

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held at Newington Pavilion on 19 October 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

All Members were present.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from minutes 21 September 2021

Cllr Jackson reported that the application to the Swale Welcome Back Fund for two benches and one picnic bench has been successful and orders have been placed. Cllr Jackson said that she and Cllr Harvey had looked for sites and agreed that one bench should be near the Pavilion; the picnic bench should be on the playing field near the zip wire and play area; and the second bench to be in the far side corner.

4. Public Question Time

Mr Jackson reported that the dog waste bin near the allotments had not been emptied.

ACTION: Clerk to report.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

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

Crimes of note

Theft from 2 Motor vehicles in Watling Drive and 1 vehicle in Merton Drive.

CCTV was collected and shows 2 males trying door handles. Various items were taken, and a cash card was used to withdraw cash from a ATM in Sittingbourne. CCTV has also been collect showing 2 males.

This happened between 17/10/21 -18/10/21.

Residents should be aware to check vehicles are locked before leaving them and not to leave anything in their vehicles.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

Nuisance youths at St Matthews Close 17/10/21.

ii. Community Warden report

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

- 1) Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents.
- 2) Additional residents joining in on the Wednesday, weekly rural walk.
- 3) Complaints from resident regarding how the track to 'monkey island' gets very overgrown causing obstruction to walkers – monitoring area and will report to KCC footpaths when necessary.
- 4) Fly tipping consisting of bags of old clothes thrown from Bull Lane into edge of orchard – Swale Borough Council aware.
- 5) Vehicle vandalised/tyres slashed in Playstool Road – Police aware.
- 6) Ring doorbell stolen from house in Playstool Road – Police aware.
- 7) Suspected drug dealing in Church Lane – Police aware.

- 8) Assisted elderly resident in finding a reputable plumber through 'Trading Standards Checked'.
- 9) Ongoing neighbour dispute due to resident obstructing neighbours driveway with dustbins each week.
- 10) Complaints from resident regarding unroadworthy vehicles, previously reported to Swale Borough Council, still not removed from village hall car park.
- 11) First meeting of St. Mary's art group since lockdown, eight members attended.
- 12) First meeting of Newington Bingo group since lockdown – sixteen members attended.
- 13) Assisted in booking online Covid booster appointment for resident.
- 14) Joint visit with social worker to newly moved in vulnerable residents.
- 15) Two black decorative balls broken off top of railings outside Indian take away in High Street. Appear to have been knocked off by vehicle. Clerk aware.
- 16) Concerns regarding lack of litter/dog bins on new estate (Merton Drive). Will discuss with the residents management company.
- 17) Nuisance motorcycles Orchard Drive/estate area – Police aware.
- 18) Personal items stolen from two vehicles whilst parked on new estate (Merton Drive) – Police aware.

ACTION: Clerk to send details of railings damage to Sarah-Jayne Ellcock, KCC Highways.

6. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson reported that details of a revised quote to include the cost of collecting grass in Play Area and also for the cost of extra cuts to field and play area has been requested.

ii. Newington History Group Oak Tree

Cllr Mould reported the tree will be planted at the agreed location and that there will be a dedication ceremony on 11 November.

Cllr Mould **PROPOSED** that the peace Tree be planted at the agreed location; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ACTION: Clerk to request there be no grass cutting on 11 November.

iii. Adult exercise equipment

Cllr Jackson reported that two quotations have been received and another contractor has requested a site visit.

Cllr Morgan and Cllr Layer to meet the contractor at 9am on Wednesday 17 November.

Cllr Mould said the Swans Fitness Group could apply for a grant for the project.

Cllr Layer said there needs to be static equipment and one piece needs to be removed.

Cllr Harvey suggested there be a quote to renovate the existing equipment and a quote for new equipment.

7.35pm Cllr Morgan left the meeting.

7. Pavilion

Cllr Jackson reported that the application to the KCC COVID-19 Grant Fund has been approved for water heaters/ new sink/ plumbing for the upgrade of hand washing facilities; soap dispensers and soap; and Community Sports Room flooring.

ACTION: Clerk to chase contractors for start of work dates.

Cllr Harvey said the timing for the sports room flooring needs to be specific and must not clash with other users.

8. Allotments

Cllr Layer reported the large trees have been cut back and the flail cutting has been completed.

9. Community Woodland

Cllr Harvey reported that the Felling Licence has been granted for the woodland. There has been no interest in the logs. The logs could be left to the left of the bollards to create a habitat.

The Forestry Commission officer might come back and mark the trees or there could be a preliminary meeting with the contractor. Free trees are not needed for the woodland.

Cllr Layer said the saplings could be planted by the path to the play area.

Cllr Mould said planting could also be along the fence to create a screen for the houses.

ACTION: Clerk to send Cllr Harvey details of trees.

Cllr Harvey said the Council may have to get a quote to plant the trees.

10. Highways

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson said the damage to the railings has already been covered.

ii. Parish Highway Improvement Plan – to receive an update

Cllr Harvey said that the yellow lines outside the school will be refreshed during half-term.

11. Lights

Cllr Layer said the light under the bridge has been repaired although it is now on all day.

Cllr Jackson reported that a resident has requested there be two lights in Bull Lane in the Callaways Lane and Dennis Wilcox Close area.

Cllr Harvey said it might help if the trees are cut back.

ACTION: Cllr Layer to check if light obscured by trees.

Cllr Mould said a light at Keycol Hill is flickering.

ACTION: Clerk to report.

12. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Harvey said concern has been raised regarding the vegetation along Cranbrook Lane, this has just been cut back. The Community Warden has said she will monitor the situation.

13. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said the next edition of the Village Voice will be an online version.

14. Cemetery and Churchyard

Cllr Layer reported that there will be a Cemetery working party on Thursday 21 October.

15. Queen's Platinum Jubilee 22 June 2022

i. The Queen's Green Canopy

Cllr Jackson said the free trees will be ideal for this project.

ii. Village Fete

Cllr Jackson said there will be a meeting on Thursday 21 October at 7pm at the Pavilion, this has been advertised in the Village Voice.

16. Any Other Business

No other matters were raised.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 23 November 2021 in the Wickham Room, Newington Village Hall

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 26 October 2021

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