

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion on 21 January 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 Cllr Chris Palmer and Cllr Richard Palmer (at another meeting); apologies accepted.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR LOBBYING

Cllr Brown declared a pecuniary interest in item 17, as her husband is employed by a lighting contractor.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 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 as a true record. Cllr Jackson duly signed the minutes as a true record.

ii. Matters arising from the minutes (except those issues appearing under specific headings)

Cllr Harvey asked if the alarms had been installed.

Mr Jackson confirmed they were.

Cllr Jackson asked Cllr Harvey for an update on the pavilion cleaner.

Cllr Harvey reported that he had discussed a possible date with the cleaner before Christmas.

### 4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No member of the public was present.

### 5. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There was no report. It was noted that PC Chittim was on leave.

### 6. RECREATION GROUND AND GREEN SPACES

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson asked for an update on the woodland tree work.

The Clerk reported that the work will be carried out this week.

ii. Recreation Ground gate and emergency contact number

Cllr Jackson said there had been an issue when the Police needed access to the car park.

Cllr Layer said that no one at the allotments want their phone numbers made public.

Cllr Harvey said it might be worth giving the track gate keeper everyone's contact details.

Cllr Harvey said the overhead bar padlock had to be replaced.

iii. To consider quotations for basketball practice hoop

Cllr Jackson informed Members that quotations were still being received.

iv. To consider quotations for replacement basket swing

Cllr Jackson said Maylow Construction Ltd advised that the current basket is sufficient and would be asked to replace the chains.

v. To agree Recreation Ground Regulations

Cllr Jackson said she had written notes on the draft regulations.

*ACTION: Clerk to type regulations.*

*Item for next month.*

## **7. PAVILION**

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jackson reported that there had been a leak in the Pavilion and an emergency plumber had been contacted. The lagging was checked and in good order, the leak had come through the ceiling but the ceiling had not been marked. The contractor will submit an invoice.

ii. Pavilion extension

The Clerk reported that a provisional estimate had been obtained; £75,000 to take the Parish Room out to the edge of the veranda and £170,000 to extend a further 10m.

It was agreed not to pursue the project at this time.

## **8. YOUTH CLUB**

Cllr Jackson said a youth club report had been received, there needs to be a meeting to discuss this and the costing for another year. The Working Group meeting will be on 3 February.

Mr Jackson asked if there was any update on the football clubs.

Cllr Jackson said the second club had decided not to use the recreation ground. The pitch has not been relined, Bredhurst Junior Football Club had said they would do this weekly.

The Clerk reported that the fees for this season and the fees for the extra sessions last summer have not been paid.

*ACTION: Clerk to chase by phone if possible.*

## **9. ALLOTMENTS**

Cllr Layer reported that there will be another delivery of manure. The plots are full and there is no one on the waiting list. An article will be submitted for the Village Voice.

## **10. HIGHWAYS**

Cllr Harvey reported that there had been a Highways Improvement Plan meeting with Jennie Watson, KCC Highways. Ms Watson is chasing the keep clear markings at the top of Church Lane and also the repeater signs.

Cllr Mould said there was also a discussion about making a 30mph limit throughout the zones.

Cllr Harvey said that this would enable a 20mph zone to be extended further. There needs to be a meeting with Aprille Hall, KCC Highways Steward.

Cllr Jackson reported that Cllr R Palmer had advised that the defibrillator cabinet in the High Street needs to be replaced.

Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** to purchase the AED Protect Outdoor Defibrillator Cabinet Locked from DefibWarehouse for £430: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*ACTION: Clerk to contact the surgery to request a contribution towards the cabinet.*

Cllr Jackson said the lettering on the plaque has been re-cut but the words are difficult to read. The Clerk is seeking a quote to have the letters painted.

Cllr Jackson said there is a budget for the planters in the village. A neighbouring parish had paid approx. £700-800 for a cascade planter plus the cost of the plants. In 2018 the cost of replanting was £150 plus delivery with watering and maintenance an extra £30 per visit. Maintenance cost needs to be considered. The Allotments Association could be approached for help and, if necessary, residents could be asked to help.

*ACTION: Cllr Layer to discuss with the Allotments Association.*

## **11. FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS**

Cllr Mould reported that some of the footpaths are in a terrible state, Kent County Council is not spending any money on them.

## **12. VILLAGE VOICE AND MEDIA**

Cllr Mould reported that the next edition will be an online version. The front page will have an article about Newington School's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and there will be Speedwatch data as well as church events and the Police report.

Mr Jackson asked for a reminder to Recreation Ground users clean up after dogs to be included.

## **13. CEMETERY AND CHURCHYARD**

### i. To receive an update

Cllr Layer reported that the Cemetery and the church yard are being cut. Wheelie bins are being left at the Cemetery.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact Swale Borough Council.*

Cllr Layer informed Members that there had been a water leak at the Cemetery, the water has been turned off and the problem will be looked into.

Cllr Harvey asked for an update on the revamping of the ashes area.

Cllr Mould said the stones need to be cleared, a liner installed under the new surface and a sun dial anchored in place.

*ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotations.*

### ii. To review administration fees

Cllr Layer said there are costs to the Parish Council regarding the interment of ashes when a Funeral Director is not involved and also for the memorial benches.

*ACTION: Clerk to seek advice from the ICCM.*

## **14. REVIEW OF POLICIES**

### Facilities Management Risk Statement

Cllr Jackson said the checklist has been updated to include the defibrillators.

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

## **15. EVENTS**

### i. D-Day Commemorations- to consider quotations for water bottles.

Cllr Mould reported that the Newington History Group will be taking part in the national beacon lighting. Concern has been raised about futureproofing access to the beacon which is on private land.

Cllr Harvey said the beacon will have been there for twelve years next year so a right of access has been established.

Cllr Harvey said he had spoken to mums who said they do not use plastic water bottles; the head teacher could be asked for other suggestions as most children have a water bottle.

### ii. Summer Fete 2025

Cllr Jackson reported that there has been a Fete Working Group meeting and plans are going well; and asked for an update regarding the Scouts.

The Clerk said she had not approached them for help yet as she had been told there might not be a barbeque.

*Clerk to action*

Cllr Jackson asked if anyone had any contacts regarding D-Day.

## **16. VILLAGE SIGN**

The Clerk reported that Signs of the Times, the manufacturer, has estimated £365 to repair the sign and £125 to collect it. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation.

Cllr Harvey said care must be taken regarding the installation as soil from Ypres has been buried there.

## **17. STREET LIGHTS**

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

### i. To receive an update

The Clerk reported that the UKPN form has been completed but the contractor still has not received a sheet with Newington Parish Council on their approved asset owners list. UKPN has been chased repeatedly and the document is with a director for signing.

### ii. To consider quotations for extra light in Bull Lane.

Cllr Mould said he will take a photo of the site and will liaise with residents.

Cllr Jackson requested that KCC Highways be asked for permission to attach the Christmas tree lights to the street light.

*ACTION: Clerk*

*Cllr Brown returned to the meeting.*

## **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Weight said the tree near The Bull, next to the phone box needs trimming.

Cllr Layer said the notice board in the High Street is in a state of disrepair, the back board has fallen off.

Cllr Harvey said the contractor has just refurbished it. A new notice board could go by the bus stop.

*ACTION: Clerk to seek quotations and to contact Mings regarding the removal of the cabinet.*

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 18 February 2025**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 18 February 2025