

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 22 January 2019 in the Wickham Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Tony Mould, visiting Member Cllr Jeannie Milburn; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were PCSO John Cork and one member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Jackson had advised that she would be late to the meeting and in the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Layer took the Chair.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Coles (personal) and Cllr Graham Staff (unwell); apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Amenities Meeting on 20 November 2018

There were none.

4. Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

i. PCSO report

PCSO John Cork reported there continues to be an issue with a motor bike and that he knows the rider and is monitoring the situation.

PCSO Cork said that he has attended Cornerstone Café twice and has given out purse chains as well as offering advice. He hopes to continue to attend operational matters permitting.

The area covered will be changed and instead of Lower Halstow, Borden and Grove Park will be covered instead.

Cllr Layer asked if there had been any further ball bearing incidents.

PCSO Cork said there had been an incident in School Lane but it was not a ball bearing and the projectile had not been found.

PCSO Cork said that a prolific shop lifter had been apprehended with the help of the Coop.

There had been an accident on the A2 when a van coming out of Bull Lane was “flashed on” by another car and when it turned right it was hit by a motor bike. The signal is not a legal signal although it is commonly used by drivers to allow vehicles to pull out of junctions.

There was an incident outside the school which escalated to Newington Industrial Estate.

Cllr Jackson arrives.

PCSO Cork said there had been no antisocial behaviour issues.

Cllr Layer asked what could be done regarding motor bikes using the alleyway between Playstool Close and Bull Lane.

PCSO Cork said there are notices at the end of the alleyway, the residents have his phone number to call if there is a problem but there have been no reports. The alleyway is sometimes used as a rat run, elsewhere alleyways have been blocked off. There have been reports of bikes in Monkey Island and concern if for dog walkers and horses

PCSO Cork said a resident had reported drug dealing outside the station to him and the area has been patrolled and British Transport Police have been contacted but nothing has been found. There have been no silver cannisters found in the village either. Cllr Layer thanked PCSO Cork for attending and for his report.

ii. Community Warden report

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

- 1) *Fly tipping down track that leads from Callaways Lane to Monkey Island, (Garden refuse) – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 2) *Concerns from resident regarding young children at risk of being hit by cars in village hall car park on a Friday morning (play group) – Spoke to playgroup leaders who will speak to parents/minders about keeping their children safe.*
- 3) *Concerns from resident that parents/minders of young/school children not crossing at the pedestrian lights on the High Street correctly – Monitoring area.*
- 4) *Information received regarding motorcycle travelling along footpath from Playstool Close to Bull Lane – Passed on to PCSO John Cork.*
- 5) *Push bike stolen from Newington railway station – Police aware.*
- 6) *Two youths found trespassing in garden that backs onto railway line, in London Road at 11.00 in the morning – Police aware.*
- 7) *Concerns for welfare of resident and carer – Adult social services aware.*
- 8) *Neighbour dispute regarding access for scaffolding and boundary queries – visited both residents who are now both in agreement.*
- 9) *Pieces of wood and carpet left on grass outside pavilion in recreation ground. Also, large ruts and damaged grass due to vehicle getting stuck. Made enquiries as to who was attending pavilion previous evening and reported to Clerk. Also spoke to Swale Borough Council litter workmen who removed wood and carpet.*
- 10) *Fridge/freezer fly tipped in entrance to village hall car park – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 11) *Very successful Bingo group Christmas tea.*
- 12) *Very successful Art group Christmas meeting, demonstration by local watercolour artist.*
- 13) *Dog bin in Callaways Lane has not been emptied – Swale Borough Council.*
- 14) *Excessive litter in lay by in Bull Lane – Reported to Swale Borough Council litter pickers.*
- 15) *Duster sellers in Church Lane area – Resident showed them ‘no cold caller sticker’ and sent them away.*
- 16) *Resident taking dog into children’s play area on recreation ground – Explained to them why dogs were not allowed in this area and showed them signs.*
- 17) *Green waste, holly tree and branches and other large shrub branches fly tipped in footpath that leads from London Road to Wickham Close – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 18) *Mattress fly tipped in recreation ground – Removed by Swale Borough Council litter collectors.*
- 19) *Fly tipping of bricks in road and large amount of other household rubbish, including the remains of fifteen cannabis plant root balls in lay by on High Oak Hill – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*
- 20) *Increase of dog fouling on pavements in village – Monitoring areas and will spray.*
- 21) *Work vans and other vehicles causing obstruction due to parking on double yellow lines at top of Church Lane – reported to Swale Borough Council parking.*
- 22) *Concerns regarding safety of pre-school child left in running vehicle whilst carer delivering parcels – Reported to PCSO John Cork.*
- 23) *Neighbour dispute regarding boundary fence finally concluded.*
- 24) *Increase of dog fouling on recreation ground, football pitch – monitoring area.*
- 25) *Freezer fly tipped top of Orchard Drive – Reported to Swale Borough Council.*

Cllr Jackson took the Chair.

6. Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Harvey said he thought the new path to the pavilion would go towards the top gate as this is where parking will be in the future. Concern has been raised about cars parking by the play area.

Cllr Jackson said the proposed path is where the gate is and there is already an existing footpath. Disabled access also needs to be considered and a path from the top gate might be an option for the future.

Cllr Layer said the Council has discussed the top gate area being so muddy.

The Clerk said she had reported the matter to Swale Borough Council and they were going to contact SGN.

Cllr Harvey said option two would be preferable.

Cllr Mould said the option duplicates the path running behind the houses, if the path started from the alleyway it would save money.

Cllr Harvey said the alleyway is not lit and the Parish Council could not install a light there as it belonged to Swale Borough Council. This was also where the quad bikes were entering the Recreation Ground from, the alleyways used to be gated.

Cllr Layer said he had met with contractors and one would not quote for tarmac and said wooden shuttering would not last.

ACTION 1: Clerk to ascertain if the footpath behind the house is a public footpath.

ACTION 2: Clerk to request quotations for a concrete path.

To be deferred to Full Council.

ii. To consider the quotations for the grounds maintenance

Cllr Jackson said four quotations have been received for grounds maintenance.

Cllr Harvey said sometimes extra cuts are required. References need to be obtained.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend to Full Council to accept the quotation from Countrywide subject to references and to pay monthly.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain references.

iii. To consider the quotation for the provision of a five-aside football goals

Cllr Jackson said a quote has been received for £1326; Swale Borough Council Sports grant fund will give £626, the actual cost of the goals, and KCCllr Mike Whiting has agreed to give £663, leaving a shortfall of £37.

Cllr Layer said he has measured the playing field and the five-aside pitch can be sited away from the allotments and also the football pitch.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend to Full Council acceptance of the quotation from Maylow Construction Ltd.

ACTION: Cllr Layer and Cllr Harvey to meet with Bredhurst Junior Football Club to discuss the provision of a five-aside pitch.

7. Play Area

Cllr Layer reported that some of the work has been carried out at the Play Area, the contractor has fitted the four swing seats, cut threads off the bird nest seat, fitted two cradle seats, straightened fence bars, fitted new seats on roundabout. He was unable to do the painting as temperature was low. The contractor has sprayed some chains and red around roundabout seats. Whilst on site he undertook some wet pour repairs to a trip hazard section between the two areas and filled some gaps under the slide and strimmed the grass around the area, the surfacing was carried out at no additional charge. All the completed items were shown to the Pavilion Caretaker.

Cllr Harvey said there had been a meeting of the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground. The Council should consider installing a zip wire as this is something the young people have

requested. One quotation has been received and further quotes will be sought. Advice will also be taken from Daniel Gooch, Swale Borough Council.

Cllr Harvey reported the Friends of Newington Recreation Ground are applying for grants.

8. Pavilion

Cllr Jackson reported that Weight Watchers have cancelled their second session from the end of the month due to lack of support.

9. Defibrillator

Cllr Jackson said the defibrillator from Kent Fire & Rescue Service has been collected. One electrician suggested the equipment must not fall below freezing.

Cllr Milburn said it will not need a heated cabinet for inside the Pavilion, defibrillators are left in ambulances and are not heated when not in use.

Cllr Harvey said Cllr Palmer has offered to hold a training session.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotation for a cabinet with a glass front and to ascertain how quickly spare pads can be obtained if necessary.

It was agreed that Cllr Palmer and Cllr Milburn be responsible for checking the defibrillator by the Doctors Surgery and the Pavilion Caretaker be responsible for the defibrillator at the Pavilion.

10. Allotments

Cllr Layer reported the Allotment Association has been given further fence panels to complete the run towards the gate. There are a few new allotment holders.

11. Newington Festival 2019

Cllr Jackson reported there had been a good meeting with a resident who is an events manager but has subsequently been promoted at work so is unable to run the Festival. There is no one to run the Festival for 2019, the Parish Council could ask an event management company to run the event.

Cllr Mould said it could be looked at again in 2020 and be a bi-annual event.

Cllr Jackson said this needs to be included in the Village Voice.

12. Lights

Cllr Jackson said the light at the end of the alleyway outside 24 Station Road and the one outside 102/104 Church Lane have been reported to the engineer. Streetlights have said that the last patrol was on the 3rd of January. Just the eight lights out we are already aware of but don't want repaired. The two new ones will be inspected during the early part of next week and will be repaired if it is just lamp or will be added to the list to be left not working if it is any more than that.

Cllr Layer said the light opposite the Vicarage and the one at the end of St Mary's View are out.

Cllr Jackson said the light at the entrance of the Village Hall Car Park is also not working.

ACTION: Clerk to report lights.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways

Cllr Jackson said a resident has raised concern about the dog bin in Callaways Lane on the telegraph pole. This is causing an issue because the bin becomes full and dog owners leave bags of dog mess on his land.

Cllr Mould said he did not think the telegraph pole is on the resident's land. If the bin were to be moved it could be placed next to the entrance to the bridleway on a concrete post at the landowner's expense.

Cllr Jackson said the Clerk has contacted Swale Borough Council to empty the bin.

ACTION: Cllr Layer to check the site of the dog bin.

14. Litter Picking contract

Moved to closed session at the end of the meeting.

15. Village Voice and media

Cllr Mould said it has previously been discussed the delivery schedule should be revised and requested a street plan of Newington to assist with this.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain a street plan.

Cllr Mould circulated a draft of the Village Voice which will also include a Parish Council report; a report from the Chair regarding the Council's achievements; details of the visit by the Fun Fair; update of the Festival.

16. Any Other Business

No other matters were raised.

14. Litter Picking contract

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press were excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the Litter Picking Contract

Date of Next Meeting: 19 February 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.13pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair

Date: 29 January 2019