

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall on 22 November 2022

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Michael Barlow, Cllr Stephen Harvey and Cllr Tony Mould; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present was Mr Bob Jackson, Pavilion Caretaker

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ruth Brown (unwell); Cllr Eric Layer (holiday) and Cllr Claire Harvey (unwell); apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2022

All matters to be dealt with under agenda headings.

5. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

6. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO Kirsty Linge was unable to attend and had submitted the following report:

Crimes of note:

- 07/11/22 – London Road – Female was grabbed by an unknown male when walking from the train station. Crime report was created and has since been filed.
- 18/11/22 – Church Lane – Reports of Ball Bearings being fired at property causing damage. Crime report created which is currently under investigation.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- 30/10/22 – Iwade Road – reports of a male teen shooting squirrels with what was described as a small gun. Officers attended but were unable to locate the male.
- Various reports of bad driving outside Newington Primary School.

ACTION: Clerk to request further details of incidents.

ii. Community Warden report

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

- 1) Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents.
- 2) Complaints from residents regarding overgrown shrubs/weeds at side of pavement in Bull Lane.
- 3) Concerns from elderly resident regarding the lack of light at night time in Playstool Close.
- 4) Booked in online Covid booster for elderly resident.
- 5) Booked in flu jab with pharmacy for elderly resident.
- 6) Resident aware that youth had shot squirrel – Incident reported to police.
- 7) Water leak in private residents drive which is the responsibility of Optivo as associated with one of their properties – Reported to Optivo with the help of Cllr Palmer

- 8) Assisted with the booking of minor eye operation and booking of volunteer taxi service for elderly resident.
- 9) Attended Newington School Remembrance Service.
- 10) Large unused nitrous oxide canister found by resident – Collected and handed in to police.
- 11) Assisted elderly resident with renewing their prescription with their GP.
- 12) Advice given to resident regarding her concerns of speeding traffic in Callaways Lane.
- 13) Assisting elderly resident with the fitting of a front door chain.

Cllr Harvey asked if there had been a response to the request for someone to work with the Community Warden prior to her retirement.

ACTION 1: Clerk to chase

Action 2: Clerk to request details of concerns about the lack of street lights in Playstool Close

7.10pm- Cllr Barlow arrived at meeting

7. Recreation Ground and green spaces

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson informed Members that the litter picker has reported that the inside of the bin at the Recreation Ground is missing and he has put a plastic one in.

ACTION: Clerk to request exact location of bin and if a new liner is needed.

Cllr Jackson reported that the Football Club have asked for the grass to be cut and this has been done today.

Cllr Harvey reported that the access gate to the play area has been created, the Clerk will source a second padlock for this and a key will be given to the contractor and a key will be left at the pavilion.

ii. To consider safety inspection report

Councillors considered the inspection report which raised an issue with the sputnik and bushes on the swings.

iii. To consider quotations for repairs arising from report

The Clerk reported that two contractors have been approached for quotations

iv. Adult Exercise Equipment

Cllr Jackson said that now the inspection report has been received a meeting needs to be arranged to consider the quotations.

ITEM FOR FULL COUNCIL AGENDA

v. To consider quotations for dog waste bag station and litter bin

The Clerk reported that Swale Borough Council is reviewing its bins within the borough and will be removing dog bins as they are costly to empty. They cannot agree to a replacement until the area has been reviewed and the Contracts Monitoring Officer has been asked to make this a priority.

Cllr Jackson said there could still be dog waste bags available at the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Harvey said the litter in the woodland can be a problem.

8. Pavilion

i. To receive an update

Mr Jackson reported that there has been an issue with some hirers not cleaning the Parish Room after use.

ACTION 1: Cleaning products to be available for hirers to use.

ACTION 2: Clerk to contact users to remind them to clean after use.

ACTION 3: Cllr Mould to obtain signage

ii. To consider quotations for Pavilion roof repair

The Clerk reported that she is waiting to hear from another contractor.

ITEM FOIR FULL COUNCIL

Cllr Harvey said the area by the former soil stack in the chair store is leaking.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotation.

iii. To consider quotation for external socket

The Clerk reported that she is waiting to receive quotation

ITEM FOR FULL COUNCIL

9. Allotments

No issues had been reported.

10. Community Woodland

Cllr Jackson said the contractor was meant to have worked at the beginning of the month.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain if work has been completed and to request the logs are taken to the Scouts.

11. Highways

Cllr Jackson informed Councillors that the litter picker had reported the cooker dumped by the bus stop on the Co-op side of A2.

Cllr Harvey reported that he has samples of stickers and banners for the highways improvements and this will be discussed at Full Council. The officer wants an accurate picture as to where the traffic counter will be.

12. Lights

Cllr Harvey reported the light in the alleyway is not working.

ACTION: Clerk to report.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Harvey asked for an update on the footpath at Callaways Lane.

The Clerk reported that the work has been scheduled.

14. Village Voice and media

To receive an update

15. Cemetery and Churchyard

Cllr Jackson reported that the contractor had cleared the weeds from the gravel area prior to the ashes interment. Cllr Layer has suggested that there be a bench at the new ashes area. There are still issues with the invoices for the water supply and the matter has been escalated with Business Stream.

Cllr Mould said the Council should have a policy to offer plaques to be added to benches.

16. Events

i. Village Fete – 15 July 2023

Cllr Jackson said the Fun Fair has agreed to attend.

Cllr Mould said a date needs to be set for the first committee meeting.

ii. King's Coronation - 6 May 2023

Cllr Jackson said the lettering on the plaque at the bus stop could be renewed.

Cllr Harvey said commemorative items could be considered.

17. Any Other Business

Cllr Jackson reported that the Best Kept Garden trophy had been returned and this will be put with the other festival items in the garage.

Cllr Mould said the competition could be revived.

Cllr Jackson said Christmas lights could be put on the new trees near the village sign.

Date of Next Meeting: 24 January 2023

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 8.07pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 24 January 2023