

## NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Tuesday 20 March 2018 in the Wickham Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Sue Brewster, Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Ray Cuffley, Cllr Stephen Harvey 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 Eric Layer (holiday); apologies accepted

### 2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jackson declared a pecuniary interest in the Pavilion as her husband runs a business from it.

### 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 20 February 2018

- The locks have been replaced at the Pavilion although only six keys have been cut (ten were requested)
- The contractor has measured the Pavilion kitchen area
- BT have paid for the water pipe repair

Cllr Jackson said the Council should pursue a claim for water as well.

### 4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

### 5. Anti-Social Behaviour

#### i. PCSO report

PCSO John Cork had sent apologies for being unable to attend the meeting and sent a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

*There had been interference with a vehicle in Bull Lane .*

*Quads riding around the area during the snow. One youth has been warned*

*Damage to front window in the High Street, nothing seen or heard and currently no suspect.*

*General ASB during the snow with youths throwing snowballs.*

*I have no information on what happened with the accident in Church Lane.*

#### ii. Community Warden report

Community Warden Georgina Springall had sent apologies for being unable to attend the meeting and sent a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

*1) Clunking drain cover and hole in tarmac surrounding it in High Street - Reported to KCC Highways.*

*2) Fly tipping next to communal bins in Wickham Close – four tins of paint and a very large section of sponge.*

*3) Dog seen frequently roaming in High Street ripping open black rubbish sacks - finding out who owner is.*

*4) Suspect possible attempted burglary in Callaways Lane as CCTV cameras were turned away from property by someone late at night. Resident's dogs barked, then cameras were readjusted – Advised reporting incident to Kent Police.*

*5) Suspected bogus workman calling at elderly resident's bungalow, wanting excessive amount of money for cleaning front garden drive/path – Resident called police who attended and made reassurance visit after incidence. Fortunately, she did not part with any money.*

- 6) *More fly tipping in Wickham Close next to communal bins – Reported to Swale Borough Council (SBC).*
- 7) *Cold callers in The Tracies selling burglar alarms – Collected sales brochures to pass onto KCC Trading Standards.*
- 8) *Two rear wheels stolen from a vehicle in Wickham Close – Police aware.*
- 9) *Dog fouling on verges in Bull Lane.*
- 10) *Bingo club cancelled due to the snow.*
- 11) *Bogus workman attempting to get £2000.00 for repairing drains from elderly resident in Playstool Road. She contacted neighbour and Police were called, luckily she did not part with any money.*
- 12) *Public footpath in High Oak Hill partially blocked and now unable to access – Reported to KCC Public Right of Way officers.*
- 13) *Fly tipping in High Oak Hill – Reported to SBC.*
- 14) *Youths throwing snowball at shops in High Street – Police aware.*
- 15) *Youths riding quad bikes in snow – Police aware.*
- 16) *Concerns from residents regarding the recently sold triangle of land in Iwade Road/High Oak Hill. The new owners have completely cleared the site chopping down trees that were believed to be protected.*
- 17) *Dog fouling in small play area corner of Bull Lane/Dennis Wilcocks Close – monitoring area.*
- 18) *Complaints from resident concerning rubble on verge in Playstool Road – This has now been cleared away as building renovations completed.*

## 6. Recreation Ground

### i. Newington Community Sports Club

Cllr Palmer reported to Members that he, Cllr Haigh and Cllr Brewster had attended a meeting with the Sports Club representatives. The Sports Club said they would like more space and want to move their equipment back into the Parish Room.

Cllr Jackson said other groups are interested in hiring the Parish Room.

Cllr Palmer reported the Sports Club have lost some volunteers and they are not able to pay the rent for the gym and mooted the idea of having the gym rent free for a year. Numbers have declined due to the refurbishment of the Pavilion.

Cllr Jackson said members of the Swans Club pay to attend, the Sports Club has been let off paying rent in the past because they did things for the community but community events have not been happening. There have been representations by residents of unfair treatment and the privilege the Sports Club has received has been questioned.

Cllr Harvey said the difference in the amount of space between the room rooms is equivalent to two double beds. More equipment has been acquired but old equipment is not disposed of. The Club had free use of the Parish Room for a walking group but it did not continue.

Cllr Palmer reported the Sports Club has conveyed the Facilities Management documents are onerous but the Council must ensure Health & Safety obligations are met.

Cllr Mould said it has been reported that no youths attend the Sports Club and there are no volunteers.

Cllr Jackson said the Council has requested details of membership and income but this has not been forthcoming. The Council has no idea who it is supporting.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to recommend to Full Council that the Sports Club be permitted use of the Community Gym at a peppercorn rent of £1 per month for six months; the Parish Room will be available for new activities if given prior notification; a clear plan for the future within two months; a formal review in four months; monthly committee meetings to be convened, with a Parish Councillor in attendance, and minuted; **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer.

Cllr Coles **PROPOSED** an amendment to recommend to Full Council that the *Sports Club submit a business plan to be considered at the Amenities Committee meeting on 17 April. The Parish Council will then offer the Sports Club permitted use of the Community Gym at a peppercorn rent of £1 per month for six months; the Parish Room will be available for new activities if given prior notification; a clear plan for the future within two months; a formal review*

*in four months; monthly committee meetings to be convened, with a Parish Councillor in attendance, and minuted; **SECONDED** by Cllr Jackson: **FOR- 5, AGAINST 2 - MOTION CARRIED.***

Cllr Jackson said it is important to allow the Sports Club time to consider their plans.

#### ii. Funfair

Cllr Jackson reported that no insurance details have been received from the Fun Fair yet as the renewal is due prior to the date of the event.

#### iii. To receive any other update

Cllr Jackson said the risk reviews have revealed the light needs to be replaced in the Parish Room and the fire extinguisher in the Parish Room needs testing or replacing.

*ACTION: Cllr Haigh to consider the options for the fire extinguisher.*

Cllr Jackson reported the kitchen surfaces need to be kept clean; the gym floor needs cleaning; items on cupboards need to be removed and a kettle and urn need to be PAT tested.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact Sports Club.*

Cllr Jackson reported to Members that the Parish Room kitchen has been inspected by Swale Environmental Services and has been awarded five stars.

Cllr Harvey said the Council is looking to have an opening ceremony at the beginning of May and a quotation has been received for £2630 to replace some of the fencing and gate.

Cllr Palmer **PROPOSED** to recommend to Full Council to accept the quotation; **SECONDED** by Cllr Mould: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Cllr Jackson said quotes were being obtained for the Pavilion soffits and fascias.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact the contractors to submit the quotes.*

Cllr Coles said the Pavilion front door, window frame and shutter and post need to be painted.

*ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotations.*

### **7. Allotments**

There was no report.

### **8. Newington Festival 2018**

#### i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson reported to Councilors that security quotations are being obtained and will be considered at Full Council.

Cllr Jackson said that some quotations have been obtained from suppliers which have been used before. It is time consuming and arduous for volunteers to obtain three quotations.

Cllr Mould reported he has received three quotations for printing.

#### ii. To consider quotations for First Aid cover

The Clerk reported she has requested quotes for First Aid cover; St John's Ambulance are unable to help and she is waiting for a quotation from the Red Cross.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend acceptance of the quotation from Sittingbourne First Responders for £150, the team will also have a stall and do demonstrations on practical First Aid.

### **8. Lights**

Cllr Jackson reported to Members that there has been no response from PFL regarding the lighting issues and no copy contract has been received.

Cllr Coles said that PFL should be given fourteen days to respond and warned that failure to do so will result in the contract being formally cancelled.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact PFL.*

Cllr Jackson said the car park light is still not working.  
The Clerk informed Councillors she has reported the matter several times.

### **9. Footpaths and Bridleways**

Cllr Jackson said footpath issues are on the Community Warden's report.  
Cllr Harvey said the Council has been tolerant of the damage to the footpath at the former Working Men's Club and there is now the expectation of KCC that restitution is expected.

### **10. Village Voice**

Cllr Mould said he felt it was time to revamp the Village Voice and reinstate the Parish Council report, the Newsletter was originally started as a means of informing residents about what the Parish Council is doing. Some items can be compressed to accommodate this. Currently there is Planning; Singing with the 6's; the Fun Fair; consultation regarding crossing at Boyce's Hill; ASB, bogus workman; Festival; Newington Art Group and the Newington History Group.  
Cllr Harvey said it would be good to include pot hole reporting for as soon as one is reported KCC has to act.

Cllr Palmer asked if 105 can be included to ensure that residents know that vulnerable residents can register with UK Power Networks and receive help during a power cut.

### **11. Any Other Business**

Cllr Brewster asked for an update on obtaining Tree Preservation Orders.  
The Clerk said she has sent the details off to the Tree Officer.

Cllr Brewster said residents have contacted her because along the A2 through Newington there are islands or lights to help pedestrians cross the road but there is nothing at Boyce's Hill. Residents have asked if something can be put in place to help people cross the road to the Home.

Cllr Palmer said this is a KCC matter and their criteria is that it would only be considered if there have been a number of serious or fatal injuries.

*ACTION: Clerk to mention the matter to Cllr Whiting prior to the Full Council meeting.*

Cllr Mould reported the School is entering into an agreement with a neighbouring land owner for land adjacent to the school to be used as a drop off point.

Cllr Coles asked for details of when the work on the bus stop will commence.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact contractor.*

Cllr Cuffley asked when the railing would be installed.

Cllr Harvey said it would be done when the High Street is next closed.

Cllr Coles asked for an update on the toilets.

Cllr Harvey said Swale Borough Council needed to know whether the Parish Council is interested in the building but it was felt it was not appropriate. The Parish Council owns the bus shelter but it is not the Council's land. The land is owned by a mix of Swale Borough Council, KCC and Highways England.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm