Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting of Newington Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Newington on Tuesday 22 September 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

None declared.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None declared.

4. MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21 July 2026

i. The minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 21 July 2026 were approved as an accurate record and signed at the meeting.
ii. No matters were raised

5. PAVILION

i. The meeting **RESOLVED** to approve the quote provided by Jamie Watson Electrical for the soil stack. An action was agreed for Cllr S Harvey to meet with J Watson to discuss other areas of work.
ii. Although some queries were received this month, no new bookings have been made for the hire of the Pavilion.
iii. Work on the Pavilion Caretaker Contract of Services is ongoing.
iv. It was agreed that a quote should be requested from J Watson for works designated 'C2' on the provided report. This quote should be requested to meet the Electrical Safety Fund submission deadline, if possible.

6. CEMETERY

i. The Committee noted the paper provided on cemetery records and grave mapping.
ii. It was agreed that Cllr T Mould should approach the owner of an unstable memorial to ask them to remove or stabilise it. It was noted that training and accurate record keeping should be undertaken when assessing the safety of existing memorials moving forward.

Signed by Chair…… Date: 20/10/26

The Committee noted that the existing Parish Council policy on kerbing around graves should be enforced. A request should be made for the kerbing placed around one grave on site to be removed, following a check to ensure permission was not granted before this was placed.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should pay to have the two Hippo bags of soil from the funeral in August 2026 removed.

The meeting **RESOLVED** to approve the circulated memorial application.

iii. One ashes interment is scheduled for 16 October 2026
iv. The Committee noted the paper provided on cemetery management.

7. STREETLIGHTS

i. The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the quote for repair to 86 St Mary's View from Briant Streetlight.
ii. The meeting agreed to source other quotes for a full condition survey, noting that the decision to go ahead should be considered as part of the six-month budget review. It was also agreed that an approach should be made to Swale Borough Council to see if they would contribute to any essential remedial works identified. It was noted that any works undertaken must return to the streetlights to workable condition (e.g. replacement of straps running round the poles).

8. BUS STOP SHELTER REPLACEMENT

The Committee considered the available grant and agreed to proceed with a view to replacing the three back panels (only one still in place); replacing the seat; and treating the roof to prevent sap damage.

9. PLAY AREA

i. The meeting noted that repair to the wetpour has been completed. Future works have been identified, for the surrounding concrete to be removed and replace with a dirt border, allowing for shrinkage of the wetpour.
ii. It was agreed that Dandara should be approached for possible project funding.

10. RECREATION GROUND

The meeting noted the report from J Watson that two floodlights require repair on the ballcourt. A quote for repairs has been requested.

The Committee agreed to contact Landscape Services about the side-arm hedge flailing undertaken earlier that morning, which did not meet the requirements. Further work is needed to allow deliveries to the allotments. The Clerk also informed that meeting that she has requested a copy of the existing contract from Landscape Services, to ensure it aligns with Parish Council records.

i. Goldfinch Tree Surgeons have been asked to review the existing quote for the oak tree in the recreation ground to ensure it is still active. If not, a new quote will be requested.
ii. The Committee **RESOLVED** to purchase £90 worth of bluebell bulbs for planting. Any funds received from the public sponsorship invitation will contribute to this cost. It was agreed that the sponsorship call should continue to the end of October, with planting to be scheduled for November.

Signed by Chair…… Date: 20/10/26

It was furthermore noted that work must be scheduled to mark trees in the woodland for thinning out in the spring. This should take place while leaves are still on the trees to ensure that any ashes affected by ash dieback are marked. It was agreed that Cllr E Layer should be present, to talk through requirements along the allotments hedge-line.

11. NEWINGTON HIGH STREET RAILINGS

Cllr R Palmer has emailed Kent County Council clarifying that the railings should be heritage-style, but that these do not need to be an exact match for the existing style.

12. NOTICEBOARD

The meeting noted that the noticeboard has been ordered and requested to be delivered directly to the contractors for install. The Committee noted the proposed header engraving, circulated via email the day before, and confirmed their approval.

It was agreed to ask that Cllr R Palmer speak to the owners of the Chinese takeaway about the planned replacement of the noticeboard.

13. VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

It was noted that progress around the Village Hall Car Park should continue to be monitored.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Welcome packs to be added to the next Full Parish Council meeting agenda.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Full Parish Council: Tuesday 29 September 2026 at 19:00
Amenities Committee: Tuesday 20 October 2026 at 19:00

CLOSE

20:30

Signed by Chair……. Date: 20/10/26