

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 29 April 2025
in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall

Present: Cllr Tony Mould (Chairman), Cllr Stephen Harvey (Vice Chairman), Cllr Michael Barlow, Cllr Ruth Brown, Cllr Elaine Jackson, Cllr Eric Layer, Cllr Richard Palmer, and Cllr Barbara Weight; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present was one member of the public.

Cllr Mould welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Cllr Mould reported that Mr Watson had withdrawn his application for co-option to the Council; there are currently two vacancies.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Members were present.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND LOBBYING

Cllr Brown declared a pecuniary interest in item 12, as her husband is employed by a lighting contractor.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25 MARCH 2025

i. To consider the minutes of the meetings and if in order sign as a true record

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes as a true record: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Mould duly signed the minutes.

ii. Matters arising from the minutes (except those issues appearing under specific headings)
PROW ZR61

Cllr Mould reported that the fallen tree issue has been resolved. The missing finger posts problem has been allocated to an officer and is awaiting inspection

New Notice Board

Cllr Mould reported that there has been no response regarding whether the new notice board by the bus stop requires planning permission.

Woodland Path

The Clerk reported that the contractor is liaising with local companies and regarding the project with local school children. He thinks he has secured free delivery of the chippings to the site, any surplus, the allotments will be allowed to have, and also thirty wheelbarrows for the children to use.

Civility and Respect Pledge

Cllr Mould reported that Newington Parish Council has been added to the NALC list of Councils which has signed up to the Civility and Respect Pledge.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

A resident raised concern about the confusion caused at the weekend by the road closure signs.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KCC Highways.

The meeting was reconvened.

6. VISITORS

SBCllr R Palmer said it had been a quiet month and issues regarding road works and signage have been raised. An issue with Southern Housing was also raised. Speed Watch data has been submitted.

SBCllr C Palmer reported that she has been asked about disabled parking bay provision in Church Lane, this has been rejected because the road is too narrow.

7. PLANNING

i. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2025 and if in order sign as a true record

Cllr Harvey thanked all who attended the Planning Committee meeting.

It was agreed unanimously to accept the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 16 April 2025 as a true record.

Cllr Harvey duly signed the minutes.

ii. To receive an update

Cllr Harvey gave an update on planning applications.

iii. Ref: 25/501080/FULL

Address: 35-37 High Street Newington Kent ME9 7JR

Proposal: Demolition of existing bake room and store, and erection of a single storey rear extension with flat roof

Councillors considered the application and had no comment to make save that there was an expectation that if planning permission is granted, the existing portacabin would be removed. The proposed extension be for NISA retail only and not for residential use.

iv. Ref: 25/501085/PNQCLA

Address: The Old Tractor Shed Bull Lane Newington Kent ME9 7SJ

Prior notification for the change of use of a building and any land within its curtilage from agricultural to 2no. dwellinghouses and associated operational development. For its prior approval to: - Transport and Highways impacts of the development. - Noise impacts of the development. - Contamination risks on the site. - Flooding risks on the site. - Whether the location or siting of the building makes it otherwise impractical or undesirable for the use of the building to change from agricultural use to C3 (dwellinghouses). - Design and external appearance impacts on the building. - Provision of adequate natural light in all habitable rooms of the dwellinghouses.

Not discussed.

v. Ref: 25/501032/FULL

Address: 39 High Street Newington Kent ME9 7JR

Proposal: Change of use of ground floor, from office use to Fish and chips hot food take away including demolition of existing garage, provision of 2no. parking spaces, commercial bin storage, installation of extraction duct and changes to fenestration.

Councillors considered the application and noted that there is existing planning permission for a fish and chip shop twenty-yards away west of this application site and requests that no

decision be made until the expiry date of that planning permission has passed. There is an expectation that the two existing parking spaces be for customers and not tenants. While Newington Parish Council has no comment to make, we request that neighbours' comments be taken into account.

vi. Ref: 25/501520/FULL

Address: Cranbrook Lodge Callaways Lane Newington Kent ME9 7LX

Proposal: Erection of a rear infill extension including 1no. roof light.

Councillors considered the application and had no comment to make, save that neighbours' comments be taken into account.

8. OPEN SPACES

i. Swale Borough Council Land - to receive an update

Cllr Mould reported that a different Solicitor is now dealing with this and has been chased on both areas.

ii. To consider options for sponsorship of planters

Deferred to Amenities Committee.

iii. To consider quotation to excavate area for village sign

The Clerk reported that, following documents from the original installation which had been sent to the contractor, more work than anticipated is required to install the sign as the remaining stump needs to be removed.

Cllr Mould **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £1040, minimum charge for up to 5 hours for works, from Maylow Construction: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotation to replace the chain posts.

9. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Mould said the next edition will be online and June will be a paper copy. Someone is needed to take over the Village Voice.

Cllr Brown said she would be willing to do this.

Cllr Harvey requested a Parish Council Facebook page be considered next month.

10. FINANCE

i. Cheque list: to consider invoices for payment

Payee	Reason	Amount
Traffic Watch (UK) Ltd <i>Paid out of meeting</i>	Traffic Survey	£1,578.00
ICCM	Subscription	£105.00
Mr A Smith Chq-300008	Refurbishment of the ashes area	£1,500.00
KALC	Subscription	£1,089.52
Mr A Mould	Printing expenses	£35.77
DCK Accounting	April payroll fees and year end	£107.40
Mr R Malone	Litter Picking Recreation Ground - April Litter Picking	£543.20
Mr MJ Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance - April	£625.00

Mr R Burrows	Track gate keeper- April	£125.00
Administration	Expenses	£44.70
Business Stream	Cemetery water	£22.61
Vibe	Youth Club provision- 1 st instalment	£2,785.20

Cllr Layer **PROPOSED** to make the payments: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ii. Finance report

No comments have been raised

iii. To consider request for grant from CAB Swale

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to make a grant of £100 to CAB Swale.

iv. Any other finance matter received by 29 April 2025

Cllr Mould informed Members that the Internal Audit will take place on 2 June.

Receipts

03.03.25	NISA- Making a Difference Locally	Grant	£500.00
07.03.25	Bournes Funeral Services	Cemetery fees	£2,015.19
14.03.25	DHA Planning	Parish Room Hire and deposit	£110.00
14.03.25	UKPN	Wayleave	£51.53
26.03.25	Swans Fitness Club	Community Sports Room hire	£20.00
28.03.25	Queenborough Fisheries Trust	Grant for youth provision	£2,000.00
31.03.25	St Mary the Virgin	Printing	£30.00

Payments

03.03.25	HugoFox	Website	£23.99
18.03.25	DRAX	Pavilion electricity	£20.09
28.02.25	NatWest	Credit card	£546.00

Bank Accounts:

NatWest:- 31.03.25 £48,350.09

Nationwide:- 31.03.25 £47,934.02

Unity Trust:- 30.03.25 £30,174.80

11. YOUTH CLUB

Cllr Mould reported that the Kent & Medway Small Grant received (£500) can be used towards summer holiday activities.

12. STREET LIGHTS

Cllr Mould informed members that the Station Road and Orchard Drive columns were replaced on 9 April.

Cllr Barlow asked for an update on the Bull Lane lights.

The Clerk reported that she was waiting to hear back from the contractor.

13. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Harvey reported that he has been elected as the KALC Swale Area Committee Police & Crime Commissioner representative. The meeting with the Commissioner has been postponed.

Cllr Harvey informed Members that he and the Chairman have been invited to a meeting regarding the Local Government re-organisation.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 25.03.25- SBC: JKC Policy Round-Up 21 March 2025
2. 27.03.25- KALC: Survey on healthcare services
3. 27.03.25- NALC: CEO bulletin
4. 02.04.25- KALC: Newsletter
5. 03.04.25- NALC CEO bulletin
6. 03.04.25- Kent County Council: adoption of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39
7. 07.04.25- SBC: JKC Policy Round-Up
8. 07.04.25- visitor request for toilets
9. 07.04.25- SBC: Litter picking Certificate
10. 09.04.25- KALC: The Good Councillors Guide on Finance and Transparency 2018, The Good Councillors Guide to Cybersecurity, LTN- Data protection - revised December 2018, LTN- Councils' Powers to discharge their Functions revised April 2018, LTN- Freedom-of-information
11. 10.04.25- NALC: CEO bulletin
12. 14.04.25- KCC Highways: Temporary Road Closure - Callaways Lane, Newington - 27th May 2025
13. 14.04.25- KALC bulletin
14. 15.04.25- SBC: JKC Policy Round-Up
15. 15.04.25- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Iwade Road, Newington - 15th April 2025
16. 15.04.25- KALC Annual Planning Conference date
17. 17.04.25- NALC: CEO bulletin
18. 22.04.25- KCC Highways: Temporary Road Closure - Bull Lane, Newington - 19th May 2025- WORKS CANCELLED
19. 24.04.25- NALC: CEO bulletin
20. 25.04.25- KALC training bulletin

Councillors discussed the correspondence (item 8) from a Sittingbourne resident who has asked why there are no public toilets in Newington. The toilets in the High Street were closed many years ago and the building demolished. This is a Swale Borough Council matter.

15. NEWINGTON SUMMER FETE

Another gazebo has been bought, cost £179.16 plus VAT. A coconut shy hoops and balls will be purchased.

Twenty stalls have booked, the WI will host the Tea Tent and there will be an ice cream van. Entertainment and activities booked to date:- Mrs Back to Front £350; Micky the Magician £195; Popup Play Village £100; Face Painting £165; and Company 3, a 1940's Singing group £300.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other matters were raised.

Date of next meeting: Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 27 May 2025 at 7pm
Followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 26 August 2025