

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH JUNE 2013

Members present: Councillor K Barber (Chairman)
Councillors T Bailey, C Buckseall, A Gordon, K Harden,
P Hopkins, I Kelman, M Rowley and D Watson

Apologies: Councillor J Padwick

Also present: Borough Councillor J Bullock

One member of the public was present at the meeting.

POLICE REPORT

20/14

PCSO Lawman tendered the Police apologies for the meeting but forwarded crime figures as follows:

May 2013:	Geddington 3 –	1 burglary (other) 1 criminal damage 1 theft/handling
	Newton 2 -	1 burglary (other) 1 theft/handling
	Little Oakley 0	

PUBLIC MEETING

No matters were raised by the public.

PLANNING

Applications

KET/2013/0286 Replace 5 x windows, completely re-render, Listed Building Consent – 2 Church Hill, Geddington – Mr Adams

The Parish Council were in support of this application since it represented reasonable repair.

Proposed Gipsy and Traveller site consultation document

Councillor Barber reported that the Borough Council had identified two sites in the area which could have been suitable for development into Gipsy and Traveller sites. However because these would pose problems with traffic they were both rejected by the Borough. Councillor Barber encouraged Parish Councillors to go along to one of the consultations to ensure that this is indeed the Borough's decision. Parish Councillors' comments will be taken at the next Parish Council meeting so that

they may be submitted to the Borough Council before the consultation deadline on 15th July.

Quorum and decision making

Councillor Barber reported that, having spoken to Ian White from Democratic Services at the Borough Council, a quorum is one third of existing councillors, but it is up to the discretion of the Chairman. Planning applications can still be discussed and comments forwarded to the Borough Council's Planning Department, even if the Parish Council are inquorate but this fact must be included in the submission to the Borough.

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH JUNE 2013

Members present: Councillor K Barber (Chairman)
Councillors T Bailey, C Buckseall, A Gordon, K Harden,
P Hopkins, I Kelman, M Rowley and D Watson

Apologies: Councillor J Padwick

Also present: Borough Councillor J Bullock

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th May 2013 were read confirmed and signed
The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the same date were read and signed,
subject to the following amendments: Page 5: Councillor Hopkins suggested that
three quotes should be obtained *from local, as well as other, businesses.*

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Councillors Harden and Buckseall were in agreement with the responsibilities that
they had been allocated, namely:

Councillor Harden: Neighbourhood Watch and Road Safety

Councillor Buckseall: Youth Club and Samuel Lee Charity

Mr Brian Smith had also agreed to continue to be a representative on the Samuel Lee
Charity.

KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL ISSUES

21/14

Borough Councillor Bullock congratulated Councillor Barber on his role of
Chairman.

He confirmed that the Borough Council consultation with regard to the Gipsy and
Traveller sites is ongoing and will end on 15th July. The Borough Council are not
recommending the Geddington sites but it is up to Planning ultimately to decide
where they should be located.

Following the Rural Forum in February which discussed Parish Council grants, the
Rural Forum have asked the Executive to explain to residents in rural areas how and
why the decision had been made to withdraw grant funding from 2014 and requesting
a communication strategy for disseminating this sort of information in advance of
2014.

Councillor Hopkins enquired how the news that a developer has announced plans to
build houses in Broughton may affect Geddington in the future. He enquired how

Borough Councillor Bullock may be protecting the parishes' interests. Borough Councillor Bullock informed the Parish Council that this had arisen since the plans for 5,000 houses to the east of Kettering have not been finalised since problems on the A14 have not been sorted out and therefore do not count toward the Borough's allocation of housing. Councillor Hollobone is also concerned about the situation. Under Planning law there is very little that the Council can do because there has to be a supply of housing to cover five year plans. In the short term, Borough Councillor Bullock felt that there was no easy answer because of the way planning law works. However planning applications can still be argued against on planning policy grounds i.e. through lack of access, transport problems or lack of facilities. Councillor Hopkins expressed concerns that Geddington has a large patch of land which could be built on and there is not a lot that can be done to prevent a developer submitting planning permission to develop the site. Borough Councillor Bullock did agree that the Parish Council does need to be vigilant and Councillor Barber felt it important that the Parish Council is kept up to date with planning developments.

To this end, Councillor Barber has agreed to attend the North Northants Area Forum on 18th June organised by NCALC. Councillor Hopkins is unsure whether he will be able to attend.

Councillor Hopkins also highlighted the fact that the Borough Council always post notices adjacent to properties which have submitted planning applications but that they never take them down again and they then become an eyesore. Borough Councillor Bullock agreed to speak to the Head of Planning about this.

Councillor Barber also expressed concerns about the fact that the Parish Council does not always appear to receive notification regarding licensing applications and road closures. Borough Councillor Bullock agreed to enquire of the Borough what methods are in place to inform Parish Councils about licensing applications.

With regard to road closures, it was agreed that an email should be sent to County Councillor Harker to follow up, since it was felt that notices generally were sent out by the County Council.

Mr Ian Boyes of the County Council recently visited Geddington and removed the pile of wood that had been dumped near to the speed camera. He has also arranged for the parking restriction lines to be painted correctly outside the Chapel.

With regard to double yellow lining, Councillor Hopkins enquired whether there had been any notification about this in Grafton Road and Wood Street. Councillor Barber suggested that the Parish Council should write to Mr Ian Boyes to have official notification as to what is happening with regard to the lining.

The Parish Council also received notification from County Highways of intended speed restrictions of 20 mph and 30 mph in various areas of the village under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984.

No report.

YOUTH CLUB

22/14

Neither Councillor Rowley nor Councillor Buckseall had anything to report in relation to the Youth Club.

Review of Stonepit Land Lease

23/14

January 1st 2013 was the set date when the Parish Council would have had an opportunity to review the Stonepit Land rent. It can be reviewed every three years, so the next opportunity is January 2016. The rent was last set in 2001 and Councillor Hopkins, as Trustee of the Stonepit Land, was of the opinion that the Parish Council may not be gaining as much income as they might from renting out the land. Councillor Watson questioned whether Councillor Hopkins had any professional knowledge of what a reasonable rent might be because it would be unfruitful to charge too high a rent, only to find that the Geddington Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Youth Club were unable to meet that rent which would end up with the land producing no income at all. This was of particular concern since the land is used for the benefit of village organisations. Councillor Bailey agreed to look at the Lease to see if this review may be brought forward. It was agreed that this would be added to next month's Agenda after the Parish Councillors had had an opportunity to look at the Lease in detail.

Councillor Bailey thanked Councillor Rowley for his efforts in moving the issue of the Stonepit Land lease forward. It was considered important that the Parish Council flags up 2016 in advance so that the Lease can be reviewed then.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT AND PLAN

24/14

Councillor Padwick will be arranging to meet with Councillors Gordon, Hopkins and Barber in the near future to amalgamate planning ideas to try to prevent developments as discussed earlier in the meeting.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

25/14

Councillor Harden received a grant for 'Neighbourhood Watch' signs but was advised to ask the Parish Council's permission to put these up on lamp posts throughout the village. It was proposed by Councillor Rowley and seconded by Councillor Bailey that he should be allowed to put these up. All in favour.

NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY

26/14

Councillor Watson has been invited to the launch of Camgrain store on 11th July at

Page 5 (10.6.13)

Boughton House, together with a trip to the store and a tour around it. Several other members of the Parish Council have also received invitations.

Councillor Bailey had little to report in relation to Little Oakley, apart from the possibility of a VAS (speed limit) illuminated sign in the village. Borough Councillor Bullock agreed to look into how this could be funded.

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

27/14

The Parish Council have received confirmation from Zurich Municipal that the Flood Warden is covered under the Parish Council's public liability insurance.

Councillor Rowley confirmed that the Flood Warden, Sarah Pask, is happy with the Job Description she was given.

VILLAGE HALL

28/14

Councillor Gordon received an email from Northants ACRE relating to the possibility of reclaiming VAT on the proposed sports facility at the Village Hall. The Parish Council are simply custodial trustees and the Village Hall Management Committee are responsible for the general day to day running of the village hall. The Village Hall was formerly owned by the National Council of Social Services in 1931, who vested it to the village in 1982, but no documents have been found to confirm this. Councillors Barber and Rowley will look in the village hall cupboard to try to find this. Failing this, Boughton Estates may have a copy.

Councillor Watson felt that this would have been done so that the land cannot be sold off. Councillor Rowley agreed to search the Land Registry to try to find out who does own the village hall. Councillor Gordon suggested that the only other way to find out whether the Parish Council can reclaim the VAT is to speak to the Inland Revenue and HM Customs & Excise direct. However, Councillor Watson was of the opinion that this would not be a straightforward process. It has become clear, however, that unless the Parish Council are owners of the village hall, they cannot reclaim the VAT. It was felt that the most sensible approach would be to consider that the work would not be eligible for VAT to be repaid and to cost the work accordingly, but if it was later proven that the VAT could be reclaimed then this would be a bonus.

ROAD SAFETY

29/14

Councillor Barber reported that he has not heard from the County Council regarding parking at the corner of Grange Road and Skeffington Close.

It was reported that there have been complaints regarding vehicles being parked on verges in Queen Eleanor Road and Orchard Close residents parking in Grafton Road. Councillor Barber would have taken this up with the Police if they had been present at this evening's meeting.

Page 6 (10.6.13)

Councillor Rowley reported that the overgrown hedges on the main road between the White Lion public house and the dog walking meadow have been reported to the land owner.

Councillor Buckseall reported that there is broken manhole cover in Wood Street which has been earmarked for attention because cones have been placed round it but it has not been repaired. It was agreed that this should be drawn to the attention of County Councillor Harker and Ian Boyes.

LIGHTING AND FOOTPATHS

30/14

A local resident reported that there is a light out in Chapel Lane. Councillor Barber will report this.

RURAL FORUM

It was reported that the next meeting is due to take place on 27th June 2013.

CORRESPONDENCE

31/14

The Parish Council had received communication from Zurich Municipal requesting further details about the incident affecting a resident when visiting the Bowls Club. This will be completed and returned to Zurich Municipal.

32/14

Mr Ian White from Democratic Services provided the Parish Council with a poster to notify the electorate of vacancies on Geddington Parish Council. If there is no request for an election to be held, then the Parish Council will be free to co-opt next month.

33/14

The Parish Councils received details of a dog order relating to dogs being kept on leads in eight cemeteries in the borough. Councillor Barber will read this and report back as appropriate.

34/14

Councillor Harden was under the impression that Parish Councils had to buy their own flashing speed cameras should they require them, but he now understands that the County Council will provide them. Borough Councillor Bullock was also under the impression that this was the case in some circumstances.

Items for Next month's Agenda

- How the new sports facility will be managed
- Co-option

Councillor Watson suggested that the Precept should be added to the October agenda. Councillor Barber requested that any Agenda items should be submitted to the Clerk at the earliest opportunity.

Page 7 (10.6.13)

Village Meeting

35/14

Councillor Barber has booked the lounge for a Village Meeting to be held on Thursday 20th June.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Page 8 (10.6.13)

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH JUNE 2013

Members present: Councillor K Barber (Chairman)

Councillors T Bailey, C Buckseall, A Gordon, K Harden,
P Hopkins, I Kelman, M Rowley and D Watson

Apologies: Councillor J Padwick

ACCOUNTS

36/14

Community Account Statement as at 17.5.13	£13,746.06
Business Premium Account Statement as at 15.3.13	7,705.46

Transferred from Community Account to Business Premium Account £8,000.00

Accounts received

No accounts were received

Accounts for payment

Sharon Baker	Secretarial services	(1550) £	35.00
	¼ Clerk's salary		498.40
	Expenses		40.00
Post Office Ltd	PAYE Income tax	(1551)	124.60
HW Kettering	Internal audit fees	(1552)	384.00
Geddington Village Hall	Room hire	(1553)	150.00

Councillor Gordon proposed and Councillor Kelman seconded that the above payments be made. All in favour apart from Councillor Hopkins who abstained.

Adoption of accounts

Having received the accounts from the Internal Auditor it was proposed by Councillor Watson and seconded by Councillor Rowley that the accounts be adopted. All in favour apart from Councillor Hopkins who abstained.

Financial standing orders

Councillor Hopkins queried the protocol of the Parish Council in relation to payments i.e. projects over £10,000 should go to tender, projects between £1,000-£10,000 should be accompanied by three quotes and projects under £1,000 may be agreed subject to the agreement of the Parish Clerk. Councillor Hopkins queried the ability of

Page 9 (10.6.13)

the Parish Clerk to decide whether or not a quote for work under £1,000 was deemed to be 'reasonable' and felt that this was a '*licence to write cheques*'. Councillor Watson disagreed with this because in practice all planned projects are brought before the Parish Council who then agree them and subsequently agree signature of the cheques to pay for them.

