

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 24 September 2024  
in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall

Present: Cllr Tony Mould (Chairman), Cllr Stephen Harvey (Vice Chairman), Cllr Michael Barlow, Cllr Elaine Jackson, Cllr Eric Layer, Cllr Chris Palmer, Cllr Richard Palmer and Cllr Barbara Weight; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present were County Councillor Mike Baldock, Mr Bob Jackson (Pavilion Caretaker) and four members of the public.

## 1. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

The Clerk reports that there had been no applications yet.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to appoint Cllr Weight to the Amenities Committee.

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ruth Brown (unwell): apologies accepted.

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

## 4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27 AUGUST 2024

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

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes and confidential minutes of the meeting held on 27 August 2024 as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Mould duly signed the minutes as a true record.

ii. Matters arising from the minutes

Pavilion Fire Door- fire door alarm needs new contacts and Contractor will fit on 4 October when they install the CCTV camera.

Domain name- HugoFox is in the process of becoming registrars.

Fete- Mrs Back 2 Front has been booked, same price as this year £350.

## 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

*The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time*

#1- *Concern was raised regarding the construction vehicles going into School Lane, they are not using the designated route. Gallaghers has confirmed that the vehicles must use the correct route. The site manager has confirmed that the signs wrongly indicate the route and he said he would remove them. The NO CONSTRUCTION LORRIES sign has been thrown in the ditch.*

#2- *On Friday at 8,30am, there was a loud noise of a construction vehicle in Church Lane, the vehicle was not travelling slowly and the vibrations could be felt indoors. The HGV paused at the junction of Church Lane and School Lane. At 8.30am the parents had started arriving and there were parked cars and children running around. The HGV went up Church Lane but would not have been able to pass under the railway bridge; it turned round in one of the side roads,*

*the reappeared and went straight past the signs and into School Lane. It is worrying, it is dangerous. This was just one incident. We are fearful of what might happen.*

Cllr Harvey said that others have raised their concern and evidence is being collected. The developer had voluntarily accepted the route for construction vehicles; Swale Borough Council cannot enforce this. The problem is that the site foreman does not see where the vehicles are coming from. Cllr Harvey said he will contact Swale Borough Council; Cllrs C & R Plamer can raise this as Ward Members; Cllr Baldock can raise the matter with KCC Highways.

SBCllr C Palmer reported that she had contacted Paul Casey, Enforcement Officer on 17 September and had also raised this with Fernham Homes. Evidence has been submitted. The Police Officer has told residents to keep diaries.

**ACTION:** Clerk to contact Swale Enforcement.

Cllr Layer said the road is extremely bumpy and residents are worried that the vibration will damage the houses, the oast houses are over one hundred and fifty years old. The road needs to be resurfaced.

Cllr Harvey said that this could be done as restitution after the works have completed. There needs to be photographic evidence to show the road had deteriorated due to the works vehicles. This will also be raised with Jennie Watson, KCC Highways Community Engagement Team Leader.

Cllr Mould said he will raise the problems at the Scholl Governors meeting, the Head will be meeting with the contractors and could request there are restricted delivery times.

Cllr Jackson thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting.

*The meeting was reconvened.*

## **6. VISITORS**

### i. Borough Councillors

SBCllr C Palmer reported that at the July the meeting of the Environment & Climate Change Committee she had been appointed to the Waste Scrutiny Panel. The bin collection contract has been problematic in all areas and the Panel will reviewing the issues. There is a public consultation which has already received two thousand responses. Nine thousand four hundred letters were sent out to residents regarding the change in collection days. Over the past month there has only been one email concerning the bins which is a dramatic reduction. Cllr Harvey said there is a problem with the bins not being returned to the properties; collections have been better lately.

SBCllr C Palmer said the review will also look at staff regarding TUPE; training; time to learn new routes and equipment. The report is due at the Committee Meeting on 20 November.

SBCllr C Palmer reported that there had been a number of complaints regarding the Fernham Homes development and traffic. A new entrance to the site has been created just past the school, it is a wide entrance with a kerb; the developers has said it is for the farm.

Cllr Mould thanked SBCllr C Palmer for her report.

### ii. County Councillor

KCCllr Baldock reported that there have been a lot of transport issues and good results are being achieved in the village. Kent County Council will be looking at its budget, there is a large deficit so there will be more cuts. The value of roads failing to be maintained is increasing.

Parishes are encouraged to take on land from authorities to save for the future.

Cllr Mould thanked KCCllr Baldock for his report.

### iii. Police

PC Jez Chittim was unable to attend and sent the following report:

#### **Community Events Attended**

I attended Newington Primary School on 17 September at school pick up time to meet and greet parents and children as well as educate parents parking on the double yellow lines and zig-zag markings on the road. This was followed up with a joint Police surgery with Sateda on 18 September.

I attended Cornerstone Café on 19 September and gave crime prevention advice to many residents and handed out some crime prevention material such as personal attack alarms and purse chains.

I popped into Newington Court Care Home on 20 September and discussed my role with residents there with many telling me their childhood memories of policing.

#### **Incidents of Note**

School parking at drop off and pick up times. Whilst most parents either walk to school with their children or park, perfectly legally, up Church Lane and then walk in, there are a few who are showing complete disregard for the Highway Code, other road users and more importantly pedestrians, namely your children. Few parents think it is perfectly fine to park on double yellow lines and drop off on the yellow zig-zags. This poses a real risk to the safety of your children. I have given words of advice so far owing to the recent construction works having altered most people's daily routine when it comes to dropping their children off to Newington Primary School. However, I was left with little choice other than to start taking enforcement action should parents continue to park on the double yellow lines or zig-zag lines. I am aware that some people park on the double yellow lines and display a disabled badge; whilst this is acceptable, may I remind all that misuse of a disabled badge is a criminal offence and could also result in the legitimate person losing said disabled badge.

Construction Traffic. I am acutely aware that some construction traffic is coming along Iwade Road and on to Church Lane, followed by School Lane and onto the construction site by the school. I am receiving regular complaints about this and I have been raising these issues with the Council. Please can I ask that if you witness this happening, please take as much detail of the vehicle as possible and the load it is carrying and report it directly to the Council by using the following email address: [planning.support@midkent.gov.uk](mailto:planning.support@midkent.gov.uk)

Drop-in Surgery- 19 October 3pm- 5pm. Holywell Primary School.

Cllr Mould thanked PC Chittim for submitting his report.

## **7. PLANNING**

### i. To receive an update

Ref: 24/502295/FULL 4 Church View Cottages, Boxted Lane, Newington ME9 7LD

Proposal: Erection of a timber framed and wood clad building with a concrete base and a tin roof for storage of forestry and agricultural equipment and animal feed.

Awaiting decision

Ref: 24/501988/FULL Tenby House, Keycol Hill, Bobbing ME9 7LG

Proposal: Conversion of outbuilding to form annexe accommodation for habitable living (ancillary use) including part demolition, erection of chimney and alterations to fenestration

Awaiting decision

Ref: 24/502206/FULL Fir View, 111 London Road, Newington ME9 7RH

Proposal: Section 73 - Application for removal of condition 6 (fence and trellis to boundary with no. 109 London Road) pursuant to 16/508699/FULL for - Change of use of land to a private gypsy and traveller caravan site consisting of 2 no. pitches each containing 1 no. mobile home and 1 no. touring caravan, car parking and associated development.

awaiting decision – paused while appeal (below) in progress

Ref: 24/500781/FULL Snakesbury Cottage, Iwade Road, Newington ME9 7JY

Proposal: Conversion of existing barn to holiday accommodation with car port and cycle store.

Application permitted.

Application: 24/500172/SUB Land To The South West School Lane Newington ME9 7JU  
Submission of details to discharge condition 3 - Construction Environmental Management Plan, Subject to 21/504028/FULL  
Application approved.

Ref: 23/505365/OUT Land To The Rear Of Eden Meadow, Newington ME9 7JH  
Proposal: Outline planning application for up to 25no. residential dwellings (all matters reserved except for access)  
Awaiting decision.

*Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate*

Fir View 109/111 London Road, Newington ME9 7RH  
Appeal against enforcement notice: The unauthorised stationing of a static caravan in breach of condition (3) of planning permission 16/508699/FULL.  
PINS reference APP/V2255/C/24/3341780  
Awaiting decision

Ref: 23/505840/FULL Digswell, Lower Hartlip Road, Hartlip ME9 7SX  
Proposal: Demolition of 2no. commercial premises (Use Class E) and erection of 4no. dwellings together with associated parking, refuse and cycle stores, and landscaping.  
PINS reference APP/V2255/W/24/3344926  
Awaiting decision.

Ref: 23/503792/FULL Moat View, Church Lane, Newington ME9 7JX  
Proposal: Erection of a detached dwelling for a disabled person with associated parking and minor landscaping works.  
Awaiting decision.

*Not in Newington*

Ref: 22/503654/EIOUT Land To The West Of Bobbing, ME9 8QL  
Proposal: Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for a mixed used development comprising up to 2,500 dwellings, a 4.99ha commercial employment zone including doctors surgery, a 4.2ha sports hub, primary school, community facilities, local retail provision, public open space, children's play areas and associated parking, servicing, utilities, footpath and cycle links, drainage, ground and other infrastructure.  
Awaiting decision

Ref: 23/505420/REM Land At Wises Lane, Borden ME10 1GD  
Proposal: Approval of Reserved Matters (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale sought) for creation of the eastern spine road (Phase 2D), pursuant to 17/505711/HYBRID.  
Amended plans and additional information received 23/02/2024  
Awaiting decision.

ii. Ref: 24/503555/FULL  
Address: Moat View, Church Lane, Newington ME9 7JX  
Proposal: Erection of a side conservatory (Retrospective)  
Councillors considered the application and raised concern regarding the impact to the Conservation Area that the proposal would have. Councillors regretted that the applicant had put up the conservatory without planning permission.  
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the proposal.

Cllr Harvey reported that he and Cllr Mould had met with the Newington Action Group to discuss development in the village.

Cllr Harvey reported that a traffic survey has been commissioned from KCC Highways at a cost of £85.00.

Cllr Mould thanked Cllr Harvey for his report.

## 8. AMENITIES

### i. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 17 September 2024 and consider the recommendations

Cllr Jackson reported that she and Cllr Harvey had met with the Football Clubs; Bredhurst is supportive of another club using the Recreation Ground. A fee and timing need to be agreed for Woodcoombe Football Club and it is suggested that they use the pitch on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The Clubs will agree between themselves the pitch lining.

A specification has been agreed for the basketball hoop and quotations are being sought. Some of the Summer sessions for the Youth Group were not well attended and they will be asked to review their provision. The contacts on the fire door will be replaced on 4 October. Cllr Mould thanked Cllr Jackson for her report.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes and confidential minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2024 as a true record. Cllr Jackson duly signed the minutes as a true record.

Cllr Harvey reported the contractor has carried out the work on the tract, the pavilion coats hooks and fire door; the bus shelters have been cleaned and painted although one has been graffitied. The new notice board will be installed shortly, there will need to be laminated signage.

### ii. To adopt revised Memorial Bench Policy

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to adopt the policy as amended.

It was agreed to allow two plaques on the new memorial bench if necessary.

## 9. SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL LAND

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to the Land Registry deed received from Swale Borough Council.

## 10. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Mould reported that the next Village Voice will be an online edition. Articles will include Speed Watch; planning; Police report; and general items.

## 11. FINANCE

### i. Cheque list:

Payee	Reason	Amount
Vibe	Youth Provision- second instalment	<b>£5,174.50</b>
Spy Alarms	Annual Monitoring fee	<b>£223.20</b>
Equans	Replacement columns	<b>£3,332.24</b>
DCK Accounting	Payroll fees – September	<b>£36.00</b>
Maylow Construction Ltd	Installation of memorial bench	<b>£588.00</b>

Swale Borough Council	Printing- Village Voice	<b>£124.00</b>
Mr A Mould	Printing	<b>£35.00</b>
Mrs W Licence	Reimbursement of Litter pickers	<b>£179.77</b>
Mr R Malone	Litter Picking Recreation Ground - September Litter Picking	<b>£543.20</b>
Mr MJ Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance - September	<b>£615.00</b>
Mr R Burrows	Track gate keeper- September	<b>£100.00</b>
Mr R Jackson	Honorarium	<b>£329.90</b>
Administration	Expenses	<b>£47.10</b>
Kent County Council	Traffic Survey	<b>£85.00</b>
KALC	Finance Conference	<b>£84.00</b>
Mrs W Licence	Reimbursement of payment for defibrillator spares	<b>£637.20</b>
Mrs W Licence	Reimbursement of payment for gazeboes	<b>£439.98</b>

Cllr Layer **PROPOSED** to make the payments; **SECONDED** by Cllr Harvey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ii. Finance report

No questions or comments received

iii. External Auditors Report

Councillors considered the reported and noted its recommendations.

iv. Any other finance matter received by 24 September 2024

The changes to banking mandate are still to be implemented. The credit card application is yet to be approved.

Bank Accounts:

NatWest:- 30.08.24 £47,613.79

Nationwide:- 31.03.24 £46,923.62

Unity Trust:- 30.08.24 £41,521.68

**Payments**

01.09.24	Salix	Loan repayment	£3,055.00
16.08.24	Ms L Bolt	Deposit refund	£50.00

**Receipts**

13.08.24	Port-a-loo	Deposit refund	£100.00
19.08.24	HMRC	VAT refund	£872.66
27.08.24	Swans Fitness Group	Community Sports Room hire	£20.00

**12. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS**

Cllr C Palmer reported that Speed Watch sessions are continuing in the village and is having a positive impact on traffic speeds.

Cllr Mould reported the next School Governors meeting is on 25 September.

*8.25pm Cllr R Palmer arrived having attended a meeting at Swale Borough Council.*

### **13. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. 27.08.24- SBC: JKC Policy Round-up
2. 28.08.24- KALC Weekly Training Bulletin
3. 28.08.24- DRAX: information about unmetered supply
4. 28.08.24- NALC: CEO bulletin
5. 28.08.24- resident email regarding memorial bench
6. 28.08.24- SBC: Western Area Committee agenda 5 September
7. 02.09.24- KALC Newsletter
8. 03.09.24- Swale Borough Council: Waste & Street Cleansing Scrutiny Review - public survey
9. 04.09.24- KCC TRO: proposed deposit documents for Amendment 5 a Waiting Restrictions Order and Amendment 12 a Speed Limit Order on Various Roads, Newington in the Borough of Swale
10. 05.09.24- NALC CEO bulletin
11. 05.09.24- KALC Weekly Bulletin
12. 05.09.25- Kent Prepared: Community Resilience
13. 06.09.24- KCC: Mapping Workshops for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy
14. 09.09.24- KCC: invitation to Kent Rail Summit
15. 10.09.24- KALC Weekly Bulletin
16. 15.09.24- SBC: JKC Policy Round-up
17. 17.09.24- National Highways - Update Temporary Road Closure - Various Roads, Swale
- 18- 19.09.24- NALC CEO Bulletin

### **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Jackson said work in the woodland needs to be considered.

It was agreed for the contractor to work for two days.

Cllr C Palmer said there have been complaints about the parking at the junction of Church Lane and the A2. This has been reported with evidence to PC Chittim who has contacted the driver. The matter has also been reported to Swale Parking Enforcement. There have also been issues by the school which are being dealt with.

Cllr Harvey said that if a major planning application is lodged, there may need to be a public meeting and asked where it should be held.

Cllr Mould said the village will be leafletted.

It was agreed to hold it at the Village Hall if available.

### **15. STREET LIGHTS**

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation from Equans to assess the light in Bull Lane.

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 consideration of the insurance claim.

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday 29 October 2024 at 7pm**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman  
Date: 29 October 2024