

**GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013**

**Members present:** Councillor M Rowley (Chairman)  
Councillors T Bailey, K Barber, A Gordon, K Harden,  
J Padwick and D Watson

**Apologies:** Councillors C Buckseall and I Kelman

Four members of the public were present at the meeting.

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**148/13**

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for their efforts with regard to the traffic calming measures that they have instigated in the village.

He reported that some residents will be attending the Borough Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March when the application by Boughton Estates for an extended licence will be discussed. Councillor Barber is also intending to be at the meeting, but not as a Parish Councillor representative. The residents' main concerns are in relation to the possibility of live music being played until 4.00 am and also that correct signage is used when larger events attract high volumes of traffic. This is mainly because if visitors to Boughton Estates enter the Estate's postcode into a satellite navigation system, they are usually directed along West Street. Councillor Rowley was of the opinion that on such occasions the Estate ensure that a different postcode is used which directs visitors to the south entrance.

The Parish Council agreed that they should send a letter to the Borough Council stating that the members have no objection to the application, but that residents are concerned about the possibility of live music until the early hours, coupled with the consumption of alcohol.

In addition residents were concerned that grain lorries are still using Newton Road to access the grain store. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to Mr Chris Sparrow of Boughton Estates to point out that grain lorries are using Newton Road, which does not comply with the agreement they made with Camgrain when the grain store was first built. A similar letter will be sent to the Head of Security at Camgrain informing them of this breach of agreement and reminding him that vehicles must not turn left when leaving the site. Residents were advised to make a note of the registration numbers of offending vehicles. However it was felt that Pytchley Farm's lorries were one of the main offenders.

A member of the public enquired whether there had been any concrete agreement in relation to resurfacing, traffic calming and weight limits of the 'old' A43 once the new

road has been completed. Councillor Rowley stated that these improvements would not be considered until the road is de-trunked but he felt that County Highways were against imposing a weight restriction on the road.

Another member of the public enquired whether there had been any response from the Borough Council with regard to cutting the grass on the perimeter of the flood bund at the top of Wood Street. No response has been received so far, so a further letter will be sent to Mr J Bugby of the Borough Council, with a copy to Borough Councillor Bullock. In addition, the fence around the bund needs reinstating since it allows for a better view in order to inspect the bund in the summer when the grass is long because the land slopes down and without a fence, is quite dangerous to step on to. Councillor Rowley will liaise with the resident so that they can look at the area together.

There were also discussions as to what exactly the flood bund did. Councillor Watson was of the opinion that it prevents water from going into the houses in Bright Trees Road.

The same member of the public enquired whether anything was being done to avert the 'lake' from forming at the corner of Wood Street and Queen Eleanor Road when it rains, presumably caused by a blocked drain which is positioned in the kerbstones along this stretch of road. Although the drains were cleaned out on Wednesday, it was felt that because this drain is in the side of the road, it may not have been done. Councillor Rowley will also take a look at this. In the first instance, these sorts of problems should be reported to Street Doctor.

It was reported that the trees in Kettering Road need to be trimmed back from the base to make a more pleasing view at the entrance to the village. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to County Councillor Harker, with a copy to Borough Councillor Bullock, asking him to have a look at the trees. It was not clear whose responsibility they were. It was suggested that this could be a job for the County Council's Enhancement gangs.

Rubbish is again building up in the ditches along the Newton and Weekley roads. Operation Springclean will be taking place shortly so these could be areas to focus on. Councillor Barber reported that CPRE are offering prizes for their spring clean this year.

## **POLICE REPORT**

**149/13**

Councillor Rowley reported that the Police were unable to attend this evening but gave the crime figures as follows:

Geddington – 1 theft from a motor vehicle (no other information was provided on this)

There were no reported crimes in Newton and Little Oakley. However Councillor

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Bailey had heard that a quad bike had been stolen in Little Oakley. It was felt that this had not yet been included in the crime figures.

Councillor Harden reported that he is now a member for notification as part of Farmwatch. He felt that there were a lot of crimes that occur within villages which are not actually included in the crime figures because the land is owned by someone from outside the village.

Since Desborough police station is manned solely by PCSOs who have limited authority, as well as limited knowledge of the area, it was queried whether Geddington would ever have its own Police Officer again. Councillor Rowley stated that he was of the opinion that this was not going to happen. However Councillor Padwick suggested that the Parish Council should write to the new Police Commissioner asking him to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss his future plans with the Parish Councillors.

## **PLANNING**

### **Approvals**

KET/2013/0011 Single storey rear extension, 45 Skeffington Close, Geddington Mrs A Tarleton

KET/2012/0775 Change of use from highway land to amenity land, 2 Queen Eleanor Road, Geddington

*The Parish Council were given 28 days to object to this but had already agreed that they supported the application.*

Camgrain Stores application to amend various landscaping aspects was also approved (mainly associated with tree planting etc.)

### **Applications**

No applications were received this month.

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Councillors T Bailey, K Barber, A Gordon, K Harden,  
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**Apologies:** Councillors C Buckseall and I Kelman

## **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013 were read confirmed and signed

### **KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL ISSUES**

**149/13**

There has been no response from the County Council with regard to the problems with water running on to the road that leads from Rockingham Road Kettering to Weekley. It was agreed that a further email should be sent to chase this up.

### **NORTHANTS COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

No report.

### **YOUTH CLUB**

**150/13**

Despite promises to the contrary, it was reported that the new gate is still not in place. This will be followed up.

### **VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT AND PLAN**

No report.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**151/13**

Councillor Harden reported that he has now received funding from County Councillor Harker toward the Neighbourhood Watch signs.

Councillor Rowley has received paperwork from the Police in relation to Community Speedwatch.

There was some confusion as to who was the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Little Oakley. Councillor Bailey will follow this up.

### **NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY**

**152/13**

Councillor Rowley has raised the problem of potholes with County Highways. The really deep holes have been filled in but many have not. It was felt that this might be helped by the proposed resurfacing due to be carried out once construction traffic has completed the new road.

Councillor Watson queried why a gate has been erected at the end of Newton (by the Field Centre annexe). He was concerned that it may restrict access to the village and will monitor the situation.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION**

### **153/13**

Councillor Harden has received several complaints that the bus service is not running according to the timetables, particularly the 11.00 am service. It was agreed that County Councillor Harker should be informed of this.

## **VILLAGE HALL**

### **154/13**

Councillors Gordon and Barber had a meeting with the Sports Organisations regarding plans for the Village Hall extension. Costs for the work have been estimated to be around £250,000. Councillor Gordon enquired whether the Parish Council would be able to help with the VAT but Councillor Watson was concerned that there may be problems with such a large amount and that the Village Hall should seek professional advice on this, possibly via the Legal Department of the Borough Council. This could also be pursued by County Councillor Harker.

## **ROAD SAFETY**

### **155/13**

Councillor Barber reported that there was no-one from Queen Street at the follow up Road Safety consultation meeting. It was however raised at that meeting that:

- The Askews and the White Lion could maybe ask their customers to use the Village Hall Car Park to park their cars.
- Concerns were raised regarding the Tough Mudders event and signposting (as previously discussed this evening) but previous visitors to the event did note that it was signposted to steer traffic away from the village.
- HGV signs into Grafton Road were placed the wrong way round. Councillor Rowley will check this.
- Boughton Estates' licence application brought concerns re late night traffic. Councillors Gordon and Barber will be attending the Borough Council's meeting when the application is discussed.
- The school children could maybe be more involved in traffic issues by

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persuading their parents not to park outside the school. Councillor Rowley attended a School Council meeting where their ideas were put to

him, including automatic bollards, double yellow lines and lollipop lady. However a lollipop lady would have to be funded by the school. The school were also looking into a 20 mph poster competition.

- Councillor Bailey had an email from a resident informing him that the West Street bollards are due to be installed very shortly and that the lining and weight limits are all work in progress. Double yellow lines are still under discussion. It was agreed that an email should be sent to Ian Boyes asking him why the Parish Council were not kept informed of progress.

Councillor Harden complained that the chains across the back of The Star car park are never put back once deliveries have been made, resulting in traffic coming out of the car park on to West Street. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to The Star asking that the chains are reinstated.

Geddington website is due to be up and running again shortly. Minutes should now be sent to [editor@geddington.net](mailto:editor@geddington.net). It was agreed that the website should be added to the Agenda next month and that a representative of the website committee should be asked to attend the Parish Council meeting to tell the Councillors about their plans.

### **LIGHTING AND FOOTPATHS**

#### **155/13**

Councillor Barber has reported a couple of lights that were out. There is another out at the entrance to the Village Hall car park.

### **RURAL FORUM**

No report.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **156/13**

The Parish Council were in receipt of a letter of resignation from Councillor Doherty. The Borough Council will be notified and then a formal notice will be posted on the Notice Board informing the electorate of their right to ask for an election to fill the vacancy, provided that it is requested by ten members of the public.

The vacancy being notified will be that left by Councillor Doherty. However there are three other empty seats on the Parish Council. It was felt by the Parish Council that since it has been difficult to find replacement Councillors, it may be prudent to approach the Borough Council asking that the number be reduced. This will be discussed after the above process has taken place.

#### **157/13**

A letter was received from Boughton Estates informing the Parish Council that they had been approached by the Borough Council who have identified sites in Geddington

and Weekley as being suitable for traveller sites. This is due to go to public consultation in April/May. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Borough Councillor Bullock asking him to find out more about this.

**158/13**

The Parish Council were in receipt of a letter from GSD Law with regard to personal injuries sustained by a member of the public using the Bowls Club. It was agreed that the Parish Council would send a letter of acknowledgement to GSD Law. It was also agreed that a copy of the letter should be sent to the Legal Department of the Borough Council asking for their advice as to how to proceed.

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm*

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**ACCOUNTS**

**159/13**

Community Account Statement as at 17.1.13	£ 5,039.66
Business Premium Account Statement as at 17.1.13	7,704.21

**Accounts received**

No accounts were received.

**Accounts for payment**

Sharon Baker	Secretarial services	(1539) £	35.00
	¼ Clerk's salary		498.40
	Expenses		40.20
Post Office Ltd	PAYE income tax		124.60

Councillor Harden proposed and Councillor Gordon seconded that the above payments be made. All in favour.

**Village Sign repair work**

Councillor Gordon asked for permission to arrange for repairs to be carried out to the village sign since it would cost approximately £50.00. All in favour.

**Newton Field Centre funding support**

Newton Field Centre wrote to the Parish Council asking for help toward vital maintenance work for the Field Centre, totalling £25,000. *Councillors Padwick and Watson declared an interest as Committee Members*). Their grant from the County Council remains at the same level it was six years ago and the interest rate on their investments has also gone down, which have both had an impact on their income in real terms. Councillor Watson suggested that the Parish Council responds by letting them know that the Parish Council will consider this request in the coming financial year. All in favour.

There are also problems with the stonework of Newton Church. It was suggested that perhaps Moulton College students might be approached about this.

*Councillor Padwick left the meeting at 8.30 pm*