

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 23 September 2025 in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chairman); Cllr Eric Layer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Michael Barlow, Cllr Ruth Brown and Cllr Stephen Harvey;
and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present was Mr R Jackson, Pavilion Caretaker

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Tony Mould (holiday) and Cllr Barbara Weight (unwell):
apologies accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR LOBBYING

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

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 22 JULY 2025

Wood chippings at the community woodland

Cllr Jackson said the school had been unable to fit this in last term.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Cllr Weight to liaise with the school.

Saplings-

Cllr Jackson reported that the contractor had been chased on numerous occasions regarding
the saplings and currently has the saplings in his driveway. He has been asked him again for
an indication as to when they will be planted.

Recreation Ground Track

Cllr Layer informed members that the vegetation has become overgrown.

ACTION: Clerk to request this be cut back as before.

Cllr Jackson informed Members that someone is interested in helping to make the station
better.

ACTION: Cllr Jackson and Cllr Layer to meet the volunteer.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.

Concern was raised about dog mess on the Recreation Ground and a car has been
abandoned at the top of Orchard Drive.

ACTION: Cllr Jackson to report.

The meeting was reconvened.

5. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Cllr Jackson reported that Jacob Boosey is the new beat officer for Newington and will attend
Cornerstone Café on 16 October.

Cllr Harvey informed Members that a car in Orchard drive had been covered in paint. Neighbourhood Watch needs to be informed.

Mr Jackson said there have been issues with nuisance motorbikes going up and down Playstool Road.

Cllr Jackson said details need to be given to the Police.

6. RECREATION GROUND AND GREEN SPACES

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson reported that there had been no response from the Football Club to the request for a meeting date or payment of fees.

ii. To consider tree survey

Cllr Jackson said the contractor carries out health and safety checks on the trees when he works in the woodland.

iii. Recreation Ground oak tree

Cllr Jackson said the oak tree and one at the Cemetery need to be surveyed.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotations.

iv. Community Woodland: spring bulbs and tree maintenance

Cllr Jackson reported that the contractor hopes to carry out the tree maintenance in October. The response to the bluebells bulbs has been very good.

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to order a further two hundred and fifty bulbs: **SECONDED** by Cllr Layer: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Harvey asked for an update on the barrier.

The Clerk reported that she had requested it be re-installed by 1 August.

Cllr Harvey asked when the Forestry Commission Licence expired.

The Clerk said 6 October 2026.

v. To consider quotations for litter picking Recreation Ground and streets

Councillors considered the quotations.

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to Full Council accepting the quotation of the Real Living Wage, £12.60 per hour; **SECONDED** by Cllr Harvey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

7. PAVILION

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson informed Members that quotations were being sought to test the Pavilion electrics.

ii. To consider installing solar panels

The Clerk reported that she was still waiting for result of grant funding applications. The KCC Capital Grant for Sport funding panel has reviewed the application and are in support of the project. However, their recommendations now must be passed to the KCC Councillor who manages the sporting capital budget for his approval. This may take a few weeks.

SBC Community Infrastructure Grant scheme has been provisionally allocated £10,000.00 towards the project and needs another quotation.

8. YOUTH CLUB

Cllr Jackson said the Vibe reports have been circulated.

Cllr Harvey said he was concerned that Vibe had not been able to get into the school

ACTION: Cllr Weight to liaise with the school.

One of the summer sessions was cancelled, Councillors agreed to accept the offer of another session in the October half term.

9. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Layer reported that the Allotments Association had met and have agreed to increase the key deposit as keys are not being returned. Artificial grass has been banned from the allotments because it is carcinogenic.

10. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update

Cllr Harvey reported that the Highways Improvement Plan Working Group has met and has considered issues in Church Lane.

ii. To consider highways gates

Cllr Jackson reported that the KCC Highways pack had been circulated.

Cllr Harvey said that gates only work where there is a clear verge on each side of the road, there is no appropriate site in the village. KCC Highways is buying cameras to detect traffic violation.

11. FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Cllr Harvey reported that the signage for PROW ZR61 has not been replaced. The bridleway in Cranbrook Lane is not too overgrown.

Cllr Layer said the footpath near the railway crossing is closed.

13. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA

Cllr Brown requested articles for the next edition of the Village Voice which will be an online version. When it has been completed, it will be circulated for comment.

14. CEMETERY AND CHURCHYARD

i. To receive an update

Cllr layer said the Cemetery and Churchyard are looking good.

ii. To consider quotations for maintenance

Councillors considered the quotations for Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance.

Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED** to recommend to Full Council accepting the quotation of £8138.64 (year 1), to be extended if satisfactory to £8382.80 (year 2) and £8550.46 (year 3): **4- FOR, 1 ABSTENTION: MOTION CARRIED.**

15. STREET LIGHTS

Cllr Brown left the room and did not take part in the discussion.

The Clerk reported that there were issues with the invoices and this has been challenged.

Cllr Harvey said a query raised regarding the flags and column safety, the insurers has been contacted and confirmed the lights are covered.

Cllr Barlow asked for an update on the Bull Lane light.

The Clerk reported that work on the Bull Lane light should have been completed by 19 September.

ACTION: *Cllr Barlow to check.*

Cllr Brown returned to the meeting

16. EVENTS

i. Summer Fete 2025

Cllr Jackson informed Members that no volunteers have come forward yet.

ii. Christmas lights

Cllr Jackson said the lights will be tested.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Harvey said that there were three bins at the Cemetery which could be useful for the Recreation Ground.

The Clerk said that they had been reported to Swale Borough Council at the beginning of the year and were going to be collected.

Cllr Jackson informed Members that she had received a letter of thanks from Newington History Group for refurbishing the memorial plaque at the bus stop.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.43pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 30 September 2025