



Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting of Newington Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Newington on Tuesday 21 July 2026 at 19:00

Present: Cllr E Jackson (Chair), Cllr T Bray, Cllr R Brown, Cllr S Harvey, Cllr E Layer, Cllr T Mould, Cllr B Weight, M Owen (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr M Barlow.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS OR LOBBYING

No matters were raised.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No matters were raised.

4. MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23 June 2026

- i. The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting, held on Tuesday 23 June 2026 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.
- ii. No matters were raised.

5. PAVILION

- i. The Committee noted that guttering repairs have been completed, and no issues have been noted.
- ii. The Caretaker has confirmed that emergency works were completed on the Pavilion alarm system due to repeated false alerts triggering the sensor. No issues have been noted since, but this will continue to be monitored. The engineer who completed the works raised the possibility that mice may be present in the ceiling of the Pavilion. Members noted that no signs of mice have been observed or reported by users of the Pavilion. This matter will continue to be monitored carefully.
- iii. The Committee were notified of one new letting request received during the past month. Notice has also been issued by the childminder, who had been using the Pavilion four days a week on a recurring basis. Feedback on the childminder's experience of using the Pavilion has been requested, but not yet received.

The Committee noted the need to provide clear and early notice of the change to hire fees for the Pavilion. An **ACTION** was agreed for the Clerk to create a one-pager outlining the new fees, and to email this to Cllr R Brown for inclusion in the Village Voice and Cllr T Bray to be laminated and posted around the village.

- iv. It was noted that there have been no new development relating to the Youth Group or the securing of additional funding. An email was received from one member of the public, expressing their regret that this has been cancelled due to lack of funding.
- v. The agreed action to develop a contract of services for the Caretaker is in progress.

6. VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

- i. Cllr S Harvey noted the decision taken by the full Parish Council at the meeting of Tuesday 30 June 2026, for the Parish Council to be removed as Trustees of Last Resort, but to retain

Signed by Chair.....

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two seats on the Village Hall Committee. This decision has been shared with Dave Fagg (Chair of the Village Hall Committee) and the Swale Borough Council Strategic Programmes and Asset Manager.

7. CEMETERY

- i. The Committee noted that the follow-up meeting with Whitmey Funerals was deferred from Tuesday 14 July 2026 to a later date due to scheduling issues. Works to progress the updating of the records is progressing, but with the current focus being on outstanding requests from members of the public.
- ii. Requests from the public are being worked through by the Clerk, but no items are ready yet for consideration by the Committee.

8. PLAY AREA

- i. An **ACTION** was agreed for the Clerk to ring Maylow Construction and request an update.
- ii. As agreed at the previous meeting, Cllr B Weight undertook an informal consultation with children from the local school, as to areas for future spend in the play area. She provided several pictures and ideas from the children for the Council to review and use to inform its decisions. These included items such as monkey-bars, or a pirate ship play area.

The Committee agreed that Cllr B Weight, Cllr E Jakson and Cllr T Bray should review the ideas presented by the children and make a recommendation, for quotes to then be sourced. It was noted that Fernham Homes gave a positive response to the idea of contributing to local community projects and it was agreed that the Clerk should reply to progress these discussions, with a particular focus on the proposed improvements to the play area.

9. RECREATION GROUND

- i. The Clerk informed the meeting that she has been in touch with the resident whose garden is partially overhung with the oak tree branches, and with the tree surgeon. The resident has replied asking for further clarification; no response has been received from the tree surgeon yet. It was noted that any work to cut back the oak tree overhanging the recreation ground would need to take place outside of bird-nesting season (nesting season falling inside of March - August).
- ii. An email has been received from Bredhurst Football Club, confirming that the garage has been cleared, as requested. It furthermore stated that Bredhurst FC may be open to renewing the contract for use of Newington Recreation Ground, but that work would be needed to improve the pitch, and this would likely require a longer-term lease. The Clerk replied requesting more information as to the work required and proposed terms.
- iii. The Committee agreed to use the same process as last year for the planting of bluebell bulbs in the woodland area off the Recreation Ground. Goldfinch will be approached for planting the bulbs and the price for residents to purchase bulbs will remain the same. It was agreed that the poster from last year should be repurposed and shared with Cllr T Bray to print and laminate, so it can be posted around the village.
- iv. Thanks were noted to those who assisted with Smiths Fun Fair and, in particular, to A Comer for attending the arrival and departure of the Fun Fair and assisting with things like leaflet distribution. An invoice has been issued for the hire fee of the Recreation Ground and payment is pending.

The Committee noted that regrets were expressed, by the Fun Fair and by residents (in person and on Facebook), that the village fete did not take place this year. This was due to capacity issues resulting from difficulty securing volunteers for the preparation, fete and clean up. The meeting **RESOLVED** that a meeting should be arranged on Tuesday 8 September 2026 at 19:00 to assess interest in, and the feasibility of, holding the village fete in 2027. This meeting should be open to members of the public who would like to volunteer for the fete and will be publicised in the Village Voice, on the website and on Facebook. **ACTIONS** were agreed for Cllr E Jackson to provide copy for the Village Voice; Cllr T Bray to print this as an A4 poster to post around the village; and the Clerk to share via Facebook.

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- v. The meeting noted that further action to limit access to the Recreation Ground, arising from anti-social behaviour, would likely cause difficulties for residents trying to use the facilities. The reported anti-social behaviour has been reported to the Newington beat officer and will continue to be monitored.

10. NEWINGTON STATION

- i. No new updates were noted.

11. NOTICEBOARD

- i. The Clerk informed the Committee that she has contacted Maylow to request a quote for works to take down the old and fit the new noticeboard. The full Parish Council agreed the noticeboard to be purchased at the meeting of Tuesday 30 June 2026 but determined not to place the order until the additional cost of fitting is confirmed.

12. FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

- i. No matters were raised.

13. NEWINGTON HIGH STREET RAILINGS

- i. The meeting considered the matter of damaged railings needing to be replaced in the High Street. It was agreed that the Clerk should follow up on the previous communications with KCC Highways to assess check whether replacements have been ordered.

14. STREETLIGHTS

- i. A streetlight on St Mary's View has been reported as being faulty and a quote has been requested for repair, to be considered by the full Parish Council at the meeting of Tuesday 28 July 2026.

Network Rail have replied to the request to have the light under the railway bridge repaired, stating that they do not manage the light in question. The meeting agreed that the Parish Council should be asked to consider whether the Parish should pay the cost of having the light inspected for a repair estimate.

- ii. A claim has been submitted for the damage done to the streetlight in March 2026 by Openreach. Confirmation has been received that the claim is being processed.
- iii. Cllr T Bray informed the meeting that he has identified a local firm that manages the maintenance of streetlights on an unadopted housing development in the area. It was agreed that the details should be shared with the Clerk, to seek a quote for the proposed maintenance contract.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr E Layer noted that planning permission may be sought for a new telegraph pole to be put in.

It was requested that Pavilion Electrical Works be included on the next Amenities Committee agenda.

CLOSE OF MEETING

20:30

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Full Parish Council: Tuesday 28 July 2026 at 19:00

Amenities Committee: Tuesday 18 August 2026 at 19:00

Signed by Chair.....

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