

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held remotely on 19 January 2021

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

Also present was one member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ryan Condron; apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared

3. Matters Arising from minutes 17 November 2020

LED lights for ball court

Cllr Jackson said the Clerk had emailed the contractor again on 19 November and there has been no response.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the contractor again

Pavilion roof

Cllr Jackson said the contractor called for access to the Pavilion but it was not a convenient time, nothing further has been heard. The Clerk has left a message another contractor's answer phone 18 December and had no response.

ACTION: Clerk to chase contractor

Tespar bands

Cllr Jackson said the Clerk had contacted the contractor again on 18 December for a photo of the bands but has had no response.

ACTION: Clerk to chase contractor

Anti-Graffiti mesh for garage

Cllr Mould said that he had not heard from the contractor.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to chase.

Christmas Trees

Cllr Mould said that he had received good feedback regarding the Christmas Trees in the village.

ACTION: Cllr Jackson to write an article for the Village Voice.

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

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

Crimes of Note

20/12/20 Theft of motor vehicle from high street. CCTV images of offenders collected and placed onto caught on camera .

9/01/21 Dog had jumped over the wall of a property in Dennis Wilcocks Close and had bitten a member of public. Crime report taken.

17/01/21 Dog out of control in the Recreation Ground in Orchard Drive. Dog had bitten another dog owner. Crime report taken

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

Report from a resident in Church Lane that electric scooters have been riding fast up and down Church Lane causing a nuisance

ii. Community Warden report

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

- 1) Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents who are self-isolating.
- 2) Attended weekly rural walks with residents.
- 3) Motorcycle stolen from High Street – Police aware.
- 4) Increase in dog fouling on pavements – Monitoring areas.
- 5) Youths riding off road motorcycles on footpaths/private land over monkey island area – PCSO John Cork and land owner aware.
- 6) Fly tipping, Bull lane – Removed by Swale Borough Council.
- 7) Boxted Lane flooded due to heavy rainfall.
- 8) Resident bitten by dog whilst out walking his small dog. Collie came out of back garden and bit him on the leg – I advised residents to report to Police and Swale Borough Council which they did as soon as possible. He also received hospital treatment for the wounds.
- 9) Suspected abandoned car – checked out with PCSO John Cork.
- 10) Information/photos sent to SBCllr Palmer regarding dog fouling sites in Newington.

Cllr Mould said that the Community Warden's weekly rural walks could be publicised in the Village Voice.

Cllr Jackson said the issue of dogs escaping from insecure gardens is a concern.

Cllr Morgan noted that the Community Warden had made PCSO aware of motor bikes riding on footpaths and private land but this is not mentioned in the PCSO's report.

6. Recreation Ground

Cllr Layer reported the vegetation along the track has been cut back with a flail.

The Clerk said the contractor has done this in preparation to commence works at the track and car park.

Cllr Harvey asked for an update on the footpath at the Recreation ground.

ACTION: Clerk to chase.

Cllr Harvey asked for an update on the track height barrier.

The Clerk said that she is waiting to receive the dimensions of the track.

ACTION: Cllr Layer to obtain measurements.

Cllr Harvey said that he had suggested some speed bumps or half logs for the track.

The Clerk said that she had spoken to the contractor who said it would be difficult to install speed bumps as the surface is compacted.

ACTION 1: Clerk to ask contractor for traffic calming suggestions.

ACTION 2: Clerk to inform the Allotments that the car park will be closed

ACTION 3: Clerk to make closure notice

7. Play Area

Cllr Harvey informed Members that he, Cllr Layer and Cllr Mould will meet the surveyor and installer next week. There have been some delays, the tender specification stated no work to be carried out in school holidays.

Cllr Mould said there had been a good School Governors' meeting and the Head teacher has agreed to put something up in school about the play area.

Cllr Jackson asked if there should be an official opening.

Cllr Harvey said that it should be a soft opening and consideration should be given to a board acknowledging where the money has come from. There could be a day when the board is unveiled.

Cllr Mould said there could be a children's painting competition with the winner unveiling the plaque.

Cllr Morgan said it might be premature to consider an event due to the current pandemic. The Council should be careful not to encourage people to gather at the moment.

Cllr Harvey said the winner and six socially distanced guests could be invited with the event filmed and put on YouTube.

8. Pavilion

Cllr Jackson said the Clerk will contact another contractor about the Pavilion roof.

Cllr Geldard said the current COVID-19 restrictions prevent non-essential work being carried out so the boiler has not been repaired.

9. Allotments

Cllr Layer said there was nothing to report.

10. Community Woodland

Cllr Harvey said Councillors were due to meet the Forestry Commission but this has been cancelled due to the pandemic. Simon Ginnaw, the Forestry Commission Woodland Officer, has been asked if he would mark suitable trees for felling and also for help with the grant application. The Woodland Officer has said that 30% of the trees need to be felled and 50% in some areas. The work needs to be carried out by 1 March and residents need to be informed in the Village Voice.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to contact the tree surgeon to ascertain if he is able to complete the work before 1 March.

11. Highways

Cllr Layer reported that Boxted Lane has flooded again.

Cllr Mould said the Parish Highways Improvement Plan Working Group needs to convene again in conjunction with the Air Quality Group.

Cllr Harvey said he had looked at the new monitoring station and there is no information on the cabinet. Medway Council do not feel that Eden Meadow would cause a problem and this is a concern.

Cllr Jackson said the drain by the bus stop has broken.

Cllr Jackson Harvey said the drain by the Co-op is loose again.

ACTION: Clerk to report.

12. Lights

There was nothing to report.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Layer said the footpaths were extremely muddy but passable.

14. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said the school wants to advertise for a new Caretaker in the Village Voice as they would like to appoint a local person. There will be articles about the woodland, the Community Warden walks, the play area, the Christmas trees and for residents to secure their garden to keep their dogs in following people being bitten by dogs.

Cllr Harvey said there will be a planning article.

Cllr Jackson said there could be a request for volunteers to help with projects in the village.

Cllr Layer asked if there was feedback on the Village Voice.

Cllr Mould said there has been positive feedback to the online version which is bigger and in colour and more interesting.

Cllr Harvey said it needs to be ascertained as to how many hits the website gets.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain.

Cllr Jackson asked for an update on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Geldard said it needs to be started again.

15. Environment

There was nothing to report.

16. Any Other Business

No other matters were raised.

Date of Next Meeting: 16 February 2021

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 26 January 2021