

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall on 14 February 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 18 January 2021

Cllr Jackson said the trees near the village sign has previously been discussed, further correspondence has been received.

Councillors discussed the correspondence and sympathised with the writer's sentiments. It was noted that when the Memorial Garden was created it was done without any consultation with the Parish Council; the land does not belong to the Parish Council; the trees have been well-planted and nicely spaced; the resident needs to contact the County Councillor. *ACTION: Clerk to respond.*

Cllr Harvey said the bus shelter has been cleaned and repainted.

Cllr Layer said the phone box is in a poor state.

ACTION: Clerk to request BT clean the phone box

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

Councillors were disappointed that there had been no report from the PCSO.

Cllr Harvey said that he had shown the PCSO the Pavilion as a possible venue for her surgery. The Clerk said that she has twice asked about the resumption of the Police surgeries but had received no response.

ii. Community Warden report

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

- 1) Regular welfare visits to elderly/vulnerable residents.
- 2) Information gathered from resident regarding tree planting next to village sign. They were told they were donated by the Department of Transport.
- 3) Untaxed vehicle parked in village hall car park – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 4) Youth on quad bike riding around wild area, back of recreation ground – Contacted our PCSO Lorraine Holmes.

- 5) Suspected cannabis smoking by resident – Police aware.
- 6) Large area of village without water due to water mains bursting – Advised residents to contact Souther Water for bottled water to be supplied to them.
- 7) Deep cleansing of bus shelter situated on High Street, just along from The Bull required – Photos sent to Clerk regarding this.
- 8) Recently delivered parcel stolen from High Street – Police aware.
- 9) Container and shed at a farm were broken into Iwade Road – Police aware.
- 10) Reported overflowing litter bin (end of Callaways Lane) that had been missed to Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 11) Assisted elderly resident in contacting 'Trading Standards Checked' electrician to fix her lights.
- 12) Made appointment for elderly resident to have his cataracts checked and referral.
- 13) Ongoing neighbour dispute – Optivo housing aware.
- 14) Resident's son car vandalised – Advised reporting to police.
- 15) Boxes containing nurses equipment and car contents assumed stolen whilst left unattended outside front of house – Advised reporting to police.
- 16) Advised resident regarding very low level of water in his pond which contains large number of koi carp. He was grateful and said he'd top it up.
- 17) Put up social media posts regarding donations of wool for elderly resident who knits blankets for dementia patients at Medway hospital. – Collected donations and gave to grateful resident.
- 18) Old broken asbestos sheeting fly tipped on verge by bridge, Danaway – Reported to Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 19) Dog walked across public footpaths in orchards between London Road and Hartlip, ate some poison laced chicken and passed away – I posted warning information on all Newington and local villages social media sites. Also walked whole area and did not find any dead wildlife etc.
- 20) Successful 'gaming bus' visit to Newington recreation ground. Many children/youths attended and played games etc. provided.
- 21) Complaint from resident regarding loud music that seems to come from Eden Meadow during the early hours of the morning – Monitoring area and discussing with residents.

ACTION: Cllr Mould to contact Ms Springall for an article about the gaming bus for the Village Voice.

6. Recreation Ground and green spaces

i. To receive an update

Mr Jackson reported that there is a gap in the trees by the top gate and that this is where quad bikes are accessing the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Mould said stakes could be installed there to deter quad bikes.

Mr Jackson said he will put the meter reading on his reports. The grass will need cutting when conditions permit.

ACTION: Clerk to request cut of playing field and play area.

ii. Adult exercise equipment

Cllr Jackson said the Council has a grant of £5,000 from Queenborough Fishery Trust. And an application for a grant is with the Swale Western Area Committee.

Cllr Harvey said the Council needs to consider if equipment will be added to the existing pieces or whether it will be renewed completely.

Cllr Layer said the Council needs to be sure it has the right equipment, the broken item should be removed, the bench is rusty but could be painted.

ACTION 1: Clerk to contact Graeme Tuft

ACTION 2: Clerk to check with finance regulations regarding the limit for Contracts Finder.

iii. Planting of saplings

Cllr Jackson said the saplings will be delivered between 28 February and 18 March, they will come in large bags which will be taken to the allotments.

ACTION: Clerk to send details to Cllr Layer.

Cllr Jackson said help will be needed to plant the saplings.

Cllr Harvey reported he had asked Mr Springate, a local expert, about sapling guards, most are recycled plastic guard with a cane.

Cllr Layer said the allotmenters have offered to help with the planting.

Mr Springate will draw up a planting scheme. The Council should obtain quotations to help with the planting.

ACTION 1: Clerk to thank Mr Springate for his work.

ACTION 2: Clerk to obtain quotations for planting.

Cllr Layer said some saplings could be planted at the Cemetery, volunteers could help at the Cemetery.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain spirals and guards.

iv. Correspondence regarding trees near village

Covered earlier in meeting

7. Pavilion

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson said quotes are being obtained to replace the ceiling in the Parish Room, some contractors have quoted for a repair but it needs to be replaced as it has been repaired three times.

Cllr Harvey said the room echoes and needs a soft ceiling.

Cllr Jackson said it could be a dropped ceiling or a suspended ceiling.

ACTION: Clerk to get further ceiling quotes.

ii. To consider quotation for air sourced heating

Cllr Jackson said there had been a discussion previously about air sourced heating and air conditioning.

Cllr Harvey said the contractor said the existing heating could be replaced with a system for air conditioning and heating, the system is quiet. Further discussion needs to be held with the contractor. The defibrillator is yet to be installed as the contractor is ill.

ACTION 1: Clerk to ascertain when the defibrillator will be installed.

ACTION2: Cllr Jackson, Cllr Harvey and Cllr Layer to meet with contractor to discuss the heating system.

8. Allotments

Cllr Layer said there was nothing to report. The end plots cannot be used because of the trees from the orchard.

9. Community Woodland

Cllr Jackson said the tree work has been completed and looks good.

Cllr Harvey said further work will need to take place in the autumn. The sleepers in the picnic area need replacing. There needs to be signs for the bug hotels.

The Clerk reported that she could not find stock signs and that signage will need to be made.

Cllr Mould said he would include an article regarding the bug hotel.

10. Highways

Cllr Harvey reported that works are due to start on the village scheme at the end of the month.

Cllr Jackson said the Clerk has tried to obtain clips for the No Cold Calling Zone signs but to no avail.

Cllr Jackson said Maylow Construction might have some.

ACTION: Cllr Harvey to contact Maylow Construction.

11. Lights

Cllr Layer reported that the column outside 24 Station Rd is cracked and needs replacing.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotes.

12. Footpaths and Bridleways

There was nothing to report.

13. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said the next edition will be an online version with articles on the gaming bus event success; the bus shelter; water rate rebate; planning report and bug hotels at Community Woodland.

14. Cemetery and Churchyard

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson said the next working party will be on Friday 11 March 2022.

ii. To consider quotations to repair fencing

Councillors considered the quotations to straighten or repair the Cemetery fence.

Cllr Layer **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £350 from C Belsom & Son to pull up the fence; **SECONDED** by Cllr Harvey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

iii. To consider request for memorial bench at Cemetery

Cllr Layer reported that he and the Clerk will meet with a family on Thursday to look at a suitable site for a memorial bench. The interment of ashes will be in a full plot and the bench could be placed on the other side of the path.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to permit a memorial bench at the Cemetery.

15. Jubilee Fete 4 June 2022

Cllr Jackson informed Members that the Concert Party have agreed to perform at the Fete and Demelza has also confirmed they will attend. The Guide Dogs do not have the resources to be part of the event.

Cllr Mould said he would prefer the next Working Group meeting to be online.

ACTION: Clerk to contact village groups to ask if they would like to have a stall.

Cllr Harvey reported that the Community Warden is unable to attend but has someone who will help with the Dog Show, rosettes and certificates will need to be purchased.

Cllr Jackson said the Council can apply for a grant from Swale Borough Council towards the celebrations.

ACTION: Clerk to apply for grant.

Cllr Jackson said the PCSO is not sure if she can attend the event, previously two PCSOs and a Police vehicle would attend the Festival.

ACTION: Clerk to contact PCSO again.

Councillors discussed a request to have a beacon on the village green. Beacons are usually put in a high place and it was felt that a beacon on the A2 would be a danger to motorists who might be distracted by it.

16. Any Other Business

No other matters were raised.

Date of Next Meeting: 15 March 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.21pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair

Date: 22 February 2022