

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall on 23 November 2021

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Stephen Harvey 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 James Morgan (work); apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from minutes 19 October 2021

Cllr Jackson said there was and still is an issue with the dog waste bin by allotments not being emptied, Biffa have been told to empty it on a regular basis.

ACTION: Clerk to report to Swale again.

Cllr Jackson reported that one of the benches is ready for delivery, the picnic bench has not been in stock and there is an estimated delivery date of week commencing 6 December for the rest of the benches.

It was agreed that all the benches be installed at the same time.

Cllr Jackson said it was decided to consult with the Forestry Commission recommendation regarding the free saplings.

ACTION: Clerk to order saplings.

4. Public Question Time

No members of the public were present.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

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

Crimes of note

Sittingbourne and Milton Regis Golf Club Sheds broken into tools taken. 29/10/21

Boxted Lane, Newington criminal damage to a vehicle driving along the lane driver had his window broken. 30/11/21

Assault in Orchard Drive. 31/10/21.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

I will be leaving the area on January 1st 2022 and joining the Town Centre Team in Sheerness and my replacement will be PCSO Lorraine Holmes who already has good knowledge of the area.

I have enjoyed working in the area and thank you for all your support.

Lorraine can be contacted on 07970458645 or by email lorraine.holmes@kent.police.uk

Councillors thanked PCSO for his work in the community.

ACTION: Clerk to write letter of thanks to PCSO Cork and give PCSO Lorraine Holmes dates of future meetings.

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.
- 2) Visit to vulnerable residents who were putting incorrect address on all their correspondence that was going to neighbour instead.
- 3) Advice given to resident regarding noisy dog keeping them up all night – Advised to report to Swale Borough Council.
- 4) Young hedgehog found at side of Church Lane. Resident close by cared for it whilst I contacted Kent Wildlife rescue who came and collected it and is caring for it over the winter.
- 5) Information regarding mobile hairdresser and mobile mechanic passed onto resident who is temporarily housebound.
- 6) Visible presence in Recreation Ground during half term week.
- 7) Joint visit with Optivo housing officer to vulnerable resident who had no heating/hot water which we rectified. Additional problems with the property were noted and the resident was told they would be attended to.
- 8) Partnership patrolling of villages during Halloween evening.
- 9) Fitted CCTV Trading Standards camera to elderly resident's property who in the past had attempted burglary during the night. Recently, she has had doorstep callers touting for work.
- 10) Resident assaulted due to escalating neighbour dispute – Optivo housing and Kent Police aware.
- 11) Burglary at Milton Regis Golf Club, Wormdale Hill – Police aware.
- 12) Arranged for reputable heating engineer to fix elderly residents heating boiler, he has been without proper central heating for years!
- 13) Arranged for Kent Fire & Rescue Service to make a home safety check to elderly resident's home and replace smoke alarms.
- 14) Attended Remembrance Day service in Recreation Ground with other village residents.
- 15) Several new trees planted along verge of London Road next to village sign.
- 16) Arranged for reputable TV repair company to fix elderly residents television (not been working for two years) – he now has over 140 channels available.
- 17) DVLA clamped untaxed vehicles throughout village.
- 18) Adult male offering cigarettes to twelve-year-old boy on his way home from school – Advised to report to police, which was done. I am patrolling area whenever possible.
- 19) Arranged for reputable tradesman to repair elderly resident's roof.

6. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson reported that the track gate has not been locked some nights and the track gate keeper has been contacted.

Cllr Jackson said he went to the allotments one morning at 9am and found the gate still locked. Cllr Harvey said the Newington History Group ceremony for the dedication of the WW1 Peace Tree went well.

Councillors raised concerns about the fence which has been erected around the tree and also the stakes which splay out, this is a safety issue. Also, there is no drainage. The Council is considering more trees at the Recreation Ground and would want all the tree guards to be uniform. An alternative is available from a local contractor and this could be installed quickly.
ACTION: Clerk to write to Newington History Group requesting the fence be replaced by the end of the year.

Cllr Jackson said a revised quote for the grass cutting in the play area has been received, the cost to collect is considerably more. Sixteen cuts may not be enough for the play areas, if it were cut more frequently there may not be a need to collect the grass.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to request twenty-four cuts of the play area.

Cllr Jackson said the playing field needs to be cut and this will be an extra cost.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange extra cut.

Cllr Mould left the meeting and did not take part in the following discussion

Cllr Jackson reported that Mrs Sandra Mould has painted the remaining sides of the garage. Councillors agreed to purchase £50 Marks and Spencers voucher as a thank you.

Cllr Mould returned to the meeting

Mr Jackson reported that there is a problem of dogs mess at the Recreation Ground.

ACTION: Clerk to ask the Community Warden for signage.

Cllr Harvey said an update is needed regarding the damage by a dog to the crusader swing.

ACTION; Clerk to contact Community Warden for update.

ii. Adult exercise equipment

Cllr Layer reported that he had met a contractor to discuss the project.

Cllr Jackson said the Clerk has applied for grants from the Swale Western Area Committee and the Queenborough Fishery Trust.

QUOTES FOR JANUARY AGENDA

7. Pavilion

Cllr Jackson informed Members that the electrician will be carrying out the work at the Pavilion on Thursday and Friday. Another electrician wants a site visit to give a quote to install the defibrillator.

Councillors agreed that the electricians will be asked for advice regarding the most suitable site for the defibrillator.

Cllr Harvey said it was agreed not to put a water heater in the Community Sports Room. The Council has grant funding for the refurbishment of the water heaters and the Parish Room water heater could be replaced.

ACTION: Clerk to clarify the work required with the electrician and request the Parish Room water heater be replaced.

Mr Jackson said the baby shower party at the Pavilion went well.

Cllr Jackson said bookings are coming in on the back of the Football Club being at the Recreation Ground.

8. Allotments

Cllr Layer reported the Allotment Association is aware of the Jubilee event and are keen to take part in it.

9. Community Woodland

The Clerk reported that she is waiting to hear back from the tree surgeon as to when he will carry out the work.

Cllr Harvey said the work must be done this season, the Forestry Commission will mark the trees when the date has been fixed for work.

ACTION: Clerk to chase.

10. Highways

Cllr Jackson said the missing drain covers in Dennis Willcocks Close is a concern, the covers have been replaced.

11. Lights

Cllr Jackson reported the alley light has been repaired and the car park light is scheduled for repair.

Cllr Layer reported the lights in the alley to the Persimmon development have been repaired.

Cllr Jackson informed Members that Optivo and KCC says the tree obscuring the Bull Lane light is not on their land. The Highways Steward says it is 1 Dennis Willcocks Close.

ACTION: Clerk to check with Optivo if the house is rented.

Cllr Jackson said Swale Borough Council is considering stopping the footway lighting grant to parishes, Newington receives £4370. Cllr Jeff Tutt, KALC Swale Area Committee Chairman, is urging Councils to write and express concern. This will go to Cabinet on 8 December.

12. Footpaths and Bridleways

There was nothing to report.

13. Cemetery and Churchyard

Cllr Layer said there needs to be an amount in the budget for the churchyard wall and this should be ring fenced if not used to ensure there is funding if needed. The Council has recently spent £385 on a minor repair.

Cllr Jackson said £500 could be put aside each year. The Council will agree its budget in December.

Cllr Mould said there need to be another cemetery Working Party in January.

ACTION: Cllr Layer to suggest dates.

Cllr Jackson said there has been a NALC briefing note PC7-21 regarding the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 concerning the effect on ground water.

Cllr Harvey said the natural burial site was deemed safe as it was not near a public water course.

14. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said the next edition will be a paper edition, the copy will need to go to the printers by 2 December. The Peace Tree ceremony article will be on the front page.

15. Jubilee Fete 4 June 2022

Cllr Jackson reported there had been a meeting on 16 November, notes have been circulated. Cllr Harvey said the theme will be 1952 and there will be double pricing to show £sd and decimal prices. Commemorative mugs for the school and preschool are being researched; bunting has been agreed and village organisations will be asked to help make this; quotations are being obtained for a sound system; toilets have been ordered to be put in the car park; there will be a raffle; a tea tent and no alcohol; an art competition; and stalls. The event will be a picnic and there will be a fete as well. The Clerk has sent "save the date" emails to organisations. The next meeting will be on 4 January 2022 at 7.30pm at the Pavilion.

Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Harvey for the update.

16. Any Other Business

Cllr Mould said the Village Hall AGM is on Monday 6th December.

Cllr Harvey said Cllr Palmer is the Council's representative and Mr Dean Coles is the nominated trustee.

Cllr Mould said a resident has raised concern that the wall to The Manor has been repaired with bricks and not stonework.

Cllr Harvey said the resident needs to contact the Swale Conservation Officer.

Date of Next Meeting: 18 January 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 30 November