

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH JULY 2013

Members present: Councillor K Barber (Chairman)
Councillors K Buckseall, A Gordon, K Harden, P Hopkins,
I Kelman and J Padwick

Apologies: Councillors T Bailey, M Rowley and D Watson

Also present: County Councillor J Harker
PCSO Jane Breeze, Northants Police

Two members of the public were present at the meeting.

POLICE REPORT

37/14

JUNE 2013:	Geddington	-	1 crime of violence
	Newton	-	0
	Little Oakley	-	1 theft of a motor vehicle

There were complaints that residents were leaving their waste bins out in Queen Street after the collection day which causes problems for pedestrians. It was suggested that the best point of contact for this would be the Environmental Health Department at the Borough Council. PCSO Breeze will follow this up.

PUBLIC MEETING

38/14

Two members of the public enquired as to what would be the best approach to solve the problem of a tree which hangs over into their property at the corner of Grange Road and 48 Queen Street. A large branch has recently fallen from the tree and hit a vehicle below. Debris from the tree frequently blocks the drains, which then causes flooding. It would appear that the tree is the property of the owner of 4 New Road. The resident has reported the problem to Street Doctor but nothing has been done. County Councillor Harker acknowledged the problems that trees have caused in this area before and agreed that he would follow this up with Street Doctor.

PLANNING

Applications

No planning applications were received by the Parish Council.

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MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th June 2013 were read confirmed and signed

Gypsy and Traveller Sites Consultation Update

39/14

Councillor Hopkins reported that he had looked online at the consultation documents and noted that two sites had been suggested in Geddington: one at the top of Wood Street and the other on the A43 between the Chapel Lane footpath and the White Lion public house. However both of these sites have been rejected by the Borough Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council should respond stating that they concur with the recommendations of the Borough Council that these sites should no longer be considered.

Dogs on Leads in Churchyards

40/14

Councillor Barber has read this document which states that dogs must be kept on leads no longer than 1.5 metres in length in churchyards. The Parish Council were all in favour of this arrangement.

KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL ISSUES

No report.

NORTHANTS COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

41/14

County Councillor Harker reported that consultation re the proposed 20 mph speed restrictions in the village has now finished. Signage and weight restrictions should be put in place later in the year.

In addition the A43 bypass is proceeding satisfactorily.

With regard to the new sports facility adjacent to the Village Hall, County Councillor Harker confirmed that the land (the area of the Village Hall lounge) is vested in the Parish Council but there is some question whether some of the land has been vested in the Village Hall. Boughton Estates would be happy to give an additional parcel of land should it be required. This needs to be ironed out. **Page 2 (8.7.13)**

County Councillor Harker raised concerns over the state of the verges along the side of Clay Dick road. The verges belong to the County Council because it is a county

highway. They are looked after twice per year by Boughton Estates on behalf of the County Council. It was felt however that there should be some active management regime e.g. to plant the verges with flowers. Councillor Barber suggested that the school could be involved in this project. He will also make enquiries of the Wildlife Trust via Bill Parker.

Councillor Padwick again expressed concerns over the amount of dog mess in the whole area, but particularly in Clay Dick. County Councillor Harker recently made a request for the dog warden to visit. It was suggested that this should be followed up with a request for a summary of his findings and a request for plaques to be put up at Clay Dick reminding dog walkers to pick up mess. It was also felt that some dog owners are unsure as to where dog mess may be disposed of. It was confirmed that provided it is in a tied bag, it may be disposed of in household bin. Councillor Barber will write an article for the website about this.

Councillor Harden reported that the trees in Newton Road need to be trimmed back. Councillor Barber will take a look at the problem.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

42/14

Councillor Barber reported that the Annual Parish meeting took place with only three Councillors and two members of the website committee being present. It was proposed by Councillor Hopkins and seconded by Councillor Barber that the Annual Parish meeting should be incorporated into the Annual General Meeting, starting at 6.30 pm. All in favour. Councillor Barber suggested that the meeting should be run by the outgoing chairperson, rather than the new one.

CO-OPTION UPDATE

43/14

Councillor Barber reported that there has been no request for an election and no-one has shown any interest in being co-opted. It was felt that things could be left in status quo provided there are sufficient members to carry out the tasks which need to be done. Councillor Padwick felt that this reinforces the question as to whether the Parish Council members should be reduced. Having spoken to Ian White from the Borough Council, Councillor Barber has agreed that the Parish Council is quorate if it has four members present at a meeting. If any contentious decisions are made below that number, then the Parish Council could still submit those decisions provided they make it clear that there were only x number of Parish Councillors present at the meeting.

YOUTH CLUB

44/14

Review of Stonepit Land Lease

The Parish Council were Trustees of the Charity which was supposed to manage the Stonepit Land. However according to research carried out by Councillor Hopkins, it

would appear that this ceased to exist in 2004. This therefore currently creates a stumbling block with regard to the Stonepit Land and it was agreed that further efforts should be made to find the original documentation.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT AND PLAN

45/14

Councillors Padwick, Barber and Hopkins will meet in the first week of August to discuss this further.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

46/14

Councillor Barber has not yet put the Neighbourhood Watch signs up.

Councillor Gordon warned the Parish Councillors to be on their guard against security companies cold calling to try to sell their products. The calls are dealt with in such a way that they appear to be from the police and may cause some people anxiety.

NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY

No report.

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

47/14

County Councillor Harker reported that he is still trying to sort out the problem of the tree roots which are causing problems in Grange Road. The tree would appear to have a protection order on it. Both Kettering Borough and Northamptonshire County Councils are trying to sort the problem out.

VILLAGE HALL

No report.

ROAD SAFETY

No report.

LIGHTING AND FOOTPATHS

48/14

In view of the longer days, Councillor Barber has not been able to check which lights are out.

It was reported that The Star no longer wants parents parking in their car park when collecting/dropping off children at school, which obviously adds to the problem of parking on the side of the road. Although parents have been told they can use the Village Hall car park, it would appear that they are reluctant to do this. Councillor Barber agreed to hold a watching brief.

RURAL FORUM

49/14

Councillor Watson emailed the Parish Clerk with an update on the recent Rural Forum meeting as follows:

Jonathan Bullock was re-elected Chairman of the Rural Forum, as was I [David Watson] as his Deputy.

The following matters were arising:

‘Policing

The current police numbers are 1220 and the Commissioner’s plan is that this number should not reduce. There are also 239 “Specials” (with the same powers as the warranted officers) and 50 cadets (aged 16-18 and hoped to feed into the specials): the Sergeant reporting did not know how many PCSOs there are. The plan is that a further 50 cadets will be recruited together with an additional 190 Specials (subject to Home Office approval of a Government allowance scheme). It is also proposed that up to 1000 unpaid volunteers will be recruited to carry out backroom work. It was confirmed that the rural team will in future be a Sergeant and 3 officers (one each based in Desborough, Burton Latimer and Rothwell) supported by 9 PCSOs – the officers are not expected to be loaned to Kettering as happens for 40% of the time at present Hence the argument that there is no reduction in rural policing especially given the availability of firearms specialists, traffic police etc for major incidents.

The forums have asked that a joint meeting be held with the Crime Commissioner Adam Simmons.

Councillor Padwick was of the opinion that the reduction of police officers from 5 to 3 seems to rest on the fact that five could be called on to police other parts of the Borough, but three will stay to deal with rural crime. The Rural Forum should clarify that this is actually what will happen.

Street Lighting

A presentation on street lighting was made, but only dealt with County Council owned lights. Whilst interesting it was not relevant to most villages other than the fact that it highlighted lamp posts have a 35 year life, which raises question about who is responsible for the replacement of other lights and a request was made for more information about which lamps are owned by Parish and Borough Councils and what is being done about updating/replacing them

Planning

The “site specific” consultations are delayed by the consultation on traveller encampments (NOTE: response required by 15 July) and the public enquiry into the Rushden Lakes development.

Councillor Padwick raised the point that the Local Plan has still not been reviewed.

Other Matters

It was reported that KBC are assisting with the proposals to extend Geddington Village Hall.

There are major developments planned in Wicksteed Park associated with dredging the lake.

Plans are progressing for the redevelopment of the “Kettering Town Square” (junction of High Street and Gold Street) and the new restaurant (Chimychanga) in the Market Place.

There are also further discussions taking place on the Kettering East development.

Precepting decision

The request to KBC for an explanation as to why the decision on precepting had been made in spite of the consultation response, the “reply” was very poor, commenting merely that “the decision had been made after consultation”.

CORRESPONDENCE

50/14

The Parish Council were in receipt of road closure details in relation to the new link road. This will be forwarded to the website.

Items for Next month’s Agenda

After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Barber and seconded by Councillor Kelman that there should not be a meeting in August unless there are any contentious issues arising. The Parish Clerk will issue an Agenda should the need arise.

Councillor Padwick reported that the Mayor of Kettering, Keli Watts, is organising a Borough bike ride, starting and finishing in Geddington. There will be a £5 entrance fee for the Mayor’s Charity.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

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ACCOUNTS

51/14

Community Account Statement as at 17.6.13	£ 4,309.52
Business Premium Account Statement as at 17.6.13	£15,706.42

Accounts received

No accounts were received

Accounts for payment

Sharon Baker	Secretarial services	(1554) £	35.00
Loak Building Services	Replace slabs, Village Hall	(1555) £	612.00

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

The Parish Council were also in receipt of an invoice from Kettering Borough Council for Grounds maintenance of the football pitch. It was agreed that payment for this was the responsibility of the Village Hall Management Committee and it was therefore passed to Councillor Gordon.