

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

**Part 1 Police, Planning & Public Sessions**

**Members present:** Councillor K Barber (Chairman)  
Councillors T Bailey, A Gordon, K Harden, P Hopkins,  
I Kelman, A Locock, J Padwick, M Rowley and D Watson  
*Councillor Padwick arrived at 7.40 pm*

**Apologies:** Borough Councillor J Bullock

**Also present:** PCs Gary Wright and John McQuaid, Northamptonshire Police  
Elaine O'Leary, Northamptonshire ACRE

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

**POLICE REPORT**

**80/14**

**OCTOBER 2013:** Geddington 1 burglary (other)  
2 thefts from motor vehicles  
Little Oakley 1 theft/handling

There were no reported crimes for Newton.

**Community Speedwatch**

PCs Gary Wright and John McQuaid gave a short presentation re Community Speedwatch. Community Speedwatch was set up in 2003. To date 65 parishes and 700 volunteers have participated in the scheme. As a result 4,000 warning letters have been sent out to speeding offenders. The whole scheme is free for the community. In 2011 the scheme came to an end because of funding, but it was started again in April this year. In order for this scheme to go ahead in a parish, there needs to be support from 20% (or 500) of the electoral roll. These pledges would need to be sent to Elaine O'Leary, the Northamptonshire ACRE Co-ordinator. (These can be forwarded electronically). There also needs to be a minimum of ten volunteers who would be willing to undergo the training to operate the speed guns. It is recommended that three volunteers go out together at any one time to record speeds. This information is then passed to the police who in turn, send out warning letters. They would be provided with training and insurance cover, as well as being given high visibility jackets to wear. After a second warning letter has been sent to an individual offender, the Safer Community Team would go out to the area to see who the frequent offenders are and at what times.

The opportunity to use the handheld camera is for three weeks of the year. These three weeks will be shared with a neighbouring parish. Prior to this, data boxes would be set up to determine what speed the vehicles are achieving. This would be repeated after the speed gun has been used to see whether it has had any effect. Once the volunteers have been trained and the three week period has been agreed, then the Safer Community Team and the volunteers would identify safe and appropriate places for the Speedwatch team to be sited. This forms part of a rolling programme which includes 'Speed Indicator Device' (SID) signs and flashing signs. Training would take place at Police Headquarters, for approximately 2-3 hours. Volunteers would be shown how the speed gun works, the best way to operate as a team, how to deal with someone who is aggravated by the use of the gun, and completion of the paperwork.

The system can only be used in areas which operate a 30 mph limit. However it was felt that if Speedwatch was present in the main areas, then this may have a knock on effect in the areas where 20 mph limits apply. Councillor Rowley identified Newton Road, Grange Road and the A43 and Councillor Bailey also highlighted Little Oakley as the main areas of concern.

Councillor Watson was aware that this year's Parish Meeting (*in May*) has already been held, but he suggested that this may be a platform from which to promote the programme each year. The programme is due to start again in April next year.

Councillor Locock suggested that this could be a topic for the Village website.

## **PUBLIC MEETING**

No matters were raised.

## **PLANNING**

### **Applications**

No applications were received.

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

### **Part 2 General**

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

**Apologies:** Borough Councillor J Bullock

## **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013 were read confirmed and signed

## **KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL ISSUES**

**81/14**

Borough Councillor Bullock submitted his apologies, but informed the Parish Council that the next meeting of the Rural Forum will be a joint meeting with the Town and A6 forums and will be attended by the Police & Crime Commissioner. A maximum of two Parish Council representatives will be allowed to attend from each Parish. Councillors Watson and Padwick would attend on our behalf.

## **NORTHANTS COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

**82/14**

### **NCC Asset Management Strategy Consultation**

*Councillor Watson declared an interest as a member of the County Council's Audit Committee and took no part in the discussions.*

The Parish Council were in receipt of a consultation document/questionnaire in relation to the above. Councillor Padwick understood that the County Council appreciate that Parish Councils would like to be more involved in looking after their own area but there are concerns about offloading responsibilities to Parish Councils in order for the County Council to save money. Councillor Hopkins enquired whether this could be forced on Parish Councils.

The questionnaire was discussed and approved as follows:

1. *I/we would support a review of road category which includes revising the inspection frequency.* Disagree.
2. *I/we would be willing to see minor roads serving only a few properties (or where there are other routes available) changed to a 'local' lane if the standards applied to other roads are maintained.* Disagree. The Parish Council wish things to remain in status quo.
3. (a) *Removing unnecessary items from the highway is a good idea.* Agree.  
(b) *I/we would be willing to identify poor condition/unnecessary highway items in the local area that could be removed to save on maintenance costs.* Agree – particularly signage.
4. (a) *Allowing Parishes, Towns and Community Groups to 'take ownership' of assets is a good idea.* Disagree. (Councillor Bailey abstained).  
(b) *I/we would consider taking on a responsibility/ownership/control for the following: Grit bins, village signs/gateways, variable message signs, trees, other.* Disagree (Councillor Bailey abstained).
5. (a) *Creating conditions whereby Parishes, Towns and Community Groups could undertake certain routine maintenance activities is a good idea:* Disagree.  
(b) *I/we would be willing to take on responsibility/ownership/control of some duties to allow the County Council to maintain the standard of other road repairs such as pothole repairs:* Disagree due to insufficient funds.
6. *The County Council will, out of necessity, be looking to close some bridges, roads or footways. Do you have any alternative cost reducing proposals?* No comments.
7. *Given the difficult budget position which the County Council has been placed in are there any areas of highways expenditure which you consider unnecessary or a waste of money?* No comments.

## **UPDATE ON VILLAGE HALL EXTENSION**

**83/14**

Councillor Barber reminded the Parish Councillors that the Village Hall extension proposals have been under discussion for the last few months. £250,000 funding is required, £50,000 of which has been pledged. If this £50,000 is not used for the project, it will go to the Village Hall instead. Options that have been discussed include that it would provide either (a) a Sports Pavilion and improved look to the Village Hall or (b) a purpose built Sports Pavilion. With regard to the first option, it would be the case that the facility would be used by the sports clubs, administered by the village hall committee and the sports clubs would pay for its use. This therefore is the preferred option. If the second option is taken up, then the facility would belong to the Sports Clubs, they would use the field free of charge and the Parish Council would have no say in the matter.

Councillor Rowley has spoken to the Borough Solicitors who are happy with the proposals in relation to the first option. Councillor Watson expressed concerns over the financial aspect of the project, since he has seen similar projects which have gone over-budget.

Councillor Rowley proposed and Councillor Gordon seconded that the Parish Council should proceed with setting up a Committee consisting of three Parish Council representatives, Village Hall Management Committee members, members of the Sports Clubs and County Councillor Harker. They would then report back to the Parish Council.

This would allow the project to proceed in principle and in depth questions could be answered from there. Councillor Locock felt that he had not been given sufficient information in the form of paperwork explaining issues and other recommendations to make an informed decision. He felt that there was a suggestion that this would be taken out of the Parish Council's hands. Councillor Watson was in favour of a separate Committee running the

project but did not want to vote for the Committee to be set up without commitment from other organisations because a situation could arise whereby there are three Parish Council members on the Committee and say, ten members from other organisations who may out-vote the Parish Councillors. He also reminded the Parish Council that the Cricket Club have talked about a similar project for the last ten years, but they have not stuck to the same ideas all the time and questioned what is different about the proposal now.

Councillor Watson also enquired how a Sports Pavilion could be built without the Parish Council's approval. Councillor Rowley suggested that under the terms of the Recreation Field Lease, Boughton Estates are at liberty to use 10% of the Recreation Field to build on. Councillor Hopkins stated that he was happy for an independent Sports Pavilion to be built separately.

Councillor Bailey counter proposed and Councillor Hopkins seconded that the Parish Council discusses this further at the December Parish Council meeting, but that a paper should be drawn up in advance of the meeting answering all the Parish Council's concerns raised at the October meeting. In the meantime, the Committee should be given the go ahead on that basis. Councillor Locock suggested that since the request for further information to allow the Parish Council to make a decision at the November meeting had not been fulfilled, then a fully informed decision could not be made at this meeting.

Councillor Hopkins was happy with the principle of enhancing sports facilities for the village and for the Parish Council to be represented on the Committee, but he did not want the Parish Council to run the facility. In order for the project to go ahead, legal entities need to be responsible for the project; the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee are both legal entities.

*Councillor Rowley withdrew his original proposal.*

*Voting was therefore for Councillor Bailey's proposal (seconded by Councillor Hopkins) that the Parish Council discusses this further at the December Parish Council meeting, but that a paper should be drawn up in advance of the meeting detailing all the concerns. In the meantime, the Committee should be given the go ahead on that basis. Voting was as follows: For – 6. Motion carried.*

## **RECREATION FIELD LEASE**

**84/14**

Councillor Hopkins enquired where the new Recreation Field lease was since it was not in the Village Hall cupboard. Councillor Rowley confirmed that he had a copy and will upload it to the Parish Council's dropbox and then place the original in the Village Hall cupboard.

## **YOUTH CLUB**

**85/14**

### **Application to register Stonepit Land via HMRC form CHA1**

Councillor Barber reported that one or two issues had arisen in relation to legalities of a charitable trust, which he was not aware of before. He has made enquiries of [www.stewardship.org.uk](http://www.stewardship.org.uk) and is awaiting their response. This is a Charity which advises small charities about how best to deal with charitable issues.

He proposed that the Parish Council waits for these responses before applying to the Charity Commission. Councillor Hopkins was of the opinion that nothing had changed since the last decision was made to apply to HMRC and the Parish Council has been working toward the same charitable objects for Stonepit Land since 1976. Councillor Watson reminded the Parish Councillors that under the terms of a charity, Trustees are not allowed to give money to

a non-charitable organisation and it would certainly be sensible to take the advice of stewardship.org.uk prior to completing form Cha1. Councillor Bailey also stated that he would not be happy discussing any of the issues surrounding the application prior to referring to the Recreation Field Lease. Councillor Rowley agreed that he would upload this to the Dropbox. The password will be circulated to all Parish Councillors.

Councillor Rowley reported that the Youth Club have recently held their AGM. They currently have 40 members and a healthy bank balance. They have been asked not to arrange future meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month to allow Parish Council representatives to attend. The Youth Club Committee have agreed to provide a report to the Parish Council for the Parish Council's AGM each year.

It was also agreed that a letter should be sent to the Youth Club Committee asking them to remove the empty paint tins and old toilets that have been left on the site.

## **VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT AND PLAN**

**85/14**

Councillor Padwick reported that he has a meeting with Kettering Borough Council planned to help explore more of the issues behind the Village Plan. A full report will be brought to the next Parish Council meeting.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**86/14**

Councillor Harden reported that he attended Neighbourhood Watch's AGM last month. He has already drummed up some support for Community Speedwatch, but more signatures are required. The pledge needs to be checked for duplication of signatories.

## **NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY**

**87/14**

Councillor Watson reported that additional traffic using Newton Road has raised again the problem of trying to exit from Newton village on to the main road. The problem is exacerbated at this time of the year since the hedgerows have not been cut back which restricts view. It was reported that responsibility for keeping the hedges trimmed would lie with the land owner; this therefore is the joint responsibility of Dovecote Farm and Boughton Estates.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION**

**88/14**

### **Request for skateboarding facilities**

The Parish Council had received a request from a younger member of the Parish who would like to see facilities for skateboarders in the village. Councillor Kelman stated that the Parish Council had thought about providing facilities for older children following the playground improvements, but questioned what sort of demand there was for skateboarding facilities at the present time. There was previously a skateboard facility on the Youth Club site but this was soon demolished. None would appear to be vandal-proof. The Youth Club are in possession of some skateboard ramps but the providers of the Youth Club do not have spare time to operate a skateboarding facility for older children. The Police had previously asked for facilities for five-a-side football for older children but this was met with the same response. It was suggested that the best option would be for children to travel to 'Adrenaline Alley' or to use the facilities at Ise Lodge in Kettering.

Councillor Barber agreed that he would respond personally to the youngster involved.

## **VILLAGE HALL**

No further report.

## **ROAD SAFETY**

No report.

## **LIGHTING AND FOOTPATHS**

**89/14**

### **Highways Warden volunteer**

Councillor Harden agreed to become Highways Warden volunteer. Councillor Barber proposed and Councillor Rowley seconded that his offer should be accepted. All in favour.

Councillor Barber reported problems with the lights in Ferndale Close. The Borough Council usually repair lights within a couple of weeks, but this one is still outstanding. He will pass this to Borough Councillor Bullock and County Councillor Harker.

It was also reported that the light by the jitty in West Street is out. There is also an issue about the light in the jitty between The Woodlands and Chase View Road. This was reported a week ago. The problem is that overhanging trees obscure the light. Councillor Barber agreed to speak to the owners of the trees.

## **RURAL FORUM**

**90/14**

The next meeting of the Rural Forum will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**91/14**

Mr Brian Leaton enquired whether the Parish Council would like to enter a tree for the Christmas Tree festival this year. This was declined.

**92/14**

Councillor Barber agreed to read through the consultation document update re Site Specific Proposals.

**93/14**

The Parish Council were in receipt of a letter outlining the proposals of the Community Governance Review document. Due to time constraints of this evening's meeting, it was agreed that the link to this should be circulated to all Councillors and be added to the next meeting's Agenda.

*Councillor Watson left the meeting at 9.45 pm*

### **Other Agenda Items for the next meeting**

It was agreed that the subject of 'Drains' should be added to next month's Agenda.

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

**Part 3 Finance**

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

**Apologies:** Borough Councillor J Bullock

**ACCOUNTS**

**94/14**

Community Account Statement as at 17.10.13	£ 2,299.63
Business Premium Account Statement as at 17.9.13	£15,708.30

**Accounts received**

No accounts were received

**Accounts for payment**

Sharon Baker	Secretarial services	(1561) £	35.00
Geddington Village Hall	Room hire	(1562) £	150.00
Boughton Estates	Field rent	(1563) £	570.00
Information Commissioner	Data Protection registration	(1564) £	35.00
Royal British Legion	Remembrance Day wreath	(1565) £	30.00

Councillor Hopkins enquired why the Parish Council should pay the full £150 for rent of the Village Hall lounge, when there was no meeting in August. It was agreed that this should be raised with Mr Brian Leaton and a new invoice be requested.

Councillor Watson proposed and Councillor Padwick seconded that the above payments (with the exception of that to Geddington Village Hall which needs to be adjusted) be made. All in favour.

**Future Finance**

Councillor Locock requested that the Accounts for Payment and current state of the bank accounts be included with the Notice of Meeting so that he could familiarise himself with finance prior to meetings being held. This was agreed.

Councillor Watson agreed that he will qualify the budget for the forthcoming year to new members at a later stage. The amount of the precept needs to be decided and application made to the Borough Council by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013. Councillor Watson will produce a paper for discussion at the next meeting for final decision in January. The Clerk agreed to scan the Borough Council's letter re: precepts, and forward it to Councillor Watson.

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50 pm*