

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 28 March 2023 in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall

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

Also present were County Councillor Mike Baldock, Ward Member Alan Horton, Mr Jackson, Pavilion Caretaker, and one member of the public.

Cllr Palmer welcomed everyone to the meeting

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ruth Brown (unwell); apologies accepted.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 28 FEBRUARY 2023

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record: **SECONDED** by Cllr Jackson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Palmer duly signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

### 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Palmer thanked Cllr Layer for putting the Cold Calling sign up. The Solar Farm cameras will be fixed. The utilities tables spread sheet has been circulated to Members.

### 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

This is a concessionary short session and will be limited to fifteen minutes. Three minutes per No matters were raised.

### 6. VISITORS

#### i. Borough Councillors

SBCllr Horton reported that he had given an undertaking to pick up the problems with the road with no name at the next Swale Western Area Committee, the road needs to be classified. The Planning Committee site visit to the land off School Lane, regarding the proposed application for twenty-five dwellings, was scheduled for 4 April but the developer asked that it not be in the school holidays. It will not be in June. The appeal for the earlier application has been lodged. There have been a number of complaints regarding Wardwell Lane, HGVs are unable to travel Raspberry Hill or Basser Hill resulting in acute problems.

Cllr Palmer thanked SBCllr Horton for attending and for his report.

SBCllr Palmer reported that he had reported flytipping in Bricklands. He has also dealt with neighbour disputes which are being dealt with by the Community Safety Unit. There have not been so many concerns raised about HGVs although there have been complaints about

damage to fences in Bull Lane. Residents in Wickham Close have raised concern that they have communal waste bins but no facilities for recycling; this has been taken to Swale and they will be putting recycling bins there.

## ii. County Councillor

KCCllr Baldock said that regarding the Wardwell Lane issue, Lower Halstow has road works and the increased use of Wardwell Lane is an issue for the village. There are utility works on Raspberry Hill and Ferry Road, KCC Highways has agreed that Wardwell Lane is not an appropriate diversion. The road is used by local people. There are two sections of road where the carriageway is higher than the field; by Upchurch Cricket Club and also in Breach Lane, unfortunately there is little KCC Highways can do about this. Concern has been raised by parents in Upchurch and Lower Halstow as their children are being sent to the Oasis Academy on the Ilse of Sheppey as Westlands fills up with pupils from Iwade. Cllr Palmer thanked KCCllr Baldock for attending and for his report.

## **7. PLANNING**

### i. To receive an update

Cllr Harvey informed Members that the state of a building in the High Street has been reported to Swale Enforcement. Fir Trees, 111 London Road is also being dealt with by Enforcement regarding the number of mobile homes permitted on the site.

Application: 22/501005/FULL 77 High Street, Newington ME9 7JJ

Proposal: Erection of 10 no. detached C3 dwellinghouses with repositioned vehicular access from public highway.

Cllr Harvey reported that a transport report and an air quality report have been lodged on the portal, the latter mentions 30mph limit in Newington and this is wrong. The University of Kent might have to be consulted again.

Application: 22/504579/FULL 47 Bull Lane, Newington ME9 7LT

Proposal: Creation of new driveway, insertion of crossed over and dropped Kerb.

Application validated: Wednesday 9 November 2022

Cllr Harvey informed Members that the application had been permitted.

### *Not in Newington*

Application: 22/503654/EIOUT Land To The West Of Bobbing, ME9 8QL

Proposal: Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for a mixed used development comprising up to 2,500 dwellings, a 4.99ha commercial employment zone including doctors surgery, a 4.2ha sports hub, primary school, community facilities, local retail provision, public open space, children's play areas and associated parking, servicing, utilities, footpath and cycle links, drainage, ground and other infrastructure.

Cllr Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

### *Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate*

Application: 19/502206 61 Playstool Road, Newington ME9 7NL

Proposal: Retrospective application for the erection of a first floor rear extension, loft extension and lean to roof at front and side of dwelling (resubmission of 18/502531/FULL).

PINS Reference: APP/V2255/C/21/3287191

Cllr Harvey said there was nothing to report.

ii. Ref: 23/501012/FULL

Address: 60 London Road Newington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7NR

Proposal: Erection of a first floor and a two storey front extension including changes to fenestration.

Councillors considered the application.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to respond that the Council had no objections and requests that comments from neighbours be taken into consideration; **SECONDED** by Cllr Jackson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

iii. Ref: 23/500760/FULL

Address: 2 Caroline Cottages Keycol Hill Bobbing Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7LG

Proposal: Insertion of a dropped the kerb.

Councillors considered the application.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to respond that the Council had no objection to the dropped kerb but expects that there is room for normal size vehicles to pull off the road perpendicular to the road: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Application: 22/505618/FULL Land At School Lane, Newington ME9 7JU

Proposal: Erection of 25no. residential dwellings with enhanced renewable energy features and the provision of a 20 space staff car park and 20 space pupil pick-up/drop-off area for Newington C of E Primary School, together with associated access, landscaping, drainage and infrastructure works (Resubmission of 21/504028/FULL)

Cllr Harvey reported that the application had gone to Swale Planning Committee on 9 March, the main reason for refusal of the previous application was the urbanisation of a rural lane. There will be a site visit on 13 June and the application will go back to committee on 22 June. There are forty-two staff on the payroll and twenty-one parking spaces; some staff are based at Lower Halstow, some are part-time. some car share, some walk and some travel by train. Cllr Harvey said that there is great concern that the officer's report is biased and this has been raised although not everyone had a response to their concerns. The officer was a contractor who resigned at the end of the committee meeting on 9 March. The previous application had been refused; we were told that this was a new application the officer said it was the same one. The officer did not cite the reason for refusal or the previous Planning Officer's comments or mention that the Planning Inspector had said this is a rural area. At the Committee meeting it was agreed to have a site visit, SBCllr Baldock proposed that there should be new reports but was told no. The earlier application is going to public enquiry on 27 June; the Swale Committee meeting to discuss the second application will be on 22 June, the applicant has said that if the application is approved, they will withdraw the appeal. The Clerk has made an Freedom of Information request regarding the second application. There is also a formal complaint lodged which has gone to stage 2 of Swale Borough Council's complaints procedure. Cllr Harvey said he has not received a response from Swale's Chief Executive. It has been difficult to talk to Planning Officers as this is now only permitted 9.3-am – 12.30pm on Wednesdays.

Cllr Palmer said another document has been lodged on the planning portal from KCC Biodiversity Officer asking if the previous comment was received and why the previous comments regarding this application do not appear to have been addressed.

Cllr Palmer thanked Cllr Harvey for his report.

Cllr Mould reported that he had attended a meeting at Bobbing.

KCCllr Baldock report that there has been meetings to draw up the preliminaries for the campaign. A number of people with expertise and campaigning experience have come forward. Fundraising is being looked at as there may be a need for legal representation.

## 8. AMENITIES

### i. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 21 March 2023 and consider the recommendations

Cllr Jackson informed Members that the Community Warden's report highlighted the case of a vulnerable resident being charged to remove bulky items, which were actually fly-tipped; she was then escorted to the post office to withdraw the money. Fortunately, lady at the post office suspected what his intentions were and refused to let resident withdraw money. The lady at the post office is to be commended. The Community Warden retires at the end of the month. Cllr Palmer, Cllr Harvey and Cllr Layer met with GRAHAM and a footpath to the Pavilion and disabled access has been requested. The Clerk has been successful in her application for £2,000 for the Coronation Fete.

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record: **SECONDED** by Cllr Harvey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Jackson duly signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Cllr Harvey reported that the Clerk had been dealing with Wicksteed regarding the installation of the adult exercise equipment. The Council had conditions which they agreed to. They want to use the toilets at the allotments. There is an issue regarding storage costs. Previous contractors have stored the equipment in their yard; the fencing contractor did not charge storage and Maylow Ltd did not charge storage. The Council needs clear evidence from Wicksteed regarding the charge. We have said it could be stored in the compound if their insurance covers it but it does not. If the installer needs to use a container this could be at the top gate.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that if Wicksteed insist on the charge, the Council will go to the other contractor.

### ii. To consider litter bin quotations

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to accept the recommendation from Amenities to accept the quote of £450 from Swale Borough Council for a litter bin including installation and VAT: **SECONDED** by Cllr Mould: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

### iii. To consider quotations to clean Pavilion roof

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to accept the recommendation from Amenities to accept the quote of £595 from JBCS to clean the Pavilion roof: **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

### iv. To consider quotation to repaint Pavilion

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to accept the recommendation from Amenities to accept the quote of £930 from R Moss Ltd to repaint the Parish Room, changing room and toilet: **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Harvey said it would be good to have this work completed before the fete.

Cllr Palmer thanked Cllr Jackson for her report.

## 9. SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL LAND

Cllr Palmer reported that maps have been sent to officer again and the Clerk is chasing Mike Brown for an update.

## 10. ALLOTMENTS

There was nothing to report.

## 11. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Mould said an article has been received from Swale Citizens Advice and will be included. There will also be an article explain what the Amenities Committee does and has done. The

Village Voice needs a list of what's on in the village and this will be a regular item. There will also be information about voter ID and a planning report.

Cllr Palmer thanked Cllr Mould for his sterling work.

## 12. FINANCE

### i. Cheque list: to consider invoices for payment

Payee	Reason	Amount
Maylow Construction	Installation of bench at Cemetery	£312.00
Maylow Construction	Play area repairs	£2,259.60
DCK Accounting	Payroll fees – March	£36.00
Mr R Jackson	Honorarium	£300.00
Staff	Salary	£766.90
HMRC	PAYE & NI	£115.33
Administration	Expenses	£34.10
Mr R Malone	Litter Picking Recreation Ground - March Litter Picking	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£527.00</b>
Mr MJ Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance - March	£625.00
Mr R Burrows	Track gate keeper- March	£100.00
Mr E Layer	Sign fixings	£10.15
Swale Borough Council	Grounds maintenance 2022-23	£3,970.10
Mr R Jackson	Pavilion expenses	£20.95

Cllr Godmon **PROPOSED** the payments be authorised; **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### ii. Finance report

No questions had been raised

### iii. Any other finance matter received by 28 March 2023

#### Bank Accounts

NatWest:- 03.03.23 £42,992.31

Nationwide:- 31.03.22 £45,774.68

Unity Trust:- 28.02.23 £50,294.21

#### **Payments**

01.02.23	Salix	Loan	£3,055.00
20.02.23	DRAX	Pav: 126.17 Lights: £25.33	£151.50

**Receipts**

07.02.23	Swans	Community Sports Room hire	£20.00
08.02.23	Mr R Jackson	Parish room hire	£ 10.00
13.02.23	Vibe	Parish room hire	£20.00
28.02.23	Swans	Community Sports Room hire	£20.00

**13. CHURCHYARD AND CEMETERY**

Cllr Layer reported the grass has been cut, the hedge is currently being cut back.

**14. HIGHWAYS**

Cllr Palmer said a meeting of the Highways Improvement Plan Group will be arranged.

**15. STREET LIGHTING**

Cllr Palmer informed Members that the light in hall car park is not working and this has been reported to Swale Borough Council. The light in the alleyway is waiting for UKPN to come out.

**16. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS**

Cllr Harvey reported that he and Cllr Palmer had attended the KALC Swale Area Committee meeting. Representatives from Kent Police, South East Coast Ambulance Service and the Community Speedwatch Manager were in attendance. Swale's Chief Executive was also in attendance but will not attend in the future.

KCCllr Baldock said the Local Council Liaison Forum has been set up, the next meeting is on 19 April.

Cllr Harvey said the Council still does not get enforcement lists.

KCCllr Baldock said the link was sent to Clerks in September and earlier this month. A comprehensive update on enforcement has been requested and the Chief Executive is being chased for this. There is an interim Head of Planning who seems to be unaware of previous arrangements and there will be a new board next month to draw up a list and to regularize every month.

*ACTION: Cllr Harvey to attend the Local Council Liaison Forum.*

**17. CORRESPONDENCE**

C1- 27.02.23: Kent Local Authority Chief Executives Policy Round -up

C2- 27.02.23: NALC Newsletter

C3- 28.02.23: SBC Consultation on Draft Pavement Licence Policy 2023 – 2026

C4- 28.02.23: SBC Consultation on amendments to Street Trading Policy 2021 – 2024

C5- 01.03.23: KALC Climate Change Conference

C6- Civility and Respect March Newsletter

C7- 03.03.23: NALC CEO bulletin

C8- 03.03.23: NALC Newsletter

C9- 03.03.23: National Highways works in Kent

C10- 06.03.23: KALC newsletter

C11- 10.03.23: Kent Police Rural Matters

C12- 10.03.23: Update - Temporary Road Closure – Various Roads, Maidstone & Swale – 21st January 2022 (Maidstone & Swale District)

C13- 13.03.23: NALC CEO bulletin

C14- 13.03.23: Kent Local Authority Chief Executive's Policy Round Up

C15- 15.03.23: KALC: Coronation Champions Awards

C16- 15.03.23: NALC Newsletter

C17- 17.03.23: resident suggestion letter of thanks to GS

C18- 17.03.23: National Highways- roadworks in Kent

C19- 20.03.23: Kent Local Authority Chief Executives Policy Round -up

C20- 21.03.23: Swale Borough Council: Newington Parish Footway Lighting Grant

C21- 22.03.23: NALC Newsletter

C22- 22.03.23: NALC CEO bulletin

C23- 24.03.23: National Highways- roadworks in Kent

Cllr Palmer said the footway lighting grant will be halved in 2023/24 and 2024/25 and will cease to be paid from 2025/26.

#### **18. DATE OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that the Annual Parish Council Meeting be held on 23 May and that the Amenities Committee will be on 30 May.

#### **19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Palmer reminded everyone that nomination forms for the forthcoming elections must be lodged by 4pm Tuesday 4 April.

Cllr Palmer said the Annual Parish Meeting is on Friday 31 March at 7pm.

*ACTION: Clerk to purchase food, budget £100.*

#### **Date of next meeting: Tuesday 25 April 2023**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 25 April 2023