported by a Resident and Police attended and no one was in the park

ii. Community Warden report

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

- 1) Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents who are self-isolating.

- 2) Elderly couple making complaints regarding neighbour, with permission, cutting neglected boundary hedge on their side and not removing cuttings.
- 3) Owners of 'Happy Pants' animal rescue sanctuary, recently moved to Newington, upset regarding complaints that have resulted in Swale Borough Council threatening to issue antisocial behaviour order/ possible large fine.
- 4) Neighbour dispute regarding bonfires – Swale Borough Council aware.
- 5) Parents opening up fencing surrounding new play area works in the recreation ground and permitting their children to play in this restricted area – Police aware.
- 6) Reported fence down to rear of BT depot, High Street. Susceptible for youths to enter their premises from new walk way/footpath that leads to Church Lane.
- 7) Store on allotments, Orchard Drive broken into and vandalised, nothing stolen – Police aware.
- 8) Three vehicles vandalised while parked on driveway in Wickham Close – Police aware.
- 9) Theft of new boxed rotavator and second-hand lawn mower from insecure outbuilding in Church Lane – Police aware.
- 10) Complaints from residents regarding the siting of litter/dog waste bin behind seat at bus stop in High Street. People have to tolerate the smell from the bin and concerns that later in the summer the bin could attract wasps.
- 11) Untaxed vehicle regularly being driven on the highway parked in estate area – Reported to DVLA.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the Community Warden that Happy Pants Sanctuary is not in Newington.

6. Recreation Ground

i. To consider quotation for garage mesh

Cllr Harvey said that he will meet with the contractor to discuss the feasibility of the mesh.

ii. To consider policy for memorial benches

It was agreed to recommend adopting the Memorial Bench Policy to Full Council.

7. Play Area

Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Harvey and Cllr Layer for their work on the play area.

Cllr Harvey said he had met a resident and has agreed the position of the memorial bench.

It was agreed to put one bench near the garage and one near the Pavilion compound.

Cllr Harvey said the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground will meet on 20 May and will draw up a list of people they need to invite to the opening of the play area on 3 July.

Cllr Harvey said that he and Cllr Layer will meet the lead surveyor to discuss the snagging list for the play area. The post installation inspection has been carried out on all the new equipment and surfacing, the inspector gave a verbal report on the original equipment and they are no issues.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the inspector to write an appendix to the main report.

8. Pavilion

i. To receive an update

Cllr Harvey said it was important to have the flooring laid when the Pavilion is not in use and also for the ball court timer to be fitted.

ACTION: Clerk to chase contractors.

Cllr Harvey said it is good the Pavilion is being used again. The Football Club has agreed to promote the Soccer School and football trials.

The Clerk reported that she was waiting for details from the club.

ii. To consider quotation for water heater

Quotation has not yet been received.

Cllr Layer said he has been asked if ice creams and drinks could be sold at the Pavilion.
Cllr Jackson said that someone would have to hire the Pavilion and the venture might not be viable.

9. Allotments

Cllr Layer reported that there had been two attempted break-ins at the allotments, nothing had been stolen. There are currently ten people on the waiting list.

10. Community Woodland

Cllr Harvey said the Council will need to apply for the Forestry Commission grant and also for a licence to fell the trees.

Cllr Jackson asked whether a Jubilee tree could be planted in the woodland or on the green.
Cllr Harvey said it would be difficult to plant a tree in the woodland as there would not be enough light, a tree on the green would need permission from KCC.

11. Highways

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson said there had been several road closures for highways work.

Cllr Harvey said he had been involved with the flooding issue in Boxted Lane, Alistair Coleman (KCC Highways) reported that his contractors were unable to install grips to alleviate the flooding and it is on the list to install proper drainage but there are other more urgent priorities. If the road floods it must be reported to KCC Highways and a tanker will be sent out. There have been a number of complaints from residents and KCCllr Whiting, SBCllr Palmer and SBCllr Horton have been involved with the issue.

ii. Parish Highway Improvement Plan

Cllr Mould reported that there had been a meeting, Sarah-Jayne Ellcock (KCC Highways Schemes manager) has agreed to railings at Charlotte Court. The plan will be adopted at Full Council.

iii. Speed Watch- to consider setting up a Community Speed Watch Team

Councillors have been advised that this cannot be put in the areas of greatest need and it has been impossible to get volunteers.

12. Lights

Cllr Jackson said there are two lights out in Church Lane, the one under the bridge is not the Council's responsibility.

Cllr Harvey said he has also reported a light burning during the day.

ACTION 1: Clerk to report to contractor.

ACTION 2: Clerk to circulate list of lights to Councillors

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

There was nothing to report.

14. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said the next Village Voice will be delivered; it will be in colour with a mono village directory insert.

ACTION 1: Clerk to obtain quotation for printing

ACTION 2: Clerk to ascertain deadline for delivery

15. Clerk's mobile phone

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to purchase a Samsung Galaxy A20E for £134.99 and a Virgin sim for £6 per month.

16. Environment

Cllr Jackson said the village litter pick will be on 5 June, SBCllr Palmer will obtain the equipment from Swale Borough Council. Someone will need to pick up the bags for collection.
ACTION: Clerk to inform the litter picking contractors of the litter pick.

17. Cemetery and Churchyard

i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer reported the grass has not been cut and there has been a complaint. The nettles also need to be strimmed in the Cemetery and church yard. There has also been a complaint about rabbit holes but they are shallow scrapings. A visitor has said that it is a countryside Cemetery and she likes to see the rabbits.

Councillors confirmed that there should be no cull of the rabbits in the Cemetery.

ACTION: Clerk to inform complainant.

ii. To consider memorial trees at the Cemetery

Councillors considered the request to replace the two diseased memorial trees. Councillors sympathised with the recent issues regarding the trees and recognised that the Council had been unable to maintain updated contact details for those family members who wanted the trees. Due to the Council's Health and Safety responsibilities at the Cemetery, Councillors needed to ensure that the trees were safe.

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** that the trees are not replaced and no further memorial trees be permitted, the existing plaques can be placed on the graves: **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer:

4-FOR, 1 ABSTENTION: MOTION CARRIED.

iii. To consider quotation for churchyard wall repairs

Cllr Mould reported that details of the agreement regarding the closed churchyard have yet to be received from Swale Borough Council.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to recommend to Full Council, accepting the quotation of £385 from MP Hare Ltd to repair the boundary wall as a goodwill gesture: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

18. Any Other Business

Cllr Harvey said the opening ceremony of the new play area on 3 July will need to be publicised to welcome everyone to the event. It will need to be marshalled and ribbons put on the gates. Cllr Jackson said it will need to be a casual event due and people will be encouraged to bring a picnic.

Cllr Harvey said invitations will also need to be sent to donors and it needs to be clear that this is a low-key event.

Cllr Morgan said they would be invited to be part of the community they have given to.

The Clerk said a request has been made to hire the Pavilion for a Golden Wedding Anniversary celebration and they will have a marquee and use the pavilion's facilities.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that the Pavilion would not be suitable for such an event.

Date of Next Meeting: 22 June 2021

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair

Date: 25 May 2021