

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 26 February 2019 in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Tony Mould, Cllr Dean Coles, Cllr Steve Godmon, Cllr Mel Harris, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Elaine Jackson, Cllr Eric Layer, Cllr Jeannie Milburn and Cllr Richard Palmer; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were KCCllr Mike Whiting, Ward Member Cllr John Wright and seven members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Mould took the Chair.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Debbie Haigh (holiday) and Cllr Graham Staff (at another meeting): apologies accepted.

Apologies had been received from SBCllr Gerry Lewin (at another meeting); apology noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

3. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2019

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2019 as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Mould duly signed the minutes as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Website- Cllr Mould informed Councillors the domain name has been registered and needs to be linked to the new website to progress

Dog bin in Callaways Lane- Cllr Mould said the dog bin has been emptied by Swale Borough Council.

Footpath behind Orchard Drive houses- Cllr Mould reported that Optivo have said not all the alleyways and paths are for public use, some are gated and for residents to use and maintain. Optivo will meet Councillors on-site if requested.

Cllr Jackson said a meeting with Optivo would be helpful.

Cllr Harvey said that his understanding is unless something is gated once a year it becomes a Public Right of Way. The paths and alleyways used to be gated and used solely by residents but there have not been gated for some time.

ACTION: Clerk to seek advice from KALC.

Youth Group in Newington- Cllr Mould said he will be attending the meeting on 27 February.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No Matters were raised.

6. VISITORS

i. Borough Councillors

SBCllr Wright reported that the Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership has decided there is insufficient evidence for another camera at the Playstool Road end of the village. Average speed cameras would not be viable due to the crossing in the High Street which would bring down the average speed of drivers to below 30mph.

KCCllr Whiting said there are not the statistics to warrant an extra camera as there has to be a cluster of incidents.

Cllr Jackson said that when there has been a fatality the perception is that there needs to be one.

KCCllr Whiting said that the Partnership will look at where they can afford to site a camera. KCCllr Whiting said he has ordered a review of KCC's 20mph policy which will be published in May 2019.

ii. County Councillor

KCCllr Whiting had sent a written report:

With regard the hacked bushes and shrubs on the village green. Highways have apologised. The contractors were tasked with putting it right, then made it worse on their second visit. This is to be rectified.

I have had limited response to my call for views on Bull Lane one-way system. Without a view either way from residents it will be difficult to justify proceeding the project, and incurring costs for doing so. I will continue to liaise with residents and welcome the views of the Parish Council.

The programme of pavement clearance continues apace, which is great. Please let me know if you have any that are overgrown or covered with mud.

Drainage has been replaced in the High Street/London Road and various pothole repairs and resurfacing taking place in the Parish. There was an issue with the works in the High Street last Monday which caused chaos through the rush hour. This was because the contractor used automated traffic lights when their permit required manual operation from 7am to 7pm. Highways inspectors visited the site regularly after that.

I have had a reply from Highways regarding the request from Cllr John Wright for a safety camera on the A2. A copy has been sent to your clerk. The issue, as always, is whether speed was said by the police to be a contributing factor in any cluster of crashes. The data suggests it has not been and, therefore, KCC will not ask the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership to spend money installing them.

Finally, I have responded to a request by your clerk and provided information about installing a speed pad in Church Lane, which I hope was helpful.

KCCllr Whiting said KCC have commenced a programme to repair the drains. Footpath repairs are also being made and the pothole blitz continues. There has been an issue with South East Water digging up roads during.

Cllr Jackson said the contractor is parking on the village green causing substantial damage to the grass and also parked a digger next to the memorial which is disrespectful.

KCCllr Whiting said he will follow up concerns and will also ensure the grounds maintenance contractor makes good the hedge.

Cllr Jackson said that during the road works drivers could not turn into Playstool Road as it was not kept clear, the contractor said they did not have the correct signage.

KCCllr Whiting said he will discuss the matter with the Highways Inspector tomorrow, the contractor has a licence for the work and must abide by the conditions. KCC is employing more inspectors to oversee works.

Cllr Harris said he has emailed KCCllr Whiting separately as UK Power Networks will be working in Callaways Lane and would like assurance that the road will be kept open.

KCCllr Whiting said he will discuss the matter with the officer.

Cllr Palmer said the report mentions the one-way system in Bull Lane and the views of the Parish Council and residents will be sought.

KCCllr Whiting said this had been raised in January's report with three options suggested by officers, it would be an expensive scheme to implement and there are some residents who feel strongly about the matter.

Cllr Harvey said that regarding Paradise Farm, comments on the planning application can be viewed on the MidKent Planning portal but they are not available on the KCC portal. Swale's Planning officer has given assurance that comments are passed on but there needs to be a

KCC policy for greater transparency. Can Newington, Hartlip and Bobbing Parish Councils have a copy of the officer's response?

KCCllr Whiting said the KCC Portal is not as good as the MidKent Portal and this has been raised with officers.

Cllr Harvey reported the initial notice went to Newington Shepway and was not sent to Bobbing. Officers queried why Newington Parish Council wanted details and we did not get hard copies.

KCCllr Whiting said officers are no unaware and to write specifically to him.

SBCllr Wright said he had raised the issue with Sharon Thompson, Head of Planning KCC.

Cllr Mould thanked KCCllr Whiting and SBCllr Wright for attending the meeting and for their reports.

7. PLANNING

i. To receive an update

Ref: 18/506279/FULL Orchard Cottage, Keycol Hill, Bobbing, ME9 8NE

Proposal: Conversion of existing garage to provide extra ancillary living space, with the relocation of workshop to combined study space. (Revision of 18/502040/FULL).

Cllr Harvey informed Members that a decision is yet to be made.

Ref:18/506309/FULL Land Adjacent to Cromas, Callaways Lane, Newington ME9 7LX

Proposal: Construction of a detached, single residential dwelling (resubmission of 17/503997/FULL).

Cllr Harvey reported a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 19/500177/FULL 15 School Lane, Newington ME9 7LB

Proposal: First floor rear extension and garage conversion to habitable space with linked side extension.

Cllr Harvey informed Members that a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 18/505119/FULL 148 High Street, Newington ME9.7JH

Proposal: Erection of granny annexe in rear garden.

Cllr Harvey informed Members that the application has been permitted.

Ref: 18/502531/FULL 61 Playstool Road, Newington ME9 7NL

Proposal: Erection of a first floor rear extension and loft extension with front dormer (Retrospective works to 16/503414/FULL).

Ref: 18/502775/FULL 61 Playstool Road, Newington ME9 7NL

Proposal: Erection of a large shed at the end of rear garden (Retrospective)

Cllr Harvey said the application to erect a large shed has been permitted but the extension was built larger than the plans so an retrospective application has been submitted and this has been refused.

Ref: 17/506569/FULL Breach Farm Paddocks, Land North-east Of Breach Farm Bungalow, Breach Lane, Upchurch ME9 7PE

Proposal: Change of use of land to single gypsy pitch and associated development (alternative to 15/502716)

Cllr Harvey informed Councillors that a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 17/504813/FULL Car Wash, 67 High Street, Newington ME9 7JJ

Proposal: Part change of use from car wash to residential for one studio

Ref 15/509335/FULL Proposal: Use of land for the storage of 2x touring caravans

Cllr Harvey informed Members that a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 18/505060/ADJ (Alternative ref: 18/504836/EIOUT) Binbury Park, Detling Hill, Detling, Proposal: Adjoining Authority Consultation from Maidstone Borough Council for Outline application (with all matters reserved apart from access) for the erection of up to 1,750 dwellings including affordable housing, 46,000 sq.m of commercial space, a hotel, a local centre, a new primary school, a park and ride facility, strategic highways improvements including new Kent Showground access/egress, accesses/roads including a new bridleway bridge, parking, associated open space, landscaping, services, and Sustainable Drainage Systems. In addition the proposals include a publicly-accessible country park including the Binbury Motte and Bailey Castle Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Cllr Harvey said a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 17/504342/FULL Newington Working Mens Club

Proposal: Variation of Condition 2 and removal of Condition 11 of application 17/504342/FULL (Retrospective demolition of former Working Mens Club and erection of 9no. dwellings and 1no. maisonette together with carports for garaging of cars (Revised scheme). (Vary Condition 2 to include reference to 'Titan-Sonair' ventilation system to bedrooms and dining room fronting the High Street.)

PINS reference: APP/V2255/W/18/3209727 Reason: The Council has refused permission for this application.

Cllr Harvey said permission had been obtained to send Prof Peckham's evidence submitted for Pond Farm regarding air quality.

In the Court of Appeal, Civil Division

Order made by the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Lindblom

'On consideration of the appellant's notice and accompanying documents, but without an oral hearing, in respect of an application for permission to appeal, against the refusal of the High Court to apply for a planning statutory review'

Reasons: 'The applicant's grounds are properly arguable and have a sufficient prospect of success to justify permission to appeal being granted'

Gladman Developments Limited – and – The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government – and – Swale Borough Council – and – CPRE Kent.

Order dated 5 October 2018 **Reference:** C1/2017/3476

Application 17/505711/HYBRID Land at Wises Lane, Borden ME10.1GD

Proposal: Hybrid planning application with outline planning permission (all matters reserved except for access) sought for up to 595 dwellings including affordable housing; a two-form entry primary school with associated outdoor space and vehicle parking; local facilities comprising a Class A1 retail store of up to 480 sq m GIA and Class D1 medical facility of up to 560 sq m GIA; a rugby clubhouse / community building of up to 375 sq m GIA, three standard RFU sports pitches and associated vehicle parking; a link road between Borden Lane and Chestnut Street / A249; allotments; and formal and informal open space incorporating SuDS, new planting / landscaping and ecological enhancement works. Full planning permission is sought for the erection of 80 dwellings including affordable housing, open space, associated access / roads, vehicle parking, associated services, infrastructure, landscaping and associated SuDS. For clarity - the total number of dwellings proposed across the site is up to 675

Cllr Harvey informed Members that the application was approved by Swale Borough Council Planning Committee on Wednesday 30 January 2019. Permission has also been given to another sixty houses in Borden as well.

ii. Ref: 19/500029/FULL

Address: Land Rear of 132 High Street Newington ME9 7JH

Proposal Erection of a 4 bedroom detached dwelling and associated carport/garage

Cllr Harvey reported there were comments in support of the application and also objecting to it on the MidKent Planning Portal, some comments are from people not abutting the site and

also some from people out of area. The site is outside the built-up area of the village and the proposal is infilling where the maximum effect will be on adjoining properties as the dwelling will not be behind 132 High Street. The proposal overlooks 134 and 136 and affects their visual amenity.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the proposal.

iii. Ref: MC/19/0188

Address: Orchard Kennels, Meresborough Road, Rainham

Proposal: Outline planning application with some matters reserved (access, appearance and scale) for the development of up to 130 residential dwellings with associated parking and open space

Cllr Harvey said the proposal is for 130 houses and while it is not in the parish it will impact on Newington as it will generate extra traffic through the village. There are concerns about air quality in Rainham.

Councillors agreed to object to the proposal.

iv. Swale Borough Council's proposal to charge for hard copy of plans

Cllr Mould said Swale Borough Council has given notice of its intention to charge Parish Councils for paper copies of plans from 18 April.

Cllr Harvey said he has spoken to officers who have informed him that this is being rolled out nationwide although it will not come into effect for another year and there will not be an option to pay an annual fee. This has been announced after Parish Councils have set their budgets. Copies are being printed off for office use and another set of plans would not cost much more to print. Cllr Palmer has offered to print the plans but this is not the solution. It would be difficult for Parish Councils to look at plans online and Councillors need to have hard copies in order to be able to consider applications properly.

SBCllr Wright said he has expressed the same concerns to the Cabinet Member, it also discriminates against people with no internet access. It is a Cabinet Member decision.

Cllr Harvey said the matter will be discussed by KALC Swale Area Committee.

Cllr Mould thanked Cllr Harvey for his excellent report.

8. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

i. To receive the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 19 February 2019 and consider the recommendations

Cllr Jackson said the PCSO did not attend the meeting and the Community Warden was present.

Cllr Coles said the latest Kent Rural Police Report includes localised reports which should go in the Village Voice

Cllr Jackson reported the defibrillator cabinet has been installed inside the Pavilion.

Cllr Palmer said the training is scheduled for 27 February in the Newington Room.

Cllr Jackson said the Committee discussed highways issues, the cost of a traffic survey is £300 for one week.

Cllr Harvey said Swale Borough Council has suggested the air quality is not as poor as originally thought as the percentage of HGVs is lower. There are two traffic surveys carried out by two different developers and the Parish Council has copies of the surveys.

ACTION 1: Cllr Harvey to contact Swale Borough Council to ascertain if they have a survey of traffic going through the village centre.

ACTION 2: Clerk to authorise traffic survey if necessary.

Cllr Coles said the Clerk has reported the damage to the finger sign on footpath ZR63 which was caused when the hedge was cut.

Cllr Jackson said there has been a good response to the invitations to groups to report back to the Annual Parish Meeting.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to allocate £75 towards the refreshments for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Cllr Jackson said Cllr Milburn will coordinate the hot drinks and the format for the evening will be finalised at the next Amenities Committee meeting.

Cllr Mould **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 19 February 2019 as a true record; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Jackson duly signed the minutes as a true record.

ii. To consider quotation for tree work at the Recreation Ground

Cllr Jackson said the Council has waited for over a year for the Swale Tree Officer to look at the tree. Quotations have been obtained to crown lift the oak tree and the resident has been requested to contribute towards the cost but has refused. There is concern that if the Council cuts back the tree there could be further requests to reduce the tree.

Cllr Harvey said RHS guidance states the neighbour can cut back overhanging branches.

ACTION: Clerk to send resident RHS guidance.

9. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Mould circulated the first draft of the Village Voice which will also include the flytipping article from the Kent Rural Police report, a report on the defibrillator training and details of the effects of nitrous oxide abuse.

10. FINANCE

Cheque list: to consider invoices for payment

Payee	Expenditure	Amount £	Cheque No.
Profile Business Supplies	Village Voice- February 2019	£60.00	2938
Mrs P Rowe	Litter Picking Recreation Ground and sight check equipment February 2019	£111.05	2939
Mr MJ Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance February 2019	£490.00	2940
HMRC	PAYE	£18.40	2941
Mrs W Licence	Salary, Expenses and Spray paint	£646.63	2942
Newington Village Hall	Hall hire	£99.55	2943
DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd	Payroll fees January & February	£60.00	2944
Ms L Wright <i>For A Heavey</i>	Litter picking February 2019	£280.50	2945
MediAid (UK) Ltd	Defibrillator cabinet and spare pads	£307.50	2946
Fasthosts Internet Ltd	.gov.uk registration	£130.80	2947
Mr R Jackson	Pavilion expenses	£31.50	2948

Cllr Harris **PROPOSED** the signing of the cheques; **SECONDED** by Cllr Godmon: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Payments

24.01.19 NEST- £180.27
04.02.19 Haven Power- £212.00

Receipts

£751.20	Swale Borough Council	Grant
£100.00	Mr R Jackson	Pavilion Hire
£25.00	Swans Fitness Group	Pavilion Hire

11. CHURCHYARD AND CEMETERY

i. To receive an update of the Churchyard and Cemetery

Cllr Harris said the query regarding a memorial has been raised and although the stone masons did not write to the Parish Council, they had made an accusation about the Cemetery so the Parish Council should respond to them as well.

Cllr Layer said the memorial had only moved 5%.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to send draft letter and to give the relative a copy of the letter sent to the stone masons.

Cllr Harris said a cemetery clean up session needs to be planned, there is rubbish by the shed and this needs to be removed. The lock on the shed needs to be removed.

Cllr Coles said he has an angle grinder which will remove the padlock.

ACTION: Cllr Coles to remove the padlock from the shed.

ii. Revision of Cemetery Fees

Cllr Harris said the Cemetery Working Group have reviewed the fees. In March 2018, Teresa May announced the setting up of the Children's Funeral Fund but this has not been done yet. Cllr Mould said it has been suggested not to charge for funerals of children in the village.

Cllr Harris said a "recent resident" will be someone who has lived a minimum of ten years in the village within the last five years and this may be considered on an individual basis. The age of children's burials has been increased to sixteen years.

Cllr Palmer asked if this should be increased to eighteen years.

Cllr Harris said there will be no pre-purchase of plots or out of rotation burials. The increase in fees for non-parishioners is more and this reflects the fees in other areas.

Cllr Harris **PROPOSED** the new fees be effective from 1 April 2019 and that the new section is used from 1 April 2019; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

12. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Palmer said Cllr Staff needs volunteers to help with Speed Watch and this needs to be publicised in the Village Voice.

Cllr Harvey said that it needs to be ascertained if the criteria has been changed as previously it was not possible to hold Speed Watch sessions in Church Lane or Playstool Road.

13. STREET LIGHTING

Cllr Harris said details for the loan application need to be finalised and the procedure needs to be clarified.

ACTION: Cllr Harris to contact Salix for details of loan process.

Cllr Harris **PROPOSED** that if the Finance Working Group is satisfied with the response from Salix, the application is lodged for the project to proceed; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

14. NEWINGTON SPRING CLEAN

Cllr Mould said the details of the Newington Spring Clean need to be finalised.

Cllr Jackson said if the school children are to be involved there needs to be a session on Friday.

Cllr Harvey said the school could help publicise the event.

Councillors agreed the litter pick will take place on Saturday 23 March, starting at 9.30am in the hall car park.

ACTION 1: Clerk to contact Swale Borough Council to borrow litter picking equipment

ACTION 2: Clerk to contact Network Rail about the amount of litter at the station.

15. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Palmer reported KALC will be attending the PCSO training session to give an insight into the work of Parish Councils. The Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Inspector have said PCSOs should attend Parish Council meetings or send a report.

ACTION: Clerk to send note to the PCSO that this has been reported from KALC.

Cllr Palmer said the meeting regarding improvements at junction 5 of the M2 was cancelled due to insufficient funding for the work.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 26.01.19- concern regarding suspicious activity at the station
2. 01.02.19- UpARA Newsletter-posted on website
3. 01.02.19- KCC PROW extension of closure of ZR59- posted on website
4. 04.02.19- KCC pothole update
5. 01.02.19- SBC notice to charge for plans
6. 07.02.19-KALC Planning Conference agenda
7. 07.02.19- Further report of suspicious activity at station
8. 08.02.19- Great British Clean Campaign
9. 12.02.19- KCC PROW: Proposed diversion of part of Public Footpath ZR61 at Newington
10. 14 02 19- Cemetery query
11. 14 02 19- KCC; notice of footway maintenance Wickham Close
12. 19.02.19- memorial bench enquiry

Cllr Harvey said the Parish Council had objected to what it thought was the original site although there was no detailed consultation.

Cllr Coles said the Parish Council does not own the land.

Cllr Mould said the current site is not the Parish Council's choice.

Cllr Harvey reminded Councillors that Parish Council policy in April 2016 was to have memorial benches on the green.

ACTION: Clerk to respond to resident.

13. 19.02.19- SBC: Swale Joint Transportation Board agenda for meeting on 4 March 2019
14. 20.02.19- Rural Police report
15. 21.02.19- Grounds maintenance issues at Newington Green

17. MEETING DATES

Cllr Mould said that as the response to the invitation sent to village groups to attend the Annual Parish Meeting has been very positive, Amenities have suggested making the meeting on 30 April solely the Annual Parish Meeting and bringing the Amenities Committee and Full Council meetings forward a week. Amenities Committee will meet on 16 April and Full Council on 23 April. The Annual Parish Meeting will start at 7pm.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting needs to take place within fourteen days of the election so this will be on Tuesday 14 May instead of 28 May.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Mould said the Parish Council elections will take place on Thursday 2 May, the nomination period is 18 March to 3 April and the forms must not be dated before 3 March or they will be invalid.

Nomination packs were distributed to Councillors and offered to members of the public.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 26 March 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman
Date: 26 March 2019