

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: 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 Community Warden Georgina Springall

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.

Councillors expressed their deep regret and hoped that Cllr Jackson would get well soon.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from minutes 19 January 2021

Ball court lights

Cllr Layer reported that the electrician has advised the lights are metal halide lights and should not use very much electricity.

ACTION 1: Cllr Harvey to meet contractor on site to review.

ACRTION 2: Clerk to inform Cllr Harvey of Pavilion electricity costs

Halide lights are not as powerful as halogen lights so are not tremendously bad. He is willing to meet Stephen there one evening when the lights are on to check if anything else is drawing the electricity.

Tespa band photo

Cllr Layer said there had been no response from the contractor and that he had looked at all the lights; all the doors were on and some had bands on. There was no danger. Only about six lights in The Willows and St Marys View have band on.

ACTION: Clerk to purchase a band.

Speed bumps for track

Cllr Layer said the contractor has £1.350 for three concrete bumps along the track.

Cllr Mould said that options were given and while this was the most expensive option it is the most effective one.

Cllr Layer **PROPOSED** to recommend acceptance of the quotation to Full Council; **SECONDED** by Cllr Harvey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Footpath repairs at track

The Clerk reported that this has been referred to Swale Borough Council Leisure Services.

Garage mesh

Cllr Mould said the contractor has recommended that batons be put behind the mesh as the gap will help prevent graffiti.

Cllr Harvey said only one side should be done and expressed concern that litter might be pushed behind the mesh.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to request quotation.

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 submitted the following report:

Crimes of note:

20/01/2021 -Dog bite Dennis Wilcocks Close Dog Warden involved and owner given a warning letter.

17/01/2021 -Dog Bite Rec in Orchard Drive Owner has been warned and given a warning letter.

30/01/2021- Attempted theft from motor vehicle in London Road.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- Nuisance trails bike riding around the Orchards and surrounding area. Rider has been spoken to and warned about his behaviour.
- Patrolling around the local Co-op to warn people about wearing mask in the store.
- Any residents that see any anti-social behaviour happening in the village are to report this to 101 or online and to give me a call 07772226217.
- Complaints about parking at the top of church lane on double yellow lines. This can be reported to Swale Borough Council as this is not a Police matter.

ii. Community Warden report

Community Warden Georgina Springall had submitted the following report:

- 1) Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents who are self-isolating.
- 2) Supporting resident who has recently lost her husband.
- 3) Removed blue nylon rope that had been tied to telegraph poles across Iwade Road at High Oak Hill area. (Rope was now lying on road surface).
- 4) Fly tipping in lay by top of Mill Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council (via Country eye app).
- 5) Family with young children riding mini motorcycles on area behind Recreation Ground – newly moved to area and were unaware it was private land.
- 6) Elderly residents feeling very positive and cheerful after having received their first COVID vaccines.
- 7) Neighbour dispute due to noise – PCSO John Cork aware and made visit.
- 8) Rear window smashed of vehicle parked on Keycol Hill, suspect drove away in white van – Police aware.
- 9) Two suspects attempted to break into truck in London Road, disturbed by household – Police aware.
- 10) Abandoned vehicle in Orchard Drive – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 11) Checked out reported dead dog off footpath, watercross farm area – Found dead fox, drowned in river.
- 12) Off-road motorcycle being ridden in orchard area – PCSO John Cork aware.
- 13) Dog fouling in footpath that leads from London Road to Wickham Close – Put up Swale Borough Council dog fouling penalty notices and posted Swale Borough Council advisory dog fouling letters through doors in the surrounding areas.
- 14) Resident complaining about neighbour's bins causing obstruction – checked out.
- 15) Suspicious puppy/ dog enquiries made to resident – Made visit and advised resident to report information to police which she did.

Ms Springall reported that the situation regarding non-compliance of regulations to wear masks in shops has improved and everyone in the Coop had masks on that day. When it snowed there was a massive increase in dog fouling. Following a complaint regarding the fouling in the footpath from Wickham Close, notices were put in houses.

Cllr Layer said there is also an issue with dog fouling on the track to the woods and also the track to Callaways Lane.

Ms Springall said the dog owners have been identified and the area is being monitored. There has been a 250% increase in dog theft due to the high prices of dogs. It has been a quiet month in Newington.

6. Recreation Ground

Cllr Layer reported that a new water meter reading has been given to Business Stream and a revised invoice has been received.

7. Play Area

Cllr Layer informed Members that work on the play area will start on 6 April.

Cllr Harvey said work will start after Easter Monday. The revised drawing has been requested to publicise on the website. There is a meeting of the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground on Friday. Suggestions for the notice board will be put to Full Council. The swing chain needs to be ordered from Wicksteed and this will attract a 30% discount.

ACTION: Clerk to order the chains.

8. Pavilion

Cllr Harvey reported that he and Cllr Layer had carried out the facilities management checks at the Pavilion and all was in order. There is still a leak through the veranda.

The Clerk reported that a contractor is available to look at the leak on Saturday at 9am.

ACTION 1: Cllr Morgan to meet contractor.

ACTION 2: Clerk to post keys to Cllr Morgan.

Cllr Harvey said he had asked for the quotations for the Pavilion flooring to be circulated, the quotes were for the remaining three areas. If the lobby, cloakroom and toilet had flooring it would make the Caretaker's job easier. The flooring needs to go up the wall by four inches and mock coving/ skirting.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** that if the quotations were received by the next Full Council meeting the project should go ahead; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

9. Allotments

Cllr Layer said there was nothing to report.

10. Community Woodland

Cllr Layer said that it was hoped the tree work would be started before the nesting season but now it is too late and the work has been deferred to the autumn.

Cllr Harvey said that he was very disappointed with the very slow response and lack of communication from the Forestry Commission.

Cllr Mould said the contractor will prioritise the work in the autumn.

11. Highways

i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer reported that the KCC portal says the work has been completed on the drain covers on London Road. The one further up is still broken.

ii. Parish Highways Improvement Plan

Cllr Harvey reported that Cllr Palmer has drafted the Parish Highways Improvement Plan and this will go to Full Council. The speed bumps in Playstool Road need refreshing.

ACTION; Clerk to report to KCC Highways.

iii. Speed Watch

Cllr Harvey said that if the Council wanted a 20mph zone in the village the Police will not monitor it and Speed Watch would monitor the area. If Speed Watch was near the school, parents might help out and this might be further extended to other areas. When previously considered, the Council could not get volunteers and the sites the Council wanted were

considered unsafe by the Police. Upchurch Parish Council has equipment and might be willing to lend it to the Council.

Cllr Mould said residents in Church Lane would be leafleted for volunteers. Nothing can happen until the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Cllr Harvey said Church Lane needs to be Risk Assessed to see if a suitable site can be found.

12. Lights

There was nothing to report.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Layer said footpaths are very muddy at the moment.

14. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said there will be articles about the new car park and COVID-19, also on the dog fouling issue and dog theft.

Cllr Harvey said the play area plan may be available. There could be a link to the Newington History Group website.

Cllr Mould said The Net charges £35 per 1000 leaflets and the leaflets have to be with them by 15th of the month. This could be published for April. Cllr Palmer has a quote from Swale Borough Council Print Room.

ITEM FOR FULL COUNCIL

Cllr Harvey said the printed edition should be informative rather than time sensitive. The Clerk could contact attendees of the Annual Parish Meeting in 2019 to check details and draw up a directory of groups within the village as a reference in the Village Voice. There should also be a report on what the Council has done over the last year. The online version will give more topical news.

ACTION: Clerk to contact groups in the village.

15. Environment

There was nothing to report.

16. To consider quotations for a notice board at the Cemetery

Councillors considered quotations for a notice board.

Cllr Layer said the Cemetery regulations should be condensed for the notice board.

Cllr Layer said there also needs to be a notice board at the car park.

Cllr Harvey said the car park sign needs to be printed on metal.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain where Swale Borough Council obtains its signs from.

17. Any Other Business

Cllr Mould reported that he had spoken to two residents about joining the Parish Council.

Cllr Harvey asked for an update on the sign to go with the beacon and also the commemorative oak tree.

ACTION: Cllr Mould.

Cllr Harvey said the wild flowers around the Pavilion will need to be planted soon.

ACTION: Clerk to inform Cllr Harvey of remainder of Environment Grant.

Cllr Harvey said he also knew of a potential Parish Councillor in the village.

Date of Next Meeting: 16 March 2021

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman
Date: 23 March 2021