

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH OCTOBER 2013

Members present: Councillor M Rowley (in the Chair)
Councillors T Bailey, C Buckseall, A Gordon, P Hopkins,
T Locock, J Padwick and D Watson

Apologies: Councillors K Barber, K Harden,
Borough Councillor J Bullock
County Councillor J Harker

Also present: Mr C Sparrow, Boughton Estates

Four members of the public were present at the meeting.

CO-OPTION

65/14

Mr Tony Locock was welcomed to the Parish Council as a new member and forms were duly signed.

POLICE REPORT

66/14

SEPTEMBER 2013: Geddington – 1 burglary (dwelling)
1 theft from motor vehicle
1 theft (handling)
1 theft of motor vehicle

There were no reported crimes for Newton or Little Oakley.

PUBLIC MEETING

67/14

Concerns had been raised via the Parish Council's Facebook page regarding the amount of dog fouling in the village and since then, there have been numerous complaints. A member of the public who lives in the centre of the village was particularly concerned about the amount of dog fouling outside his own property, as well as the amount of excrement at the top of Wood Street. Councillor Watson stated that there is a similar problem in Newton.

The member of the public has put posters in his windows to raise the issue with other residents but asked the Parish Council if they could increase public awareness. Councillor Bullock had raised the issue with the Borough Council, on behalf of the Parish Council and it appears that Environmental Health have sent the dog warden out but this has not highlighted a specific problem, apart from identifying a young person under the age of prosecution who was seen to allow their dog to foul on the Recreation Field. Unfortunately it would appear that the Dog Warden is the only

person who can take action by way of fines; CCTV is not normally effective unless individuals are prepared to stand up in a court of law.

Councillor Padwick felt that it is the culture of a small minority of dog walkers which needs to be changed. Most dog walkers make sure that they clear up after their animals but there are some who do not (particularly in Clay Dick). He suggested that maybe a group of residents could form an Action Group to tackle this problem by discussing with responsible dog owners what steps could be taken to improve the situation. Councillor Padwick agreed that he would be happy to be instrumental in setting the group up and will contact individuals who had made comments on the Facebook page.

A member of the Geddington Newsletter Committee was present at the meeting. She informed the Parish Council that she intended to write an article about this problem for the next edition of the newsletter. She enquired whether more signs could be put up in and around the village e.g. notices in windows, on bins and on lamp posts, as well as suggesting that there could also be a leaflet campaign in the villages. Councillor Locock suggested that maybe provocative posters in relation to dog fouling could be placed on the front of the newsletter to point out its implications.

Mr Chris Sparrow felt that the vast majority of dog walkers are responsible individuals, but that sometimes dog walkers do not have facilities with them to clear up the mess and a percentage will never clear up the mess because they are that kind of person. Other dog walkers might pick up the excrement and bag it, but then dispose of the bag on the ground. At Weekley they have put bags in various locations in the village where the bins are situated for dog walkers to use. In addition, it was felt that some dog walkers may not be aware that provided the bag is sealed, bags can be disposed of in any waste bin. This information has previously been put on the village website.

It was suggested that there is a need for further bins at the end of Wood Street by the brick yard and adjacent to the stile at Nancy Moore's steps. Councillor Padwick suggested that the Action Group could identify areas which need more bins, as well as putting stickers on bins to highlight the fact that 'normal' bins can also be used to dispose of the bags. There was also a suggestion that organisations such as 'Dog Watch' could be contacted for advice.

PLANNING

68/14

Applications

KET/2013/0548 Barn conversion to 1 dwelling, Mulberry Barns,
Queen Eleanor Road, Geddington – Mrs J Wright

The Parish Council were in support of this application since it had no detrimental effect on neighbouring properties and indeed would enhance the area.

KET/2013/0613 - Conversion to a dwelling to include demolition of shed and single story rear extension, Newton Mill Farmhouse, Newton Road, Geddington – Mr C Sparrow (listed building consent)

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The Parish Council were in support of this application since it provided additional accommodation for a family member.

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MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th September 2013 were read confirmed and signed

KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL ISSUES

No matters were raised.

NORTHANTS COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

69/14

Councillor Hopkins enquired when the 20 mph speed limit signs and yellow lines would be put in place. Councillor Rowley reported that a notice went out to residents in the Grange Road area of the village a couple of days ago and notices have been put on lamp posts in the area. It was agreed however that the County Council should be reminded that these are now overdue.

YOUTH CLUB

70/14

Councillor Rowley reported that the Annual General Meeting of the Youth Club is due to take place on 21st October. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the need to re-register the Geddington Parish Trust (the Trustees of the Stonepit land) with HMRC since its income is less than £5,000 per annum. Councillor Watson questioned whether this would mean that the income would have to go into the Trust and not to the Parish Council, thereby reducing income to the village and locking up cash in a Trust which can only be used for charitable purposes. He also felt that the

lease was set up between the Parish Council, the Youth Club and the Geddington Volunteer Fire Brigade and that there was no need to resurrect the Trust. Councillor Hopkins argued that the Trust was set up for a Youth Club to be built on the land and re-registration would provide credibility to the Trust's existence. Councillor Locock felt that since it would not cost anything to register the land and the Parish Council are not sure what will happen to the land in the future then registering the charity would not be a bad idea and indeed, there may be some benefits of the Parish Trust having a charitable status in the future.

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Councillor Hopkins proposed and Councillor Buckseall seconded that the Geddington Parish Trust should be re-registered with the Charity Commission since its registration has lapsed. Voting was as follows:

3 for, 5 abstentions. Motion was therefore carried. Councillor Rowley asked that it be minuted that he was not happy with this decision based on insufficient information relating to the implications of re-registration.

Councillor Padwick left the meeting at 9.02 pm.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT AND PLAN

71/14

Councillor Padwick was due to obtain a quote for provision of a Parish Profile but since he had left the meeting this was not discussed due to insufficient information.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

No report.

NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY

72/14

Councillor Bailey reported that there are still drivers speeding through Little Oakley, even though the road is closed. He enquired whether speed signs could be put in place similar to those in Weekley. It was suggested that Councillor Bailey should make further enquiries through Councillor Harden or Chris Sparrow.

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

73/14

Concerns had been raised via the Parish Council's Facebook page regarding the amount of dog fouling in the village and since then, there have been numerous complaints. This was also discussed in the Public Meeting (above).

VILLAGE HALL

No further report.

ROAD SAFETY

74/14

The Parish Council were informed that the A43 Stanion Roundabout will be closed as before between 28th October and 1st November 2013 for four days to enable work to the Corby Link Road to progress. Councillor Locock suggested that there should be better communication this time, with the help of a sign on the Weekley roundabout *before* the event. It was agreed that this should be requested in writing.

County Councillor Harker had sent an email regarding proposals to prohibit (except for access) all motor vehicles (except motor cycles) from the unclassified road section of Wood Street called 'Clay Dick'. This would involve relocating the end of the

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byway allowing a gap approximately 5' wide at the side for pedestrians, cyclists and horses, just past the field entrance gate.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council did not consider that this action was necessary.

LIGHTING AND FOOTPATHS

75/14

Mr Rick Loak has inspected the work he carried out to the footpath to the side of the Village Hall and reports that there is an exposed electric cable which needs to be dealt with. Councillor Gordon agreed that he would have a look at the area and report back to the Parish Council.

RURAL FORUM

76/14

Councillor Watson reported that he has attended both the Rural Forum and the A6 Towns Forum meetings. Issues raised include:

- (a) Policing: There has been talk about the extra police that are being recruited: 30 cadets in Kettering and 300 part time 'specials'. However the actual number of recruits to date stands at 34. There are plans for a Recruitment Fair but the poster does not say where and when it is being held. The Police are also looking for volunteers to work behind the scenes. The Rural Forum and A6 Towns Forum have asked for a joint meeting with the Police but the date has not yet been arranged.
- (b) Street lighting: They have asked for clarification as to who owns what in terms of street lighting. Kettering Borough Council has delegated responsibility for street lights to the County Council but it would appear that the responsibility for Geddington lies with the Borough Council, who do not have facilities to do anything about them. If street lights have a finite life, then in theory the Parish Council could have street lights which have expired in terms of life expectancy, which raises the question whether the old lights are getting dangerous. This is being taken up with the Borough Council.

- (c) New planning areas: The Borough Council are intending to extend the Northern Industrial area of Kettering. There is a proposal for Police Headquarters to be located here. Taking this into consideration with Corby's intentions to extend Corby southwards may have worrying consequences.
- (d) Junctions 9 and 10-10a of the A14: Kettering Borough Council have submitted planning permission for the whole of this area to be used for industrial purposes. There is a lot of speculation as to how far this may extend. The County Council are the Planning Authority and it seems that there is not a lot that can be done about it.
- (e) Governance: A number of Parish Councils are short of Councillors and therefore think that it is a good idea for them to merge with others. Councillor Watson reminded the Parish Council that there were previous discussions concerning the possibility of Geddington reducing its number of Parish Councillors to 11 and suggested that this would suggest that there is a strong argument to reduce numbers to say, seven for Geddington and one each
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- (f) for Newton and Little Oakley. This however would have to be processed via the Borough Council. Burton Latimer Town Council were the Council which raised the issue.
- (g) Training: Kettering Borough Council are running Parish Council training sessions at the Municipal Offices on 4th November from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm to cover neighbourhood planning issues.

CORRESPONDENCE

77/14

The Parish Council were in receipt of a copy of the 'Good Councillor's Guide' from NCALC, along with a copy of their Update leaflet.

78/14

The Parish Council were provided with a copy of the Fireworks Code – accessible online at <http://www.fireworks.co.uk/fireworks-code>

79/14

Copies of the Standards Advisory Committee and Rural Forum Minutes and Agenda were received from the Borough Council.

Items for Next month's Agenda

Councillors present were reminded to pass any Agenda items to the Parish Clerk before the next Agenda is published.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm

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ACCOUNTS

80/14

Community Account Statement as at 17.9.13	£ 2,301.88
Business Premium Account Statement as at 17.9.13	15,708.30

Accounts received

Councillor J Padwick	Donation from Village Hall play	£50.00
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Accounts for payment

Sharon Baker	Secretarial services	(1560) £ 35.00
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Councillor Padwick proposed and Councillor Watson seconded that the above payments be made. All in favour.

Issues with end of year return (P35)

Despite the fact that the Clerk had submitted an Appeal to HMRC, the Appeal was not accepted on the grounds that there was insufficient proof and therefore it was agreed that the penalty fee would have to be paid.

Fees for Annual Return

Having clarified that the increase in the fees charged by BDO was on a sliding scale, based on the income/expenditure for the previous financial year, it was agreed that the invoice should be paid.

Village Hall Extension

Following informal discussions, The Parish Council were in receipt of a letter from the Geddington Village Hall Management Committee requesting that the Parish Council consider the possibility of the Parish Council taking on the role of Accountable Body. Having discussed this at a previous meeting, Councillor Rowley was of the opinion that the Parish Council were happy with this in principle. However Councillor Watson was concerned what would happen if the project were to over-run and the impact on costs and for this reason, the Parish Council would need to establish the rules relating to any alterations to the work. Councillor Bailey had experience of a similar situation when it was agreed that any changes or improvements to the plans should only be carried out if they were approved in writing. Councillor Locock was not aware that the Parish Council had agreed to being an accountable body in principle and suggested that the principle be looked at first. However, the Parish Council were reminded by Councillor Rowley that the extension plans have not yet been formally adopted and in any case, it is only an idea until the money to finance the project is forthcoming. Councillor Watson pointed out that the Parish Council are trying to establish what would be the sensible approach to take and have generally been happy with the principle to date. The key issue is who is going to be responsible for the project, who will be on the Committee, and what the ground rules are.

Councillor Hopkins agreed with Councillors Locock and Watson that, if the extension plans are agreed in principle, then the ground rules need to be set out. He was of the opinion that the extension should incorporate a social and sports club so that all members could use it, thereby providing a facility for the whole village. He suggested that this may give rise to wider sources of finance. Councillor Watson would like to know more about where the grants are coming from because he was of the opinion that there are more grants for sports facilities than for just an extension to the Village Hall. Councillor Gordon pointed out that there are a number of individuals who are exploring the possibility of grants through the Sports Council, the Cricket Club and Lottery fund, as well as Mick George. Councillor Watson enquired whether if the new build was for social use as well as sports whether it would have any impact on the sources of funding. Councillor Bailey felt that it may preclude social use.

Mr Chris Sparrow suggested that when facilities are used for both social and sporting purposes, it often results in a compromise. Councillor Padwick was of the opinion that the plans are the results of evolution and to date no one has suggested a need for additional social facilities, purely sports facilities. Councillor Locock was of the opinion that the Cricket Club will have the greater use of the facilities during the summer months anyway and enquired what would happen to the facility during the winter months. The beer festival and the Street Fayre committees are often seeking

venues and it would clearly be an additional income for the village if other organisations had access.

Councillor Rowley stated that the current proposal from the Village Hall Management Committee is that the organisation sublets that area from the Village Hall

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Management Committee for an annual fee. They will then loan that area out to the other sports facilities. Councillor Locock questioned why a sports organisation should be able to make money from other organisations and felt that these fees should go back to the Village Hall Management Committee or to the Parish Council. Councillor Hopkins was of the opinion that the Trustees of the Village Hall should look after the premises for the whole community, not just the Cricket Club.

Councillor Watson suggested that if the Parish Council were in agreement with the extension in principle, then a Committee is formed and terms are discussed, although it is difficult to discuss full terms until there is a complete picture. A Shadow Committee could formulate the rules to move the proposals forward which would then evolve into becoming the running Committee. Councillor Rowley suggested that a sub-committee of the Parish Council should be formed. However Councillor Watson disagreed with this idea. The Parish Council have the ultimate sanction but if there were issues that the Parish Council were not happy with, then the project would not go ahead. He proposed that there would be a Shadow Committee which will meet and report back to the Parish Council. This was seconded by Councillor Padwick. *All in favour.* Councillor Watson also suggested that a presentation should be made to the Parish Council by someone who is clear about its objectives. Councillor Padwick pointed out how important such a facility would be for the village, specifically as the Village Hall is at the heart of the village.

Councillor Locock asked whether the Village Hall Management Committee could be asked to clarify the regulations related to grants and whether this would preclude pursuing the project with other purposes in mind, e.g. use for social purposes. He also wanted to know what the arrangements were for letting the facility out. Councillor Rowley felt that the Management Committee had pursued funding from all directions.

It was also suggested that the Village Hall Management Committee be asked to set up a working group, to include some Parish Councillors (Councillor Watson: finance, Councillor Bailey: legal assistance), to elicit more detail (including cash flow forecasts, how the money is going to be generated, how it is being built, where the funding is coming from as well as the impact of it being used for both a sports and social club) which should be reported back to the next Parish Council meeting. A Secretary should be put in place who will submit formal minutes of meetings to the Parish Council. Councillor Watson would also like to be sure that the Trust who is granting £50k to the project are happy to meet the cost of the planning application, should it be unsuccessful.

