

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion on 18 March 2025

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chairman), Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Mike Barlow, Cllr Ruth Brown, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Tony Mould and Cllr Barbara Weight; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)
Also present was Mr Bob Jackson, Pavilion Caretaker

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from PC Jez Chittim: apology noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR LOBBYING

Cllr Brown declared a pecuniary interest in item 16, as her husband is employed by a lighting contractor.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 FEBRUARY 2025

Active Kent & Medway Small Grant

Cllr Jackson reported that the Council is waiting to see if we can use the money for another project.

Grant application for youth provision

Cllr Jackson said the Queenborough Fisheries Trust met last week, and the Council is awaiting the decision.

Bins at Callaways Lane/Bull Lane and on corner of Bull Lane/Dennis Wilcocks Close

Cllr Jackson said a request for replacements has been made; Swale Borough Council is in the process of replacing old bins with new ones in Borough. These bins have been added to the list

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No matters were raised.

5. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Cllr Jackson informed members that PC Chittim has reported that there have been no anti-social behaviour reported over the past month in Newington and nothing else really of note.

6. RECREATION GROUND AND GREEN SPACES

Cllr Layer reported the shackles for the swing has been ordered.

Cllr Harvey said that as well as bug hotels, twigs are being piled near the paths in the Community Woodland, there is concern that these piles may be set alight. A resident has suggested that native bulbs could be planted in the woodland. The Secretary of the Allotments Association has offered to have a stall at the Fete to seek sponsorship of the bulbs.

ACTION 1: Clerk to obtain quotations for native daffodils and bluebells.

ACTION 2: Item for next paper edition of the Village Voice

Cllr Harvey said the tree surgeon had suggested working with the school children to put wood chippings on woodland footpaths.

ACTION: Cllr Weight to liaise with the school

7. PAVILION

i. To receive an update

Mr Jackson reported that all the facilities checks are fine.

ii. To consider purchasing a ladder

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** a budget of £150 to purchase a ladder; **SECONDED** by Cllr Brwon: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ACTION: Cllr Barlow to research ladder required.

8. YOUTH CLUB

Cllr Jackson said that Vibe are chasing a response regarding youth provision 2025-26. They urgently need to know because they are planning their staff needs for the new financial year.

Cllr Harvey asked if the Council's expectations had been conveyed to Vibe.

The Clerk said she was waiting for the outcome of the grant application before responding.

Cllr Harvey said the school breaks up on 4 April, the Council could request an extra session.

9. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Layer said a claim for the padlock has been submitted to the Police.

Cllr Harvey asked if there was a response from the Police regarding the Council's lock.

The Clerk said the invoice had been paid by the Police.

ACTION: Clerk to check email from the Police.

10. HIGHWAYS

Mr Jackson said some 20mph repeater signs had been erected.

Cllr Harvey said there will be a *KEEP CLEAR* box installed by Church Lane.

11. FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Cllr Harvey said he had been informed that a tree has fallen down on ZR61.

12. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Mould said the Village Voice has been printed and is ready for collection. Flyers seeking help with the fete will be added. The next paper edition will be in June.

Cllr Harvey said Dandara has booked the Pavilion for their own exhibition. Fernham Homes want to attend the next Parish Council meeting, they will only be permitted to speak for three minutes; a Planning Committee meeting has been suggested, the Clerk would book the Newington Room for this- no response has been received yet. Can a note be put on the back of the flyer for residents to check the website?

13. CEMETERY AND CHURCHYARD

Cllr Layer reported that the ashes area will be revamped tomorrow and that he will meet the contractor.

14. NOTICE BOARD AND VILLAGE SIGN

Councillors considered quotation for installation and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation of £590 from Maylow Construction Ltd to install both subject to the cost of a post and metal boot for the sign.

ACTION: Clerk to check if planning permission is required for the notice board.

15. EVENTS

i. Summer Fete 2025- to receive an update

Cllr Jackson thanked the Clerk for the updates she had given the Chairman.

Cllr Jackson reported that The Wickham Trust has been approached for a grant towards the purchase of feather banners, the next Trustees meeting is on 15 May. The Fete Working Group met on 13 March.

Cllr Mould said the RBL Bikers are unable to attend this year. The Church and WI need to be contacted to ascertain if they will be attending.

Cllr Jackson said that she and Cllr Mould have agreed to have three singers performing 1940s music which is in keeping with the theme of the day. The cost is £300.

Cllr Mould informed Members that he has contacted AAA Sound Systems regarding a PA system for the Fete. The next Working Group meeting will be on 11 April at 11am.

Cllr Jackson said this could be included in the Risk Assessment.

ii. Spring Litter Pick

Cllr Jackson said the litter pickers will be delivered to Cllr Brown. The church has agreed to provide breakfasts and have asked for their missing litter pickers from last year to be returned.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Cllr R Palmer.

Cllr Jackson said Swale has asked for photos of the event, permission needs to be obtained, and also the number of sacks collected and any quotes.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the Council's litter pickers and also invite the Scouts to help.

Christmas lights

Cllr Jackson queried the cost of the cone light which Bobbing Parish Council paid £5000 in 2022.

ACTION: Clerk to further research

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Highways Steward regarding the power supply; she has not responded

16. STREETLIGHTS

Cllr Brown left the meeting and did not take part in the discussion

Cllr Jackson reported that the officer is going out to look at the overhanging trees in Bull Lane.

Cllr Barlow said a light is out in Bull Lane.

ACTION: Cllr Barlow to give details to Clerk.

Cllr Brown returned to the meeting.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Jackson said a visit to the CCTV Control Centre is being arranged, if the Council is interested, consideration needs to be given to where the cameras could be sited.

Cllr Harvey said there have been no reports of anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Harvey said transfer of the track land needs to be chased.

ACTION: Clerk.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 22 April 2025

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 25 March 2025