

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall on 18 January 2022

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Stephen Harvey and Cllr Tony Mould; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).
Also present was Mr Jackson the Pavilion Caretaker and one member of the public

Cllr Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr James Morgan; apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from minutes 23 November 2021

Cllr Jackson reported the railing around the Peace Tree has been installed.

Cllr Jackson informed Members that the saplings will be delivered between 28 February and 18 March. There will be one hundred and five saplings with a mix of hawthorn, rowan, blackthorn, silver birch, hazel and common oak.

ACTION: Clerk to request saplings be delivered to the Allotments.

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO Lorraine Holmes was unable to attend and sent the following report:

Crimes of note (24/11/21 – 14/01/22):

- No Burglary offences reported
- Vehicle Crime offences reported: 09/12/21 – van stolen from Bramley Close. Filed as no further lines of enquiry.
- No Criminal Damage offences reported
- Fraud offences reported: 10/01/22 – Family Emergency Scam (see details below). No money lost.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- 16/12/21 and 03/01/22 / 04/01/22 – Group of youths causing issues around Dennis Willcocks Close – flashing car headlights into residents' windows and possibly smoking cannabis in the play park. Vehicle details have been obtained and driver will be visited and given words of advice.
- 18/12/21 – Nuisance quad bikes riding around the recreation ground and woods off Callaways Lane. Area search, no trace.
- Report received of a "Family Emergency Scam" whereby a fraudster will pose as a family member who has "lost" or "broken" their phone and is therefore having to text their relative from an unknown number. They will then state that they need money to get themselves out of a situation. Always call your relative first to double check it is them; never send money across unless you are 100% sure that it is your family member.

Other items of note:

- I will be holding a drop-in surgery at Snaffles Equestrian shop on Friday 21st January between 2 & 3pm.

Updates of previous reported issues-:

- Nothing to report – I have taken over from PCSO John Cork.

Cllr Harvey said there will be a Police surgery in Snaffles, Upchurch. PCSO Cork previously held surgeries in Newington the Pavilion could be offered.

ACTION: Clerk to invite PCSO Holmes to Full Council meeting and request Police surgeries are held in Newington. Inform the PCSO of Jubilee date.

ii. Community Warden report

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

- 1) Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents.
- 2) Concerns from residents regarding suspected drug taking in Wickham Close – Advised to report to police on 101.
- 3) Resident parking vehicle on pavement causing obstruction to pedestrians – Spoke to resident regarding this complaint.
- 4) Resident again taking his two husky dogs into small play area adjacent to Bull Lane – Monitoring area.
- 5) Dog fouling in same small play area.
- 6) Breaker from front of digger stolen from Bull Lane – Police aware.
- 7) Helping organise with ‘Gaming Bus’ project due to attend recreation ground on 14th February for two hours.
- 8) Assisted elderly resident whose heating boiler was leaking water with organising plumber – now all repaired.
- 9) Joint welfare visit with housing officer to vulnerable residents.
- 10) Dog fouling witnessed in footpath that leads from High Street to Wickham Close – Monitoring area.
- 11) Suspected drug smoking in resident’s front garden – Police aware.
- 12) Suspected abandoned motorcycle in Optivo car park, Pear Tree Walk.
- 13) Fantastic response to Wednesday mornings rural walks, approximately 18 walkers now attend.

Councillors expressed concern regarding the dog fouling in the small play area and were pleased to see the rural walks have taken off.

6. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer said the bolts had been received and asked for an update on the nuts.

The Clerk reported that she had requested the nuts from Darshan Gill but has had no response.

ACTION: Clerk to chase.

Cllr Harvey reported that he had met with local experts regarding the saplings and they are willing to help and draw up a planting plan. The Clerk has obtained quotations for spirals and canes to protect the saplings. Mr Springate will use an electric burner to remove weeds in the compound and he would like to hire a petrol strimmer.

Councillors agreed that the Council pay for the strimmer hire.

Cllr Harvey reported that the bin in the play area has recently been kicked over, it does not appear to be fixed into the ground.

ACTION 1: Clerk to ask contractor for advice and quote.

ACTION 2: Clerk to send details of saplings to Cllr Harvey.

Cllr Harvey said he has requested a quotation for the top entrance to the Recreation Ground and will obtain a quote to re-tension the fence along the track.

ACTION: Cllr Harvey to contact contractor.

ii. Adult exercise equipment

Cllr Jackson reported that the Clerk has obtained a £5,000 grant towards the equipment from the Queenborough Fishery Trust. The Swale Western Area Committee was cancelled and the next meeting is 1 March where they will discuss grant applications. There is also the FCC Community Action Fund which provides funding through the Landfill Communities Fund to community organisations for the provision, maintenance, or improvement public amenities

including Public Play Areas, Multi use games areas, recreation grounds including pavilions, and woodlands.

It was agreed to wait until after the Swale Western Area Committee before applying for further funding.

QUOTATIONS FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETING

7. Pavilion

Cllr Layer reported the new flooring looks good.

Cllr Harvey said the new heating switch and flood lights have been installed and work well.

Cllr Jackson reported that County Councillor Mike Baldock has agreed £2,000 from the KCC COVID-19 Local Recovery Fund towards supporting local groups with Pavilion fees.

Cllr Layer said the Football Club has requested a reduction in fees.

Cllr Harvey said Bogdale CIC could be contacted regarding the Summer Playscheme.

Cllr Harvey asked for details of the electricity consumption at the Pavilion.

ACTION: Clerk to draw up a chart of electricity consumption.

8. Youth Event

Cllr Harvey said the Community Warden has requested permission to have a gaming trailer on the Recreation Ground on 14 February and she will publicise the event on Social Media and through Optivo. Use of the Pavilion has been offered but there has been no response.

Cllr Mould asked if the KCC grant could be used for a Youth Worker.

AGENDA ITEM FOR FULL COUNCIL- Encouraging further use of Recreation Ground and Pavilion.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Brogdale CIC offering use of the Pavilion, Recreation Ground and Community Woodland, at a peppercorn rent, for the Summer Playscheme.

9. Community Woodland

Cllr Jackson reported the contractor has done a good job coppicing the woodland and has left random stacks of wood for insect hotels.

Cllr Harvey said the aim was to take out the spindly trees, a pile of logs has been left near the entrance to prevent the quad bikes from going in and the contractor might put a telegraph post in and weave branches. Logs have been taken by residents. The contractor has done an excellent job.

Cllr Layer said the contractor needs two more days.

It was agreed to recommend to Full Council that they work be sanctioned.

10. Allotments

Cllr Layer reported that everything is OK at the allotments and that there had been a delivery of manure. A water meter reading has been taken and it is negligible,

11. Highways

Cllr Harvey informed Members that he and Cllr Palmer have a meeting with Clare Lydon, Air Quality Project Officer, Mid Kent Environmental Health Service, regarding the 20mph zone. Some work on the Parish Highways Improvement Plan has been scheduled.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain if work will be carried out over half-term.

12. Lights

Cllr Layer reported that the light under the bridge is on all day, this is not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Harvey said the Community Warden could be asked if there are any problems on the footpaths, she has a walking group and they might find issues.

14. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould informed Members that the next edition will be a paper version and will have an insert promoting the Jubilee event. A resident has come forward to help deliver the Village Voice. Some one has offered to help with the Jubilee event.

Cllr Jackson said the first draft looks good and thanked Cllr Mould for his sterling work.

15. Cemetery and Churchyard

i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer reported the next working party will be on Friday at 2pm.

ii. To consider quotations to repair fencing

Cllr Layer informed Councillors that he had met with a contractor who advised the fence was beyond repair and suggested the whole fence be taken out and replaced with posts and wires for trees.

16. Jubilee Fete 4 June 2022

Cllr Mould said the Working Group has a list of tasks. The next meeting is on 17 February.

Cllr Jackson said the bunting has been delivered. Volunteers are being sought.

The Clerk reported that she had attended the Swale Local Councils Liaison Forum and grant funding is being made available for Jubilee events.

Cllr Mould said it has been suggested that tea and cakes be provided free of charge and if funding were available it would help facilitate this.

Cllr Jackson said that when the Play Area Opening took place free refreshments were provided and people wanted to donate to charity, there was a collection box for the Kent Association for the Blind in the Pavilion and £42.50 was sent to the charity.

17. To consider quotation to clean bus shelter

Cllr Jackson said a quotation for the bus shelter by The Bull is yet to be received.

18. Any Other Business

Cllr Mould said the Newington History Group Committee is concerned about the trees planted new the village sign and that the trees will hide the sign.

ACTION: Clerk to ask the Community Warden if she is aware who planted the trees.

Date of Next Meeting: 15 February 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 25 January 2022