

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 29 October 2024
in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall

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

Also present were PC Jez Chittim and Mr Bob Jackson (Pavilion Caretaker)

1. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

No applications received yet

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Barbara Weight (personal): apologies accepted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Brown declared a pecuniary interest in item 15, as her husband is employed by a lighting contractor.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes and confidential minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2024; **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.
Cllr Mould duly signed the minutes as a true record.

ii. Matters arising from the minutes

Cllr Mould informed Members that the problem of HGVs using Church Lane has been reported to Swale Borough Council enforcement. It is also raised in the Police report.
SBCllr C Palmer said she has also reported it to Swale Borough Council Enforcement as she was receiving a lot of emails about the problem.

Cllr Mould reported that the credit card application is ongoing.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No matters were raised.

6. VISITORS

i. Police

PC Chittim said he has a link for residents to report complaints about the deliveries to the Fernham Home site next to the school and requested this also be notified to him so that he can report it. PC Chittim also submitted the following report:

Incident of Note

- Ongoing issues being reported about Fernham Homes construction traffic. Please can any complaints be made directly to planningsupport@midkent.gov.uk I have managed to get planning to request that all construction traffic is during school hours and so hopefully does not clash with the school drop offs or pickups. The primary reason for this is the safety of parents and children, however it hopefully eases congestion a little.
- Further nuisance vehicle reports of quad bikes and dirt bikes but unfortunately still no names being reported. Please can I remind people that they can anonymously report to me via My Community Voice or Crimestoppers

and if I get names of those with off road bikes and quad bikes, I will pay them a visit.

- Owing to numerous residents reporting a vehicle carrier parked badly on Playstool Road and providing me photographic evidence of this, I was able to locate the owner and get the vehicle moved. Whilst I can't be there all the time, if people report these issues to me, I can often retrospectively take positive action. Thank you to those who reported these issues.

Halloween

- Firstly, I hope all those who enjoy this time of year and have young families who may like dressing up in scary costumes, have a safe and enjoyable Halloween. Those parents and carers who may have slightly older children who go out trick or treating with their friends either locally or further afield; please may I request that they are reminded to be respectful of their environment and behave appropriately even when others around them may not be. We receive the greatest number of calls of anti-social behaviour on this night each year and the perpetrators of this are often children not known to the police previously who get carried away in the moment. Most parents of these children are shocked when we return them home. There will be an increased police presence and those committing anti-social behaviour or worse will at a minimum be returned home by the police.

Cllr Mould thanked PC Chittim for attending and for his report.

Borough Councillors

SBCllr R Palmer reported that there have been issues with the recycling bins not being emptied due to people put used nappies in the bin.

SBCllr C Palmer informed Councillors that the Borough Council was still working hard with waste scrutiny; there had been the biggest public response to a consultation with nearly two thousand responses. The comments are being collated and the Committee will look into what went wrong and why it went so badly wrong. The next Scrutiny Committee meeting will be with Suez.

Cllr Harvey asked if damage to bins was being monitored.

SBCllr C Palmer said that this is. The lorries are well equipped with cameras and there is a lot of evidence which is being reviewed.

Cllr Harvey said there is especially a problem with the brown bins.

SBCllr R Palmer said he has raised issues and currently residents have not been charged. Residents should not have to prove who caused the damage.

Cllr Mould thanked SBCllr C Palmer and SBCllr R Palmer for their reports.

7. PLANNING

Ref: 24/503889/SUB Gwelo Farm Barn, Bull Lane, Newington ME9 7NB

Submission of details pursuant to conditions 9 (construction method statement), 11 (method of disposal of foul and surface waters), 12 (hard and soft landscape), 15 (external finishing materials), 17 (scheme of ecological enhancements) and 18 (external lighting) subject to application 21/504487/FULL.

Application noted.

Ref: 24/503555/FULL Moat View, Church Lane, Newington ME9 7JX

Proposal: Erection of a side conservatory (Retrospective).

Application permitted.

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.

Application permitted.

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.

PINS reference: APP/V2255/W/24/3337218

Awaiting decision.

Cllr Harvey said the Parish Council had commissioned a traffic survey, the results show that drivers do not speed in Church Lane. If an application is lodged for land off Denham Road an expert report will be commissioned.

Cllr R Palmer said a planning application has been lodged for ninety houses and a drive-through at Bobbing.

Cllr Mould thanked Cllr Harvey for his report.

8. AMENITIES

i. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 22 October 2024 and consider the recommendations

Cllr Jackson said gas canisters had been found in Playstool Road and this has been reported. The notice board has been installed at the Recreation Ground. Concern has been raised with the Youth Club about their usage of the Pavilion and not treating the building with care, this is being addressed. The CCTV camera has been installed. It has been agreed to install a baby changing unit. There is concern about inconsiderate parking in Pear Tree Walke and Orchard Drive and access for emergency vehicles. The gazebos have been delivered.

Cllr Jackson asked for an update on the locksmith.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted him but he had not responded.

Mr Jackson said the recent party went well. It was pitch black, could the lights be adjusted?

Cllr Harvey said the electrician would be able to help with this.

ACTION: Mr Jackson to contact the electrician.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2024 as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Mould: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.
Cllr Jackson duly signed the minutes as a true record.

Cllr Mould thanked Cllr Jackson for her report.

ii. To consider quotations for basketball hoop

The Clerk reported that she had sent out the new specification and was waiting to receive new quotations.

iii. To adopt Recreation Ground Regulations

Deferred to Amenities Committee.

iv. To agree Membership of Working Group to review Youth Provision

Cllr Harvey reported the Clerk had emailed Mr Krafft a request to evaluate the current youth provision. What will be the remit of the Working Group and what will be the authority? Cllr Mould it could be delegated from Amenities Committee, it would not be ongoing. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Mould, Cllr Harvey and Cllr Jackson be on the Working Group.

v. To review path by ashes plots

Cllr Mould said something practical needs to be considered rather than just weed kill, to give a more permanent surface.

Cllr Harvey said there needs to be a Working Party meeting to bring back a proposal to Council.

9. SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL LAND

There was no update.

10. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Mould said the next edition will be online and will include inconsiderate parking and Speed Watch information.

11. FINANCE

i. Cheque list: to consider invoices for payment

Payee	Reason	Amount
Miss L Bolt	Pop-up Play Village – deposit for Fete 2025 activity	£30.00
KALC	Councillor Training: Mastering Planning responses	£60.00
Greenbarnes Ltd	Notice board	£1,074.20
Mrs W Licence	Reimbursement of poppy wreath	£100.00
Weightmans LLP	VAT	£717.50
Kent County Playing Fields Association	Subscription	£20.00
Doddington Parish Council	Clerks Conference (share)	£14.00
Equans	Replacement lantern	£498.13
DCK Accounting	Payroll fees – Oct	£36.00

Maylow Construction Ltd	Various works	£2614.80
Mrs W Licence	Reimbursement of baby changing unit	£274.80
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	Grounds maintenance	£934.97
Mr R Malone	Litter Picking Recreation Ground - Oct Litter Picking	
	Total	£543.20
Mr MJ Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance - Oct	£615.00
Mr R Burrows	Track gate keeper- Oct	£125.00
Administration	Expenses	£53.85
Business Stream	Cemetery water	£19.83
S Burrows	Pavilion deposit refund	£50.00

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

ii. Finance report

No comments or questions have been received.

Cllr Mould said there will be a Finance Working Group meeting on 13 December.

iii. To consider request for grant from Sittingbourne Christmas Lights

Councillors considered request for grant from Sittingbourne Christmas Lights and noted that the Council does not give grants, except for Citizens Advice, from the public purse.

iv. Any other finance matter received by 29 October 2024

Bank accounts:

NatWest:- 30.09.24 £47,671.81

Nationwide:- 31.03.24 £46,923.62

Unity Trust:- 30.09.24 £58,451.99

Payments

18.09.24	DRAX	Pavilion and street lighting	£741.91
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Receipts

09.09.24	Doddington Parish Council	SLCC fees/ training fees (share)	£87.60
09.09.24	Detling Parish Council	SLCC subs/ training fees (share)	£87.60
11.09.24	Eastling Parish Council	Finance Conference (share)	£14.00
11.09.24	Eastling Parish Council	SLCC subs (share)	£59.60
11.09.24	Eastling Parish Council	Standards Conference (share)	£14.00
26.09.24	Swans Fitness Group	Community Sports Room hire	£20.00
30.09.24	Swale Borough Council	Precept and lighting grant	£30,610.00

12. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Mould reported that there will be a Finance Meeting at the school next week. The poppy wreath has been delivered and he will represent the Council on Remembrance Sunday. The next Swale Area Committee meeting is on 28 November.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 25.09.24- PCC annual policing survey

2. 25.09.24- NALC CEO bulletin
3. 25.09.24- PC Chittim: Policing changes
4. 26.09.24- Kingsferry Bridge closures - update from Network Rail
5. 26.09.24- KALC Weekly Bulletin Week
6. 30.09.24- Swale Borough Council: JKC Policy update
7. 30.09.24- KCC Highways: Road Safety and Active Travel Group's newsletter
8. 01.10.24- Swale Borough Council: Empowering You in Swale - Consultation
9. 02.10.24- Swale Borough Council: Call for Sites
10. 03.10.24- NALC CEO bulletin
11. 04.10.24- KALC newsletter
12. 07.10.24- SBC: JKC Policy round-up
13. 15.10.24- KALC: Invitation to Parish Seminar at Sessions House on 20th November- the Council can send to representatives, please let me know if you would like to attend and I will book you in.
14. 17.10.24- Kent County Council: Public Consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39
15. 17.10.24- NALC CEO bulletin
- C16. 18.10.24- Swale Borough Council: Review of Polling Districts and Places
- C17. 21.10.24- Swale Borough Council: JKC Policy Round-Up 18 Oct 2024
- C18. 22.10.24- KALC bulletin
- C19. 24.10.24- NALC CEO bulletin

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Mould said that the Parish Council should thank the volunteers at the December meeting, especially those who deliver the Village Voice and those invited to the Annual Meeting. It was agreed the Parish Council meeting will start at 6.30pm and the "thank you" event will be at 8pm.

Cllr Harvey asked that two or three months' notice be given for subscriptions and this will give the opportunity to ask questions of that body.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr C Palmer said 2025 is the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, should the Council give commemorative mugs to the school?

Cllr Harvey said it needs to be ascertained if Newington History Group has anything planned. Children do not drink tea or coffee.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotations for water bottles.

15. STREET LIGHTS

There was nothing to report.

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 a Cemetery issue

It was agreed that the decision of the Amenities Committee regarding the memorial bench stands.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 26 November 2024 at 7pm

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 26 November 2024