

Minutes of the Meeting of Newington Parish Council held on Tuesday 28 April 2015 at 7.20pm in the Newington Room, Newington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Tony Mould(Chair); Cllr Dean Coles; Cllr Debbie Haigh; Cllr Mel Harris; Cllr Stephen Harvey; Cllr Elaine Jackson; Cllr Eric Layer; Cllr Terry Martin-Young (Vice Chair); Cllr Richard Palmer; and Mrs C Fordham (Clerk)with Mrs Wendy Licence (minutes)  
Borough Councillors Gerry Lewin and John Wright: Community Warden Georgina Springall and PCSO Cork.

*Action*

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Paul Greene. Apology accepted.

Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Mike Baldock. Apology noted.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2015 were considered. It was proposed Cllr Harvey and seconded by Cllr Coles to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting: agreed unanimously. The Minutes were duly signed by Cllr Mould.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Public Questions**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**5. Visitors**

**a) Report from the Community Warden**

- I. Fly Tipping, rubbish and hoover, fly tipped in Wickham Close – Removed by S.B.C.
- II. Chain link fencing that surrounds Pavilion on recreation ground vandalised – Police aware.
- III. Childs watch found on recreation ground – Poster put up in Post Office.
- IV. Fly tipping, internal door frame and cardboard, in Wickham Close – Reported to S.B.C.
- V. Dog fouling again, on narrow pavement in Church Lane.
- VI. Organising a ‘meet and great’ coffee morning for new residents who feel a bit isolated.
- VII. Youths lighting fires in picnic area down the recreation ground – Police aware.
- VIII. Excessive dog fouling on corner of Denham Road.
- IX. Youths hit football against house window in Church Lane – One off occurrence, so monitoring situation.
- X. Broken windows on Mumbai Café – Attempting to contact owner as restaurant now vacant.
- XI. Man trespassing in rear gardens on High Street, breaking into sheds and greenhouses – Police aware. Warden warned residents in this area to check all outbuildings are secure etc.
- XII. Excessive litter on footpath where Monkey Island track meets track to Wormdale Farm, suspects youths congregating there again – Police aware.
- XIII. Parking issues in Station Road, commuter left vehicle parked which caused obstruction to road users – Resident who lives opposite moved his car and left note on commuters car.
- XIV. Bicycle stolen from premises in Wickham Close – Police aware.
- XV. Suspect more graffiti on back of teenage shelter.

- XVI. Excessive litter, signs of smoking cannabis and bonfires in picnic area – Police aware.
- XVII. Welfare visit to vulnerable family.
- XVIII. Theft of wedding ring from residence in Bull Lane.
- XIX. Remains of fire and numerous bottles littering area in Cranbrook Wood, Monkey Island – Police aware.
- XX. Youth riding off road motorcycle in wild area, track to recreation ground and estate area – Police aware.
- XXI. Mitsubishi Pick Up truck dumped in orchard area – Police removed.
- XXII. Fly tipping again next to communal bin in Wickham Close – Reported to SBC.
- XXIII. Rowdy youths at railway station during the evening – BTP attended.
- XXIV. Concerns from residents regarding vehicle abandoned in private car park, Wickham Close – Warden arranging removal through landlords
- XXV. Fly Tipping in Bull Lane – Reported to S.B.C.
- XXVI. Quantity of large cardboard packaging dumped outside play area, Bull Lane – returned to resident whose address was on it!!
- XXVII. Childs scooter that was left for 10 minutes in small play area, Bull Lane, vandalised by teenagers. Advised incident be reported to Police.
- XXVIII. Broken bottles in small play area, Bull Lane – Reported and cleaned up.
- XXIX. Contacted Amicus Horizon to report graffiti not yet removed!
- XXX. Fly tipping in Mill Lane – Reported to S.B.C.
- XXXI. Advice given to mother of son who is advertising grass cutting and garden work etc.
- XXXII. Fly tipping of 15 x black sacks at the top of Station Road – Reported to S.B.C.
- XXXIII. Welfare visits to elderly resident.
- The Warden advised that SBC were no longer removing graffiti unless it occurred on *Cllr Lewin* their own property. Cllr Lewin was asked to take up the issue.
- It was suggested that a litter bin be place in the picnic area. The Clerk would *Clerk* investigate the possibilities.

**b) PCSO Cork**

PCSO Cork informed Councillors of a burglary in Bull Lane and about sheds being broken into. The shed break-ins are believed to be carried out by children for a dare as nothing has been taken. PCSO Cork advised that Bull lane was still part of the tasking area for the local police. PCSO Cork advised that there were still difficulties obtaining CCTV stills from British Transport Police. He also advised that he had received complaints about the Fun Fair visiting the Recreation Ground. The Community Warden also expressed concerns about visitors dispersing when the fair closed.

**c) Borough Councillors**

Cllr Lewin advised that cars were still being sold from a house in Wickham Close. The Borough Council does not have a valid planning application for Keycol Farm and KCC Highways have indicated they will object. In addition, both Borough Councillors will object and ask for the application to be turned down.. Cllr Lewin congratulated the Parish Council on a successful public meeting about Pond Farm. The Gladman’s application is being appealed on non-determination. Cllr Lewin had met with Medway Council to discuss planning applications which affect both Councils.

Cllr Wright reported that an enforcement notice had been served to remove the container adjacent to the village hall car park within three months and the car park would be refurbished after that.

Cllr Mould thanked the Borough Councillors for attending.

**d) County Councillor**

There was no report from the County Councillor.

## 6. Correspondence

- a) KALC of 1.4.15 – DCLG consultation re Larger Parish Councils and reference to the Ombudsman.
- b) SBC of 1.4.15 - request for agenda items for Swale Rural Forum
- c) KALC of 2.4.15 – Post election training. Cllr Layer and new Councillor to be booked on training. *Clerk*
- d) KCC of 7.4.15 – procedure for claiming rights of way. To be referred to Amenities for action. *Amenities / Asst Clerk*
- e) KALC of 8.4.15 – Link to Update on Police and Crime Plan
- f) KALC of 10.4.15 – Councillor induction events.
- g) KALC of 17.4.15 – Drainage cleansing programme.
- h) KALC of 17.4.15 – Grants available under Community Rights Programme.
- i) ARC Kent of 17.4.15 – Invitation to Join Action with Rural Communities Kent. It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by the Vice Chair that the Council join ARC Kent; all were in favour. *Clerk*
- j) SBC of 20.4.15 – Items for Rural Forum Agenda.
- k) KALC of 22.4.15 – VE day events
- l) Aprille Hall of 22.4.165 – request for information re village walkabout. Cllrs Harvey, Jackson, Layer and Haigh wished to attend. The Clerk would ask for suitable dates. *Clerk*
- m) Set in Stone of 22.4.15 – request to place memorial for K. Elphick Approved *Clerk*
- n) KALC of 23.4.15 – NALC Direction of Travel.
- o) KALC of 25.4.15 – Councillors conference on 24.7.15
- p) Newington Village Hall Committee. Request to purchase new sign for the Village hall. Cllr Harris advised that the Wickham Trust were providing a grant of £500 towards the cost of the sign. The preferred sign would cost £7020 plus VAT. On discussion, it was proposed by the Vice Chair, seconded by Cllr Layer that the Council purchase the sign; all were in favour, subject to a contribution towards the cost from the Hall Committee. The Clerk asked that all paperwork in connection with quotes should be forwarded to the Council and would seek advice from the Auditor about the process. *Clerk*  
*Clerk*

## 7. Planning

a) Wienerberger Application No update.

b) Pond Farm To be appealed on non determination.

c) Land to the North of the High St

A request had been received from Agents for Persimmon homes asking if the Council would consider a private meeting to discuss their proposal for 100+ homes on the land to the north of the High St. On discussion it was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr Haigh that the Council would welcome a public meeting to discuss the proposal, but not a private meeting; all were in favour. *Clerk*

d) Correspondence

- i) SBC of 27.4.15 - 15/503104 - application and listed building consent for UPVC window in 1 Wormdale Farm Cottages. No objections were raised as long as the Conservation Officer agrees the window is in keeping with the property

- ii) KALC of 27.4.15 – Notification of Submission of Swale borough Plan to the Inspectorate.(Bearing Fruits)
- iii) SBC of 45 Church Lane application for a new roof over existing kitchen. Cllr Harris explained that this was not in the conservation area. There were no objections.
- iv) SBC of 28.4.15 15/ 501716 Breach Lane: application for the change of use of land for a single gypsy caravan. Not in Parish but for information.

### **8.Clerk's Report**

- a) The Clerk informed Members that the Public Liability Insurance for the Fun Fair runs out on Sunday, the day before the funfair was due to leave and the Parish Council needs to see a copy of the new policy. Cllr Harvey would contact the proprietors. The water would be obtained from the allotments; Cllr Layer would facilitate. *Cllr Harvey*
- b) The Clerk advised that the litter problem in adjacent roads should be reported to SBC. *Asst Clerk*

### **9. Business of the Council**

#### **a) Amenities Committee Minutes and Recommendations**

The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 21 April 2015 were considered. It was proposed by Cllr Harvey and seconded by Cllr Layer to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting: All members of the Amenities Committee present were in favour. The Minutes were duly signed by Cllr Mould

#### **Matters Arising**

##### **Front Garden Competition**

On discussion it was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr Haigh that the front Garden Competition be held again this year, with prizes of £20, £30 and £50; all were in favour. Cllr Mould explained the competition will in June and the Warden would advise of possible entrants.Cllr Harvey suggested contacting Gardening World for a discount on vouchers. *Amenities Chair*

##### **i) Recreation Ground**

##### **Recreation Ground Fence**

Cllr Martin-Young informed Councillors that a revised quotation had been received for the fence and gate by the ball court. The total cost would now be £3,600 including the cost of the kissing gate. ATS quote for replacing the high fence behind the houses had also been received , £6850. It was proposed by Cllr Haigh to accept both quotes for the new fences; seconded by Cllr Layer: 8 in favour; 1 abstention. motion carried. *Clerk/Chair*

##### **ii) Sports Club**

Cllr Mould reported that he is in the process of finalising the Sports Club accounts.

##### **iii) Pavilion**

Cllr Mould told Councillors that a quote has been received to repair the lights in the changing room and also the exterior lights.

Cllr Harvey proposed to seek further the quotes but with LED lights if they provide an acceptable alternative at no more that £200 increased cost *Chair*

##### **iv. Football**

Cllr Coles informed Councillors that the goal posts belonging to Bredhurst Football Club have been damaged and he has asked the Sports club to report it to the football club, as well as the Community Warden and Police.

Cllr Coles had received a complaint from a resident about the behaviour of a parent.

Cllr Harris suggested the matter should be raised with team at the start of the new the season. *Amenities*

##### **v. Footpaths and bridleways**

Nothing further to discuss

**vi. CCTV**

The Chair reported that the electricity was a concern for the proprietor of the café. Cllr Harvey proposed the Parish Council buys a plug in meter, pays a £50 retainer and 110% of electricity used (approximately £215 per annum); seconded by Cllr Mould: agreed unanimously

*Cllr Harvey***v. Funfair**

Already discussed

**b) Churchyard and Cemetery**

Cllr Martin-Young told Members that concerns had been raised about the tree roots lifting the pavement. Tenders would be sought for alterations to the path. Also, the contractor fills his mower on the path and spilling petrol. Cllr Mould would investigate.

*Chair***c) Roads, Pavements and Lighting**

No update

**d) Village Voice, E-News/Website**

Cllr Mould circulated drafts of the Village Voice and told members that he will include an article about the path and also one on the vacancies on the Parish Council.

**e) Reports from Members**

Cllr Mould informed Councillors that Lower Halstow school have had their Ofsted inspection and Newington will be inspected soon.

**10. Finance**

a). Cheques

Payee	Expenditure	Amount	£	Cheque No.
Mrs P Rowe	Litter Picking Recreation Ground and sight checking equipment April	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	2304
Mr B Belcher	Street Cleaning Mar to Apr 25 ½ hours	<b>Total</b>	<b>165.75</b>	2305
Mr M Marshall	Cemetery and Churchyard Cutting April	<b>Total</b>	<b>400.00</b>	2306
Mrs CD Fordham	Salary 27.3 to 23.4.15 32 hours plus 5 hrs holiday pay Advance for expenses Apr 15		411.57 40.00 <b>Total 451.57</b>	2307
Mrs K Julier	Salary 27.3. to 23.4.15 9 hrs Expenses Mar		71.14 5.00 <b>Total 76.14</b>	2308
Profile Business Supplies	Village Voice April	<b>Total</b>	<b>60.00</b>	2309
HMRC	PAYE	<b>Total</b>	<b>15.60</b>	2310
ADT	Annual Maintenance Contract for village hall CCTV VAT		669.55 133.91 <b>Total 803.46</b>	2311
Southern Water	Pavilion water supply	<b>Total</b>	<b>24.03</b>	2312

DCK Beavers Ltd	Payroll processing Jan to Mar VAT	65.00 13.00 <b>Total 78.00</b>	2313
ICO	Renewal of Data Protection Registration	<b>Total 35.00</b>	2314
ARC	Annual Subscription	<b>Total £35.00</b>	2315
KCPA	Subscription renewal	<b>Total £20.00</b>	2316

Under the Local Government Act 1972, (Sch 2) Cllr Harris proposed the signing of the cheques; seconded by cllr layer. agreed unanimously. . The Pavilion electricity and Street lighting: £140 was due to paid out on 1.5.15 and £630 on 1.5.15

**b) Outline Approval of the Accounts 2014/15 and Annual Governance Statement**

The Clerk explained that provisional approval is required as the bank statement to 31 March 2015 has not been issued.

Cllr haigh proposed to approve the accounts provisionally: seconded by Cllr martin-young; agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

Cllr haigh proposed to accept the statement of governance; seconded by Cllr martin-young; agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

**11. Any Other Business**

a) Cllr Harris asked for the signatories on the bank accounts to be checked. *Clerk*

b) The Clerk requested Councillors to email her if they wished to claim their allowances. *All Cllrs*

c) The Clerk was asked to investigate the terms of office for the current Council appointees to the Wickham Trust. *Clerk*

Cllr Mould presented Cllr Martin-Young with a gift in recognition of his service to the Parish Council.

Cllr Mould presented Mrs Fordham with flowers for her sterling work as Clerk.

**12. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 19 May at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm

Date:

Signed;  
Chair