

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall on 25 January 2023

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chairman), 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); apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2022

Cllr Jackson reported that cleaning products are available to users at the pavilion.

Mr Jackson said the Youth Group had left a mess in the changing room.

ACTION: Clerk to remind users to clean other spaces after use.

Cllr Jackson said the Clerk is chasing Wicksteed for the allen key.

Cllr Layer said the company has said it will send it.

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

Cllr Jackson said there was no report from the PCSO.

Cllr Harvey said Inspector Vanessa Foster had contacted the Clerk following concerns the Council raised about policing. Both Chief Inspector Diane Middlemiss and Inspector Vanessa Foster were present at the KALC Swale Area Committee meeting on 10 January; there were lots of promises.

ACTION: Clerk to request report for Full Council

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) Contacted Kent fire and rescue regarding home safety check for elderly resident.
- 3) Assisted with Bingo group Christmas session.
- 4) Welfare contact to resident regarding possible food issues.
- 5) Assisted elderly resident with Sainsbury's food order.
- 6) Assisted elderly resident with emergency water leak from her washing machine inlet pipe and arranged for someone to fix it.
- 7) Collected cough mixture and paracetamol from pharmacy for unwell elderly resident.

- 8) Radio and socket set stolen from car parked in Wickham Close – Police aware.
- 9) Organised repeat prescriptions from GP for elderly resident.
- 10) Antisocial behaviour in Watling Drive regarding numerous eggs being thrown up the side of resident's house – Police aware.
- 11) Fly tipping rear of houses in Bramley Close – Reported to Swale Borough Council.
- 12) Youths gathering in children's play area in recreation ground and inhaling Nitrous Oxide from balloons, filled from large containers which were found discarded – information given to PCSO.
- 13) Attended first Age UK memory café in Pavilion. Advised the organiser to advertise through The Village Voice and passed on details etc. This monthly café will benefit the older community with all the help and advice that Age UK can offer.
- 14) Resident's dog bitten by out-of-control dog whilst out walking. Owner of aggressive dog paid residents vet bill – Incident reported to Swale Borough Council dog warden.

There has been an increase in car theft and other car related crime in Sittingbourne.

Residents need to be extra vigilant by making sure their cars are properly locked and not to leave any valuables in sight inside etc.

6. Recreation Ground and green spaces

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson said that it has been reported that comments about the oak tree near the pavilion have been posted on Facebook, nothing has come through officially to the Council.

Cllr Harvey said the issue is not the Council's responsibility and previously the tree was cut back as a gesture of goodwill.

Cllr Jackson reported that she had left a message for Dan Cawthra, the Communications Officer for GRAHAM, he is currently on holiday and a meeting will be arranged when he is back.

Cllr Harvey said it would be useful if two or three Councillors could be at the meeting.

Cllr Jackson said that now the Memory Café is at the pavilion, disabled access needs to be improved.

ii. Adult Exercise Equipment- to consider quotations

It was agreed to have an Extraordinary meeting of the Amenities Committee on Wednesday 1 February, 12 noon – 1pm at the Pavilion

7. Pavilion

Cllr Jackson said it is good the Council is having longer term bookings for the Pavilion such as the Age UK memory café, the organiser was asked for text to promote the event when she booked it. Vibe are considering a fortnightly Youth Group for older teenagers, the pavilion has been offered free of charge for the first month.

Cllr Harvey asked for an update on the pavilion works and sputnik repairs.

The Clerk said the quotations had been accepted after the meeting and that she has chased the pavilion contractor for a date.

Cllr Harvey said the works at the play area must avoid half-term.

ACTION: Clerk.

Mr Jackson asked if a light could be put in the cupboard for the cleaning products.

ACTION: Clerk to request light.

Cllr Harvey said some of the saplings at the Recreation Ground are not healthy, further saplings could be ordered if still free and a contractor be paid to plant them.

Cllr Jackson The Urban Tree Challenge Fund provides a contribution towards funding of standard costs for planting large trees and maintenance costs for three years.

ACTION 1: Clerk to investigate details of The Urban Tree Challenge Fund.

ACTION 2: Clerk to check Woodland Trust free trees scheme.

Mr Jackson reported that the pavilion alarm has been serviced. A resident had contacted Cllr Palmer regarding the alarm and the pavilion lights. The alarm lights were flashing and the light that were on were on the outside of the pavilion, the alarm was turned off.

8. Allotments

Cllr Layer said there was nothing to report.

9. Community Woodland

Cllr Layer reported that the work in the woodland has been completed and logs taken to Scouts

10. Highways

Cllr Harvey reported that he had received a response from KCC Highways that the new contact is leaving but she has ordered two bollards for the dropped kerb by Charlotte's Court. We have been informed that the 20mph banners cost £85 each although the Council can borrow some for three months. The Council needs to assess where the banners will be sited. Some residents have put signs on telegraph poles in Callaways Lane.

ACTION: Clerk to get quotations for lamp post signs.

Cllr Harvey reported that he had received a complaint about the brambles growing onto the footpath from the slip of land between the old house and former print works.

ACTION: Clerk to report.

11. Lights

Cllr Harvey informed Members that the light in the alleyway is still not working.

ACTION: Clerk to report.

Cllr Jackson reported that the contractor is still waiting for an installation date from UKPN, the contractor is chasing this on a bi daily basis and until KCC can agree the permit to work with UKPN.

Cllr Layer said the column is cracked but not dangerous.

ACTION: Clerk to ask if contractor can put pressure on KCC and UKPN as it is a cracked column.

12. Footpaths and Bridleways

There was nothing to report.

13. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said The Albion Café would like an insert in the Village Voice.

Cllr Harvey said there is no issue for a business to pay for an insert but it needs to be clarified on the leaflet that it is an advertisement.

Cllr Mould said the next edition will be a paper copy and will include the Village Fete; Swale Food Bank; and Financial Welfare Fund. An email has been received from a walking website and needs checking.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate email.

Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Mould for his sterling work.

14. Cemetery and Churchyard

i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer reported that the bench has been installed near the new ashes area.

ii. Cemetery water invoices

Cllr Layer reported that there are issues with the invoices, Southern Water maintains the meter was replaced on 24 May 2023 but he has photos of the same water meter in March 2022 and today. The meter was actually exchanged approximately twenty months ago.

ACTION: Clerk to write to managers.

15. Events

i. Village Fete - 15 July 2023

Cllr Jackson reported that there had been a Fete Working Group meeting and that emails have been sent out to all groups. The face painter has been booked.

Cllr Mould asked if there needs to be more toilets.

Cllr Harvey said there will also be toilets at the fun fair.

ii. Best Kept Garden Competition

It was agreed not to hold the competition in 2023.

16. Any Other Business

The Clerk said there was an issue with DRAX and the direct debit payments again. The matter is in dispute and new photos have been requested.

ACTION: Clerk to send photos and request quick response.

Date of Next Meeting: 21 February 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 31 January 2023