

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held remotely on
23 March 2021

Present: Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr James Morgan and Cllr Tony Mould; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present was Community Warden Georgina Springall and Mr Jackson, Pavilion Caretaker.

Cllr Layer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Layer took the Chair.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Elaine Jackson (unwell); apologies accepted.

Cllr Layer informed Members that Cllr Geldard has stepped down from the Committee

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from minutes 16 February 2021

Cllr Layer reported that he has received a Tespar band which will need to be cut off if used, the current bands are better.

Cllr Layer **PROPOSED** not to pursue the banding; **SECONDED** by Cllr Harvey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

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 submitted the following report:

Crimes of note:

22/02/2021-23/02/2021-Allotment sheds broken into and nothing was taken.

25/02/2021- Catapult was fired at a property on the London Road causing damage to the front door.

04/03/2021- Public order incident outside Newington Surgery.

14/ 03/2021- Car parked in the village hall car park has had their rear lights stolen.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- Drugs in Watling Drive Newington, Male has been arrested and charged.
- Nuisance bike reported to have been riding around the Newington area. Any information call myself on 07772226217.
- Report from a resident they saw a male with a gun in The Orchards. Attended the area no male seen

Cllr Layer thanked PCSO Cork for his report.

ii. Community Warden report

- 1) Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents who are self-isolating.
- 2) Ongoing support to resident who has recently lost her husband.

- 3) Fly tipping in Mill Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 4) Large tree down obstructing rural footpath that runs alongside Moat Cottage, Iwade Road – Reported to KCC Right of ways.
- 5) Two youths riding off road motorcycle along public footpath that runs behind houses 79-95 Bull Lane – PCSO Cork aware.
- 6) Neighbour dispute regarding parking issues – Advised resident to discuss with PCSO Cork.
- 7) Two youths riding off road motorcycle around wild area in recreation ground and orchard area – I spoke to them and have passed on information to PCSO Cork.
- 8) Further fly tipping in Mill Lane (obstructing road) contains asbestos sheets – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 9) Bicycle stolen from a garden shed in Merton Drive – Police aware.
- 10) Sheds and store broken into over allotments but nothing appears to be stolen – Police aware.
- 11) Fire on High Street – KFRS and Police etc. attended.
- 12) Increase of dog fouling on pavements, verges and footpaths throughout the village.
- 13) Quarter front window of van smashed whilst parked in Callaways Lane overnight – Police aware.
- 14) Suspected drug dealing – Information passed on to PCSO Cork.
- 15) Complaint from resident that the white lines on the High Street next to the speed camera have not been reinstated.
- 16) Another pile of fly tipping with asbestos amongst it, this time partially obstructing Mill Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 17) Youngsters stole another youngster's phone and smashed it up and threw it in wild area behind recreation ground, phone recovered – Advised to report to police.
- 18) Support to elderly resident who has problems with his heating and shower not working – referral made.
- 19) Helping/advising elderly residents with their census forms.
- 20) Neighbour dispute regarding dustbins causing obstruction.
- 21) Neighbour dispute regarding their daughters – Optivo and PCSO Cork aware.
- 22) Dog fouling in small play area off Bull Lane/Playstool Road – Monitoring area.

Cllr Layer reported that the tree obstructing the public footpath has been removed.

Cllr Mould said the reinstatement of the white lines (15) need to be reported.

ACTION: Clerk to report to KCC Highways.

Ms Springall reported that she has sprayed the dog mess in the Bull Lane play area to highlight it (22). Residents have reported that two youngsters with puppies have been going into the area and this is being monitored. Some residents are not taking their children to play there because of the mess.

Cllr Harvey said Optivo could be asked if the Council could put a laminated sign on the gate reminding residents not to take dogs into the area.

ACTION: Ms Springall to ask Optivo if they will clean the area and if the Council can put a sign up.

Ms Springall reported that there had been a traffic jam on the High Street caused by lorries that day. PCSO Cork has informed her that Speed Watch cannot be sited in Church Lane and that he is happy to discuss setting up a Community Speed Watch with interested parties.

Cllr Layer thanked Ms Springall for attending the meeting and for her report.

6. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Harvey informed members that the work on the play area will begin in two weeks. Letters will be delivered to neighbouring properties informing residents of the work, Cllr Palmer has kindly printed the letters which will be delivered by Cllr Layer and Cllr Harvey. Signs have been sent to the school.

Cllr Harvey reported that one of the lights at the ball court is missing, another light is tilted and one of the cages is missing. A contractor has been asked to replace the bulb.

Cllr Harvey noted the email correspondence regarding the maintenance of the Recreation Ground, it had been thought that the extended play area would reduce the costs but it could be more expensive for the maintenance of the play area. The contractor has said he would prefer not to re-quote.

ii. To consider quotations for track height barrier

Councillors considered the quotations for the track height barrier and noted that 2.1m high could be sufficient.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain the height of barriers at the tip.

Cllr Layer said there would need to be a sign near the entrance of the track warning drivers of the height restriction and speed bumps.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** it be recommended that the quotation of £1049.40 from Street Furnishings for supply only be accepted; **SECONDED** by Cllr Mould: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotations for installation.

iii. Benches

Councillors considered the quotations for the installation of benches.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to recommend acceptance of the quotation for £1200 for three benches bases in concrete and £650 for a picnic bench base from Maylow Construction Ltd; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Harvey said he thought the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground were going to give a grant for two benches but now they only want one. A resident wants to purchase a memorial bench. The s106 money is for the Recreation Ground and it would also be legitimate to spend it on the woodland and pavilion.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to recommend purchasing three benches for £1368.85 and a picnic bench £592.22 from Glasdon UK Ltd; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

iv. Letter to Orchard Drive

Update already given

v. Track gate opening times

Cllr Harvey said the Council had agreed to change the winter opening times, at the gatekeeper's request, to 7.30am to 5pm and for it to be reviewed in March. To lock the car park at 5pm when people want to use the play area, Recreation Ground and woodland and also if the Football Club want to have an evening session it would be a problem.

Cllr Layer said that closing the gate at dusk in the summer could be an issue if the gate keeper has to ask young drivers to leave the car park.

Ms Springall said a later opening causes issues of antisocial behaviour which affects neighbours, a closure of 6.30pm would be better.

Cllr Mould said the Football Club could be given a key for the track gate to allow their supporters to park their and they would need to lock it when they leave.

Cllr Mould **PROPOSED** the gate be shut at 5pm in the winter and 7pm in the summer;

Ross Burrows agreed to open the gate at 7am and close it at 5pm, the Football Club be given a track key; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ACTION: Clerk to inform gate keeper of change of opening times.

vi. To consider signage- wording and quotations

Cllr Harvey said there needs to be a sign warning of the speed bumps and height restrictions. Cllr Layer said the cemetery sign needs to be 2' x 3' and on a green background to match the entrance sign.

Cllr Harvey said the company has suggested 2'6" x 1'9" and Cllr Mould will proportion the text.

Cllr Mould said the text for the play area needs to be agreed by Full Council.

Cllr Harvey said the wording could be agreed to be presented with a quote to Full Council.

Councillors considered the quotations for the signs.

Cllr Harvey said that he would request a quotation for four signs and to put this to Full Council next week.

Cllr Mould said that the play area sign reads:

Newington Parish Council thanks the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground for their hard work.

This project has been made possible with the support of:

An alternative suggestion is:

This project was made possible by the work of Newington Parish Council and the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground with the support of:

Or-

This project was made possible by the collaboration of Newington Parish Council and the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground with the support of:

Cllr Harvey said that he would prefer the original version, he would have difficulty in accepting the final one and the first one he could not accept.

Cllr Mould said it is a Parish Council site and half the money is s106 money via the Council, the Council has had more involvement in the project.

Cllr Layer said that two residents on the Friends Group helped raise £60,000.

Cllr Harvey said that the Friends had given Cllr Palmer half an A4 sheet to apply for the Swale Environmental Grant and that he and Cllr Palmer spent two days writing a sixteen-page application and obtained a grant.

Cllr Morgan said it was good to thank the friends for their work. Contact details need to be standardised as the Clerk's phone number is on another sign at the Recreation Ground.

The Clerk said that her suggested wording was to recognise the work that Councillors had put into the project and that Councillors and Friends had worked together.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** recommending the draft wording for the play area which had been agreed by the Friends group; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **3-FOR, 1-ABSTENTION- MOTION CARRIED.**

7. Play Area

Cllr Harvey said work will begin on 6 April on the extension, Cllr Layer will let the contractors in and give them access to the toilets at the allotments.

8. Pavilion

i. To receive an update

Cllr Harvey reported that following high electricity bills at the Pavilion, he had met with an electrician who checked the meters. There are three enormous water tanks in the loft, two have been disconnected and are empty. There are 5kw heaters in the roof space. The electrician recommends replacing the tank with a Fortic water heater which will go in the cupboard. The remaining water tank would be drained and disconnected. The Fortic water heater would cost approximately £800 to fit and this would be offset by the energy savings.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** that a quotation be obtained for the work: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Cllr Harvey reported that the contractor has been asked to replace the ball court light and to realign another light. The electrician has recommended having a photo cell timer which would adjust when the clocks change. This will cost approximately £300. The lights around the Pavilion could also be on the timer which would help when it is in use in the evening.

Councillors considered the quotation for the Pavilion roof. The amount of tiles needed is unknown and the tiles are not made anymore so second hand ones would have to be obtained.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain a figure for the tiles.

ii. To consider flooring quotations

Cllr Layer said the Clerk is still waiting for another quotation.

ACTION: Clerk to chase contractor.

9. Football Club Rent

Councillors considered the email from Bredhurst Football Club

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain how much rent has been paid and what for.

10. Allotments

Cllr Layer said that following the shed break in, the glass has been re-instated and a new padlock installed. Nothing has been stolen.

11. Community Woodland

Cllr Harvey said that there will be no work until the autumn. The Village Voice will have an advert, after the suggestion from the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground, that people are invited to put fairy doors in the woodland.

12. Highways

i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer said there has been a Parish Highway Improvement Plan meeting with Sarah-Jayne Ellcock, KCC Highways, and there has been a positive response.

13. Lights

Councillors considered the quotation for the light in Pear Tree Walk, of £41.25 for a call-out and fixed fees for components. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation.

14. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Layer reported the tree on the footpath to the railway has been cut down. The public rights of way are muddy.

15. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said there will be articles on the new play area; the Local Plan Consultation; an update on the Parish Highways Improvement Plan; the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting; the village meeting in July; and castles.

ii. To consider quotations to print and deliver Village Voice

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation for delivery from The Net of £35 per 1000 copies.

Cllr Mould **PROPOSED** accepting the quotation from Swale Borough Council to print 1500 colour, double sided, A4 folded to A5 on 120gsm paper for £117.50: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

16. Clerk's mobile phone

Cllr Mould said that this suggestion has come up to allow the Council to set up a Facebook page.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to obtain further quotations for sim only.

ITEM FOR FULL COUNCIL

17. Environment

There was nothing to report.

18. Any Other Business

Cllr Layer asked about the contact details for village groups.

Cllr Mould said that group name, contact name and phone number is required for a village directory which will be added as an insert in the Village Voice.

Date of Next Meeting: 20 April 2021

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman
Date 30 March 2021