

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 30 April 2024  
in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall

Present: Cllr Richard Palmer (Chairman), Cllr Tony Mould (Vice Chairman), Cllr Ruth Brown, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Eric Layer and Cllr Chris Palmer;  
Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk) via Zoom

Cllr R Palmer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 1. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Cllr R Plamer said there has been some interest but no applications yet.

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ray Cuffley (unwell); apologies accepted.  
Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Mike Baldock (at another meeting); apology noted.

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

## 4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 MARCH 2024

i. To consider the minutes of the meetings and if in order sign as a true record

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record. Cllr R Palmer duly signed the minutes.

ii. Matters arising from the minutes

Cllr R Palmer reported that the litter pick which took place on 27 April was successful and Suez collected the rubbish.

## 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

## 6. VISITORS

SBCllr R Palmer reported that the majority of resident contact was regarding the issues with the bin collections; over two hundred emails were received by the Ward Members one month from Newington and a similar amount from resident in Upchurch; Hartlip has also been badly affected.

SBCllr C Palmer reported that South Bush Lane had not had collections for eight weeks.

SBCllr R Palmer said there was a data issue which resulted in some addresses being missed, the crew have the information in the cab and follow that. On Saturday, there was an issue that the tip was not open. Suez has brought in crews from other parts of the country to help with the problem.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** a letter of concern be sent to Swale Borough Council: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*ACTION: Chairman and Clerk to draft letter.*

Cllr C Palmer said she has reported fly tipping on the Iwade Road in March; this was added and reported again on 15 April; it was further added to and is now across the road. The matter has been investigated and two people have been found to be involved.

## 7. PLANNING

i. Ref: Application No: 24/500781/FULL

Location: Snakesbury Cottage Iwade Road Newington Kent ME9 7JY

Proposal: Conversion of existing barn to holiday accommodation, including replacement roof, rebuilding of upper front elevation and insertion and replacement fenestration. Erection of car port and cycle store. *Change of description and amended information*

The Council has responded to this application; no further comments were made.

ii. Ref: 24/501287/FULL

Address: Newington Court Nursing Home, Keycol Hill, Bobbing, Kent ME9 7LG

Proposal: Erection of a 2.5 storey rear extension to care home with associated alterations to car park and erection of a timber bin store.

Councillors considered the application and had no objections to the proposal but would request neighbours' concerns be taken into consideration.

Ref: 24/500761/REM Address: 128 High Street, Newington ME9 7JH

Proposal: Approval of reserved matters (Appearance, Layout, Scale and Landscaping sought) for erection of 46no. residential dwellings, with access from A2 High Street, pursuant to 21/505722/OUT

Cllr Harvey raised concern that the new plans do not show the pedestrian access. The weak points are the demolition of 128 High Street and the pedestrian access.

*ACTION: Comments to be raised.*

Cllr R Palmer informed Members that Fernham Homes has arranged a public meeting regarding the land Northwest of Church Lane, Newington. This will take place in the Newington Room at the Village Hall on Wednesday 8 May.

## 8. AMENITIES

i. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 20 April 2024 and consider the recommendations

Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr C Palmer for taking the minutes.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record. Cllr Jackson duly signed the minutes.

Cllr Jackson informed Members that there have been issues with anti-social behaviour and cold calling, PC Jez Chittim has responded well. Mr Steve Godmon was thanked for painting the garage doors. The surface under the Sputnik needs to be repaired.

The Clerk reported that Wicksteed has this in hand.

Cllr Jackson said a new basketball hoop has been requested and the Clerk will seek grants.

*ACTION: Clerk to obtain quote and seek grants*

Cllr Jackson reported that the Football Club did not contact regarding a planned match.

Cllr Jackson said an organisation wants to hire the Pavilion to run Outdoor Explorer Sessions in the Summer holidays for children up to 8yrs with their parents/ carers. This is a paid for activity.

Councillors agreed it needs to be ensured that session do not clash with Vibe's Summer programme; there is public liability insurance in place and families must use the car park.

Cllr Harvey said PC Chittim has spoken to the mother of the child who damaged the sign and will talk to the child.

Cllr Harvey said there are several small jobs in the village which need addressing; the bus shelters; the notice board; the wooden ball court wall and other small jobs.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** that he and Cllr Layer meet with the contractor and agree a schedule of work up to £2,000; **4- FOR; 2 ABSTENTIONS: MOTION CARRIED.**

ii. To consider quotations for Pavilion hand dryer

Councillors considered the quotations and specification for a Pavilion hand dryer.

Cllr R Palmer **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £600 from Watson Electrical Services to supply and fit a PHS brand hand dryer **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Clerk to ask if spares are available for the hand dryer.

iii. To consider quotations Pavilion Notice Board

Councillors considered quotations for a notice boards.

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to accept the quote from Greenbarnes for a 6 x A4 notice board with header for £791.72 plus delivery: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

*ACTION: Clerk to get quote to install notice board.*

Cllr Jackson said Southern Housing has raised concern that the oak tree behind the Pavilion is causing problems for residents.

Cllr Harvey said the tree had been pruned previously as a one-off goodwill gesture. The tree is an excellent specimen.

*ACTION: Clerk to respond.*

Cllr Jackson said consideration needs to be given to purchasing litter picking equipment.

*ACTION: Clerk to get quotes.*

Cllr R Palmer said the litter picker's schedule should be reviewed.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact contractor.*

iv. Review of Cemetery Fees

Councillors considered the comparison of Swale and Medway Cemetery fees.

Cllr Layer **PROPOSED** Newington Cemetery fees be increased by 2½%: **SECONDED** by

Cllr Harvey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

## 9. SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL LAND

The matter is in the hands of Swale Borough Council Legal Team.

## 10. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Mould said the front page will be an article on the annual litter pick. The fly tipping problem will be included. There will be standard articles.

*ACTION: Clerk to ask if the Outdoor Explorers wants to be included in the Village Voice.*

## 11. FINANCE

i. Cheque list: to consider invoices for payment

Payee	Reason	Amount
Goldfinch Tree Surgery	Tree work	<b>£1140.00</b>
DCK Accounting	Payroll fees – April and year end	<b>£114.00</b>
Newington School	Parish Council Winter Maintenance Grant	<b>£1,500.00</b>
Mr R Malone	Litter Picking Recreation Ground - April	<b>£548.60</b>
Mr MJ Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance - April	<b>£625.00</b>
Mr R Burrows	Track gate keeper- April	<b>£125.00</b>
Mrs E Jackson	Parish Basic Allowance	<b>£271.50</b>
Mr E Layer	Parish Basic Allowance	<b>£271.50</b>

Mr A Mould	Parish Basic Allowance	<b>£271.50</b>
Mrs C Palmer	Parish Basic Allowance	<b>£271.50</b>
Mr R Palmer	Parish Basic Allowance	<b>£407.40</b>
Administration	Expenses	<b>£44.00</b>
Business Stream	Cemetery water- standing charge	<b>£21.30</b>
Vibe Community Ltd	Newington Youth Club; Summer holiday activities (5 sessions) and outreach sessions (26 per annum)	<b>£5,174.50</b>
Watson Electrical Services Ltd	Ball Court light repair	<b>£102.00</b>
Watson Electrical Services Ltd	WC cistern replacement	<b>£366.60</b>
Mrs W Licence	Re-imburement for sign	<b>£59.69</b>

Councillors agreed that 50% of the youth provision invoice be paid immediately and the balance in October when the second installment of the precept is received.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to make the payments

ii. To consider subscription to Kent Association of Local Councils

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay the subscription of £855.52 and to inform KALC that the Council did discuss whether to continue and will review again next year.

iii. Finance report

No comments raised

iv. Review of bank mandates

It was **AGREED** that all Members should be bank signatories.

*ACTION: Clerk to circulate mandate for signing.*

v. To consider Parish Council debit card and policy

It was **AGREED** to apply for a multipay card subject to payments being protected and charges.

It was **AGREED** adopt the Parish Council debit card policy

vi. To consider Citizens Advice Swale request for donation

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to give Swale Citizens Advice Swale £100.

vii. Any other finance matter received by 30 April 2024

Bank statement

NatWest:- 28.03.24 £46,742.46

Nationwide:- 31.03.23 £46,034.40

Unity Trust:- 31.03.24 £44,766.00

Payments

20.03.24	DRAX	Electricity- Pavilion and lighting	£516.11
27.03.24	DRAX	Electricity	£409.95

Receipts

05.03.24	Vibe	Parish Room hire	£40.00
25.03.24	KALC	Parish Council Winter Maintenance Grant	£1,500.00

## 12. STREETLIGHTS

Councillors were concerned at lack of response from contractor.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact contractor.*

To consider quotation for replacement columns.

*ACTION: Clerk to seek further quotations.*

## 13. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr R Palmer reported there were four sessions from 30 March to 30 April, seventy-five vehicles were recorded exceeding the speed limit.

## 14. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr R Palmer reported the Village Hall has a problem with too many people parking in the car park which has resulted in lost bookings. There is a danger that if the hall continues to lose bookings, the village will lose the village hall. There is a covenant on the car park that no charges can be levied to park there.

Cllr Harvey said it is not the Village Hall car park but the village car park. It might be possible to use the BT exchange car park.

## 15. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 27.03.24- KALC: Health and Wellbeing Update
2. 28.03.24- NALC: CEO bulletin
3. 28.03.24- National Highways: M2 junction 5 improvement scheme - A249 southbound now open
4. 28.03.24- National Highways update
5. 04 04 24- SBC: housing land supply figure
6. 05.04.24-KCC: Consultation on Revised Validation and Guidance Requirements for Planning Applications
7. 11.04.24- NALC CEO bulletin
8. 12.04.24- National Highways update
9. 15.04.24- SBC: Policy round up
10. 16. 04.24- Kent Police: Independent Advisory Group volunteers needed
11. 16.04.24- KALC newsletter
12. 18.04.24- NALC CEO bulletin
13. 18.04.24- Southern Housing: Tree at Recreation Ground issue
14. 22.04.24- SBC: Policy Round-Up 19 April 2024
15. 25.04.24- NACL CEO bulletin
16. 30.04.24- resident concern regarding Bull Lane verges and dogs mess on Recreation Ground.

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**– This for information only and no decision can be made on items raised.

Cllr R Palmer asked for an update on the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Clerk reported that there has been a positive response from organisations in the village.

## DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

**Annual Parish Meeting- Friday 17 May 2024 at 7pm**

**Annual Parish Council Meeting- Tuesday 28 May 2024 at 7pm**

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 8.55pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 28 May 2024