

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH DECEMBER 2013

Part 1

Members present: Councillor M Rowley (in the Chair)
Councillors T Bailey, A Gordon, K Harden, P Hopkins, I Kelman, T Locock and J Padwick
Councillor Padwick arrived at 7.40 pm
Councillor Locock arrived at 7.35 pm

Apologies: Councillors C Buckseall and D Watson

Also present: Borough Councillor J Bullock
PCSOs Donna Fenner and Paul Miller, Northamptonshire Police

One member of the public was present at the meeting.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN/VICE CHAIRMAN

95/14

Councillor Gordon proposed and Councillor Harden seconded that Councillor Rowley should become Chairman for the remainder of the year. *All in favour.*

Councillor Rowley proposed and Councillor Gordon seconded that Councillor Watson should become Vice Chairman for the remainder of the year. *All in favour.*

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR VACANT POSITIONS

96/14

It was agreed that the responsibility for Lighting and Footpaths should be covered jointly by all Parish Councillors until May.

The vacant position on the Finance Committee will be filled by Councillor Rowley in his capacity as Chairman.

The position on the Samuel Lee Charity runs for a period of four years. It was therefore agreed that Councillor Rowley will check with Ken Barber whether he would like to continue in this role.

POLICE REPORT

97/14

The PCSO's presented crime figures as follows:

November 2013: Geddington 1 burglary (dwelling) – attempted break in
1 criminal damage – vehicle in West Street
1 theft from motor vehicle – front passenger
window smashed and a tax disc stolen.

Little Oakley 1 drug offence

4 thefts from motor vehicles (theft of diesel from work vehicles (Corby/Kettering roadworks). PCSO Fenner reported that there has been an ongoing problem and there is now a greater police presence around the site.

There were no reported crimes for Newton.

The Police reported that a couple of cars which have been parked close to road junctions have been noted and the owners have been informed that they should park at least 10m away from junctions. Several

parking tickets have been issued over the past few weeks. PCSO Fenner reminded the Parish Councillors that if they see really bad parking, then they should call the Police who will come out and issue tickets. They are also aware of an 'abandoned' Vauxhall Corsa which is being investigated.

The Police are also setting up a new initiative called 'Street Watch' and are looking for people who are willing to patrol their own area and report back issues to the Police, such as abandoned vehicles. This would involve wearing a high visibility jacket, liaising with PCSO's and keeping communities safe over a two hour period per week. The aim is to recruit at least one Street Watch volunteer in the next eight weeks. Information about this new initiative has been sent to Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators.

Councillor Bailey referred to this month's crime figures and the fact that another 'drugs' incident had been reported in Little Oakley. He was not aware of any drugs related issues and wondered whether anything further would be heard of this. PCSO Fenner stated that it was being investigated, but due to Data Protection legislation, that is all she could say.

Councillor Bailey also complained that a member of the public had reported a suspected theft at the roadworks site and had phoned the police but they reverted to the use of sirens to get to the scene, only to find that the culprits had disappeared. This was particularly a problem since the villager who had reported the crime specifically asked that the police use a 'silent approach', so that they could catch them red handed. PCSO Fenner was of the opinion that police officers usually comply with these sorts of requests, but that she could not comment without a crime number. Councillor Bailey did feel that the person who contacted the Police would be reluctant to report incidents in the future.

In his absence, Councillor Watson emailed the following information to the Clerk, which was read out at the meeting:

The Rural Forum meeting was addressed by the Police and Crime Commissioner Adam Simmons. It was difficult to judge the impact of the meeting because, although it was a chance to question him about his plans for the future, he set out the strategy but made it clear that there is no "Plan B". It was pointed out that although "1000 new specials" sounded interesting, this is the equivalent of 100 full time police. and since the target of 300 in the first six months had resulted in just 34 actual recruits was the plan realistic? Although the number of full time police is at present 1270 he has guaranteed numbers will not fall below 1220 which he points out is higher than originally planned and refuses to accept he is cutting numbers! He stated that he represented the public to the police and did not represent the police although he had set their strategy but did not seem inclined to take on board the concerns expressed by those present.

Councillor Hopkins enquired how many Police and Special Constables covered the rural area. PCSO Fenner reported that on the Kettering Rural Safer Community Team there are three Police officers, one Sergeant and eight PCSO's. In addition there is an immediate response team which operates out of Kettering.

Councillor Hopkins felt that it would be interesting to see how this fitted into the whole area and how it equated to the number of police officers in the rural area. PCSO Fenner stated that the number of police officers in rural areas is less than it was. She also stated that PCSO's work from 8.00-10.00 am and Police Officers work through the night.

In answer to a question, PCSO Fenner stated that she still uses the Old Wood Yard offices as a base from time to time.

PUBLIC MEETING

98/14

A member of the website committee enquired whether Councillor Barber had retired from the Parish

Council completely. It was confirmed that he had. The Parish Council agreed that Councillor Barber had been a valued member of the Parish Council and would be sorely missed. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to him.

In answer to her second query, it was reported that the Parish Council minutes are approved (or otherwise) at the following meeting. They are then amended and it is only then that they can be released to the public as a true record. It was agreed that the Clerk would submit the approved Minutes to the website committee once they are available.

PLANNING

Applications

KET/2013/0735 Single storey side extension, 25 The Woodlands, Geddington, Mr and Mrs Knight

Councillor Hopkins declared an interest and took no part in the discussions on this application. Councillor Locoock also abstained.

The Parish Council were in support of this application since it would result in a sensible extension to a family home.

KET/2013/0749/0748 Single storey rear extension, internal alterations and partial removal of kitchen and lobby wall, block up window to utility room, new roof structure and roof lantern, 1 Bridge Street, Geddington – Mr & Mrs Gibson

The Parish Council were in support of this application since it would result in a sensible extension to a family home.

The Parish Council were also in receipt of a late application for 1 Wormleighton Way, Geddington as follows:

KET/2013/0742 Replacement boiler and flue through external wall – Mr Caddell

It was agreed that there should not be a Special Meeting to discuss this and no further action was taken on this application.

Approval

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)

Right to speak

The following application will be discussed at Planning Committee on 17th December. The Parish Council were reminded of their right to speak, should they so desire.

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

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
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Part 2

Members present: Councillor M Rowley (in the Chair)
Councillors T Bailey, A Gordon, K Harden, P Hopkins, I Kelman and T Locock

Apologies: Councillors C Buckseall and D Watson

Also present: Borough Councillor J Bullock

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th November 2013 were read and signed subject to the following amendments:

Page 5: 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.

KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL ISSUES

99/14

Borough Councillor Bullock raised the following issues:

Dog fouling

The Environmental Health team made more visits to Geddington and reported that they found little evidence of a major problem, although there was some mess in the cricket pitch area. As a result, they have started early morning surveillance.

Rural Forum

Borough Councillor Bullock also attended the last meeting of the Rural Forum. He is very concerned about rural policing. The idea of 1,000 'specials' seems very ambitious in his opinion and he raised concerns that the Police are spending £2 million on a recruitment campaign.

Leaves in the gutters

Borough Councillor Bullock has contacted the Borough Council asking for more regular visits to clean out the gutters. He also agreed to deal with problematic trees in Newton Road.

East Kettering Development

Borough Councillor Bullock had nothing further to report. He suggested that the Parish Council lobby County Councillor Harker on this.

HS2

At the final Borough Council meeting of the year, he raised the issue of HS2 and its impact on this area and the fact that journeys from Kettering will be reduced by 25% as a result. He is asking if the Executive could join the lobby against HS2 on the grounds of loss of economic output. He reported that the number of councils who have joined 51M, the pressure group against HS2, is increasing.

NORTHANTS COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

No report

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW DOCUMENT

100/14

Councillor Rowley enquired whether any of the Parish Councillors had any views on this document (previously distributed via email). Replies need to be with the Borough Council by the end of the year. Councillor Padwick suggested that the Parish Council should ask whether the number of Parish Councillors could be reviewed. The Parish Council should really be aiming for elections. If there are fewer members, then there may be a more realistic chance of an election. Councillor Locock felt that it was attacking the problem from the wrong angle. He felt that a more effective approach would be to encourage more people to stand.

Councillor Hopkins suggested that Councils could be merged e.g. Geddington, Newton & Little Oakley could become one entity where Parish Councillors cover the whole area, rather than be split as individual representatives for each area.

Councillor Bailey commented that he would be against the merging of Newton and Little Oakley because people are not going to be so protective over issues that do not affect their area directly. It was questioned whether the Parish Council should be seeking to reduce numbers before it is forced upon them as a result of the inability to fill places. He also felt that there would be candidates who would be happy to stand for Newton or Little Oakley but not for Geddington.

Councillor Padwick proposed, and Councillor Bailey seconded, that the Parish Council ask for the numbers of Geddington Newton & Little Oakley Parish Council to be reviewed. Voting was as follows:

4 for, 3 against. Motion carried.

YOUTH CLUB

101/14

There was a long discussion as to the way forward re registering Stonepit Land with HMRC since the October minutes (which contained an error) had been approved without addressing the error. The Minutes stated that the land should be registered with the Charity Commission when the Minutes should have referred to an intention to register the land with HMRC. On these grounds, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Borough Council to determine what the next steps should be since the Minutes had been adopted although they contained an error.

Councillor Rowley informed the Parish Council that there will be another Youth Club meeting either next week or the third week in January.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT AND PLAN

102/14

Councillors Hopkins, Padwick and Rowley met with a representative from Northants ACRE and planners from the Borough Council to look at Neighbourhood Plans to see whether the Parish Council need one or not and whether to pursue the Village Plan and Village Design Statement. They came to the conclusion that the Neighbourhood Plan was not necessary, favouring a Village Plan and Village Design Statement instead, with the aim of getting that agreed as part of Supplementary Planning Guidance (the Borough's Site Specific Proposals have been delayed). The Borough Council have agreed with all the changes that the Parish Council put forward. The options to pursue a Village Design Statement and Neighbourhood Plan would cost money. However the Village Plan should be revised through questionnaires after the village profile has been received back from Northants ACRE.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

103/14

Councillor Harden reminded everyone to be collecting signatures to be able to go ahead with Speedwatch.

NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY

104/14

There is still a problem with the state of repair of Newton Road. Councillor Bailey also reported a problem with the state of the roads at Little Oakley. Both of these issues have been caused by the new road site traffic.

There is also a street light out in Little Oakley which has not been attended to.

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

105/14

Councillor Kelman reported that the coping stones on the old bridge need further attention. It was confirmed that this is the responsibility of English Heritage. Councillor Kelman agreed to contact them directly.

Councillor Harden reported that there is an ongoing problem with standing water near to the speed camera on the main road. There is also no drain adjacent to the transformer in Queen Street. It was agreed that an email should be sent to County Councillor Harker asking him to have a look at these issues.

The underground drain by the ford is also gravelled up and needs attending to. Councillor Kelman agreed to speak to the Geddington Volunteer Fire Brigade for their help with this.

VILLAGE HALL

106/14

Councillor Gordon reported that the Committee have met to discuss the new sports facility and it has been officially adopted by the Village Hall Management Committee as a Sub-Committee. They are not yet in a position to bring any further information back to the Parish Council.

There is still an ongoing issue with regard to the GSD Law claim - that an individual sustained an injury on Village Hall property, which would appear to be the responsibility of the Bowls Club. Councillor Hopkins suggested that the Solicitors should look at the Bowls Club lease to determine exactly whose responsibility it is. The Parish Council agreed that the Village Hall Management Committee should seek further legal advice on the matter.

ROAD SAFETY

107/14

Councillor Harden enquired whether the chain had been reinstated at the entrance to The Star car park.

It was reported that the posts have now gone up to accommodate the 20 mph speed signs in the centre of the village. No new posts have been erected in Grafton Road, but Councillor Rowley was of the opinion that the existing 30 mph posts may be used instead.

Councillor Locock left the meeting at 9.30 pm

LIGHTING AND FOOTPATHS

108/14

The light by the 'Geddington' sign has now been repaired. The Parish Council were reminded to report any other lights that go out.

The Parish Council were in receipt of a letter from the Parochial Church Council stating that the south footpath in the Church grounds in the centre of the village has recently been renovated and requesting that the Parish Council renovates the east-west footpath which is a public right of way. Councillor Hopkins suggested that since it is a public right of way, then it may be the responsibility of the Borough Council to renovate. Borough Councillor Bullock agreed to take the matter up with Martin Hammond at the Borough Council. Borough Councillor Bullock also suggested that this may be something which could

be paid for out of the County Council's empowerment funds.

RURAL FORUM

No further report.

CORRESPONDENCE

No further correspondence was received.

Suggested Agenda Items for the next meeting

- a) Review of Finance Standing Orders
- b) Discussion re approaching Boughton Estates in accordance with clause 3.8.3 of the playing field lease to gain agreement to charge rent for use by organisations of the field; the rent charged by the Parish Council not to exceed the rent paid to Boughton Estates. The reason for the request is to ensure a more equitable distribution of liability to Geddington residents, allowing the Parish Council to restrict any future increase in precept to an absolute minimum. (Councillor Locock requested in writing prior to leaving the meeting at 9.30 pm)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th DECEMBER 2013**

Part 3

Members present: Councillor M Rowley (in the Chair)
Councillors T Bailey, A Gordon, K Harden, P Hopkins, I Kelman and T Locock

Apologies: Councillors C Buckseall and D Watson

Also present: Borough Councillor J Bullock

ACCOUNTS

109/14

Community Account Statement as at 17.	£1,818.63
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 (1566)	£35.00
	¼ Clerk's salary	£498.40
	Expenses	£33.40
Post Office	PAYE income tax (1567)	£124.60
SLCC	Annual membership (1568)	£76.00
Northamptonshire ACRE		
Parish Plan meeting expenses (1569)		£34.40

Suggestions for inclusion in next year's budget

Councillor Locock pointed out that the Parish Council's Financial Standing Orders state that the budget

should be approved by November each year and since this date has now passed, the budget can no longer be discussed. For this reason Councillor Locock proposed and Councillor Rowley seconded that the precept should remain as it is for the coming year. All in favour.

Payment for Village Hall Lounge Hire

Following last month's agreement, the Parish Clerk had enquired of Mr Brian Leaton why the Parish Council had been charged for six months' room hire when the Parish Council had not met in August. Mr Leaton reported that the Parish Council were invoiced on a six monthly basis, but were not charged for short term hire i.e. where the lounge was used by the Parish Council for Special Meetings which lasted for less than one hour. He did suggest that he could charge for five meetings but then charge the Parish Council each time they used the Village Hall, they would like to continue to not be charged for short term hire.

Councillor Locock therefore proposed, and Councillor Hopkins seconded, that Mr Leaton be contacted to let him know that the Parish Council would like the invoice to be amended so that they were charged for only five months and that in addition, they would like to continue to not be charged for short term hire.

Voting was as follows: 4 against, 2 for, 1 abstention. The motion was therefore not carried.

Councillor Harden counter-proposed, and Councillor Padwick seconded, that the Parish Council pays the invoice for six months and expects that the Hall will be free for short term hire of under one hour.

Voting was as follows: 5 for, 2 against.

The motion was therefore carried. The outstanding cheque from November was duly signed and sent to the Village Hall Management Committee.

SLCC

Councillor Locock enquired what the Parish Council gained from paying the subscription to SLCC, arguing that it was tantamount to paying for the Clerk's 'union fee' membership. Councillor Gordon proposed and Councillor Kelman proposed that the invoice for the coming year be paid.

Voting was as follows: 4 for, 2 against, 1 abstention. Motion carried. The cheque was duly signed.

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would look into the benefits of membership of SLCC and report back to the next meeting.