

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held in the Parish Room, Newington Pavilion on 23 April 2024

Present: Cllr Elaine Jackson (Chairman), Cllr Ruth Brown, Cllr Stephen Harvey, Cllr Eric Layer, Cllr Tony Mould and Cllr Chris Palmer (minutes).

### 1. Apologies for Absence

None received.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

### 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2024

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

Minutes from the meeting on 19 March 2024 proposed and agreed a being correct.

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

No further updates on the ongoing insurance claim.

Correspondence about the flooding in Boxted Lane has been replied to.

### 4. Public Question Time

No matters raised.

### 5. Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti- social behaviour, nothing new to report, all seems relatively quiet at present. PC Jez Chittom is still concerned about the nuisance quad bikes and motorcycles around the village. Cllr C Palmer reported motorcycles, quad bikes and a white transit van along Iwade Road, motorcycles being ridden in an adjoining field. Cllr Harvey noted that there were motorcycles up and down the A2 at 01.00 the other night.

Cllr Harvey requested that the “No cold calling”, be revisited and highlighted again.

### 6. Recreation Ground and green spaces

The garage at the rec is looking good, Cllr Harvey requested that Mr Godmon is thanked.

The contractor has been asked to repair the damaged fence at the recreation Ground.

Cllr Layer has measured up the basket swing in the play area, in preparation of replacing the worn shackles.

It has been noted that there are holes in the tarmac around the Sputnik.

The Parish Council has been asked if they can put in a shooting bay on the hard standing between the teen shelter and the court, to include a basketball hoop. Cllr Layer has already measured the space and there is room. It was generally considered to be a good idea, that would make good use of dead space. Cllr Harvey asked that advice is obtained on what may be beneath the hard standing, as other areas in Orchard drive had suffered with sink holes.

It has been noted of late that the Football Club is requesting the pitch for matches with very short notice. It was suggested that they be reminded that more notice is required to ensure that the facilities that they need are made available.

There has been a request to hire the pavilion from a lady that wants to set up an adult singing group, she will be providing drinks and food and asking for a donation. There was some

discussion as to whether it would be a business. Cllr Harvey had a concern that for a singing group the acoustics in the pavilion were not very good. It was decided to initially charge the resident rate of £5.00 per hour and to review it.

There has been an enquiry about hiring the pavilion for a 70th birthday gathering for a Sunday afternoon, and would Councillors consider allowing them to have alcohol. There were mixed feelings as it is the policy of the Parish Council not to allow alcohol. It was suggested that the terms and conditions are circulated to give everyone a better understanding of the letting policy. It was agreed that permission would be given, but all alcohol must be consumed within the pavilion building. If there are any complaints about noise or people drinking outside, then it will not be allowed in the future.

A third request has come in from an organisation that runs a pop-up village scheme. This is where groups of children attend with their parents and activity workers to explore and enjoy outside activities. They would need access to the pavilion, part of the recreation green area and the woodland. They are very focused on the environment, nature and creativity. They would like to run the groups during the school holidays. All were in favour and thought it an exciting venture for children. Cllr Harvey would like more information about qualifications, experience, how much space would be needed, and the impact it may have on the work that Mr. Springate has done. He would not like to upset the volunteers that are already involved with the woods. Cllr Harvey requested that it is discussed further at Full Council.

## **7. Pavilion**

Extension of the pavilion, no updates.

The notice board for the pavilion will be an external one, to accommodate 3x4 panels and will be unglazed.

## **8. Allotments**

The Allotments Association has their AGM this evening. The association has received a letter/email from HMRC regarding their accounts and money laundering. The Clerk has contacted KALC for advice, but they were unable to give any. Cllr Harvey suggested The Clerk contact NALC to see if they could advise. The discussion led to the decision to improve our record keeping of documents like contractual agreements, deeds and leases.

## **9. Highways**

It was noted that two cameras had been put up on a lamppost belonging to the Parish Council, in Church Lane, near Denham Close. There were concerns about who had put it there, as no one had asked permission or had it stress tested. Cllr Harvey suggested that it was possibly Fernham Homes as they have acquired more land at the end of Denham Close and are considering further development. The cameras were up for about two weeks and have now been removed.

There is traffic monitoring equipment across the A2 outside of the Bull Public House.

It has been suggested that, through Swale Borough Council, the Parish Council can ask for a Code 2 parking contravention, that will prevent people parking dangerously at the top of Station Road. Cllr R Palmer is going to take it up with the parking team at Swale. There was a general discussion about the lack of parking within the village.

## **10. Lights**

No update

## **11. Footpaths and Bridleways**

It was noted that a Boots on the Ground walking group is arranging walks around the village in the evening at £5.00 per person.

## **12. Village Voice and media**

The next issue will be digital.

Cllr Mould is going to put a bin collection day reminder in the Village Voice.

Cllr Jackson asked Cllr C Palmer to remind Cllr R Palmer about collecting the equipment for the Spring Litter Pick.

## **13. Cemetery and Churchyard**

There are some trees and hedging in the Cemetery and Churchyard that need cutting back.

The application for the moving of the ashes from a grave in the Cemetery needs to go through the Church Faculty.

Cllr Harvey asked what was happening about the planting of the saplings, but nobody had heard from Mr. Marshall.

There is an oak tree growing on one of the graves which needs moving, Cllr Harvey suggested putting a working party together to deal with it.

The time has come to review the cemetery fees and the Council needs to make a decision as to what increase to put on if any. Cllr Harvey pointed out that this is now overdue and wanted to know why. It was decided to ask the Clerk to do a comparison check with other local cemeteries.

## **14. Village Fete**

There are no updates for the village fete, but a meeting was set for 3rd May at 14.00 at the pavilion to discuss the fete.

*Items for Clerk to action:*

*Contact the provider of the tarmac as it's still under guarantee for repair of the hole.*

*See if there are any grants available for sports equipment or facilities around the shooting hoop.*

*Source quotes for the pavilion notice board.*

*Contact Mr. Marshall about planting the saplings.*

*Write to the football club with a reminder about the notice required for using the recreation field.*

## **15. Any Other Business**

No matters were raised

**Date of Next Meeting: 21 May 2024**

20.10 meeting closed.

Signed a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 30 April 2024