

**GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014**

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

**Apologies:** Councillors Locock, Padwick and Watson

**Also present:** Mr C Sparrow, Boughton Estates  
Ruth Rolls, Northamptonshire County Council

Two members of the public were present at the meeting

**CO-OPTION**

**126/14**

Mr Doug Hodgkinson was nominated to become a member of the Parish Council by Councillor Rowley and seconded by Councillor Kelman. All in favour.

Councillor Hodgkinson was welcomed to the Parish Council and appropriate forms were signed in the presence of the Clerk.

**POLICE REPORT**

**126/14**

January 2014:	Geddington:	1 criminal damage 1 sexual offence 1 theft from motor vehicle
	Little Oakley:	4 thefts from motor vehicles (fuel from the roadworks site – ongoing vigilance)
	Newton:	No reports

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**127/14**

A member of the public stated that he felt that traffic calming measures were needed in Newton Road before a major incident occurred. He suggested a chicane system similar to that in Cold Ashby. Councillor Hopkins enquired whether chicanes could only be put in place where there were speed limits of 20 mph. However the chicane system in Cold Ashby is present within a 30 mph speed limit area. Councillor Rowley felt that this is something that could be looked at when the new road has been finished and the road is resurfaced. Mr Chris Sparrow has been consulting with the County Council regarding refurbishment of the road and felt that a chicane was a good idea, provided agricultural vehicles have access. He did, however, consider that the most effective piece of equipment in slowing traffic down was the flashing speed device seen in Weekley. It was agreed that an email should be sent to County Councillor Harker suggesting a chicane.

With regard to the resurfacing, some of the potholes in Newton Road have been filled in, but the complete road surfacing from the new roundabout to Newton has not yet been carried out.

The member of the public also stated that new residents have moved into Newton Road and they are parking their vehicles on the corner of the road which means that other vehicles have to manoeuvre past them to reach the junction, which obviously is another cause for concern.

It was felt that this is a matter for the police to deal with since it is obstructing the highway as well as the footpath. It was agreed that an email should be sent to the Police asking them to monitor the area at the same time as they visit the village to monitor the school.

Mr Sparrow also raised the following issues:

- A consultation event has been organised for 18<sup>th</sup> March at Boughton House. This will involve the

police, sound and safety experts. It is an opportunity for members of the public to have a look at the events arranged by the Estate in the forthcoming months.

- The Estate have several planning ideas in the pipeline, including tidying up the old barns at Mill Farm, and would welcome a sub-committee of the Parish Council being involved in the pre-planning process. Further details will be provided to the Parish Council in due course.
- Mr Sparrow was aware that the Parish Council had informed the County Council that they did not consider it necessary to relocate the gate to Clay Dick. The Estate is currently making enquiries about potential uses for the old buildings, including the possibility of community use.
- With regard to the hedges adjacent to the Newton village junction, he will be liaising with the tenant farmer on Friday. If the hedge has not been trimmed back, he will arrange for the Estate to do the work.

Councillor Kelman felt that the 'kissing gates' which had been installed at the entrance to The Meadows had improved access.

A member of the public enquired whether anything had been done about the blocked drains and standing water on the main road. County Councillor Harker has arranged for this to be investigated along with the standing water and problematic tree roots in Queen Street. This will involve bringing a mini excavator into the village to elicit the problem and take appropriate action.

There is also a similar problem with standing water in Wood Street up from Queen Eleanor Road. It was agreed that County Councillor Harker should also be informed of this.

A member of the public noticed that the village website suggested that there was consultation regarding double yellow lines at the bottom of Wood Street. However, it does not appear that this will proceed because of disagreement over where it should go. Councillor Rowley stated that the double yellow lines in Grange Road need to be followed up with County Councillor Harker.

### **PRESENTATION FROM RUTH ROLLS, NORTHANTS COUNTY COUNCIL RE COMMUNITY FLOOD RESILIENCE PARTICIPATION PROJECT 128/14**

The severe flooding of 2007 instigated the Pitt Review. Northamptonshire County Council have now been nominated as a lead local authority on flood risk assessment. Research has shown that 67% of flooded properties were at risk from surface flood water, which runs off hard surfaces or where the ground is bone dry. Residents do not consider they are at risk of being flooded if they do not live near to a river, but this is not the case. It is localised heavy storms which result in surface water flooding. The County Council have received money

from DEFRA to allow them to work directly with communities in order to improve flood resilience. Flood resilience is reducing the future risk of flooding, for example through keeping pipes clear, reducing the impact on victims of flooding via a Community Emergency Plan. There are numerous websites which offer help and advice but the Flood Resilience Project aims to pull all these sources together. In total 15 communities in the county are being targeted by offering them tools to create awareness, thereby reducing flood risks in that area. The Flood Resilience Project will offer the Parish Council support, should they decide to participate in the project.

The County Council have carried out a desk exercise to produce a Community Flood Report (which is not exhaustive). Questionnaires had been distributed to help complete this. Copies were distributed to the Parish Councillors present. It does not however take into account where there are walls and hedges which form natural barriers to flooding. Councillor Kelman asked how the data from the questionnaires would be used. Ruth Rolls responded that the County Council are trying to obtain a county-wide picture of the experience of residents who have been affected by flooding. The questionnaire will be followed up by another survey in December which will focus on the effect of the project to date.

Councillor Bailey enquired whether Little Oakley had been included in this project. It was confirmed that it is not. He also enquired where residents could obtain sand bags. Councillor Rowley responded that these can be acquired from the Geddington Volunteer Fire Brigade. Ruth Rolls did however point out that there are inflatable alternatives which are just as effective, if not more so.

Mr Sparrow felt that one of the key issues which may affect the incidents of flooding is the fact that proactive maintenance by the County Council has now changed to reactive maintenance due to cost implications. He felt that the impact of reverting back to a proactive system needs to be researched. He did however consider that reporting incidents and communities being proactive has helped the situation.

Ruth Rolls stated that the Parish Council could have a Flood Investigation Report undertaken at no cost. Mr Sparrow suggested that the Flood Report should focus on proactive behaviour. Further information will be sent to the Parish Clerk for distribution to all members. Councillor Hopkins also stated that the Flood Warden should be involved in this project. It was agreed that this should be added to the Agenda for the March meeting.

Councillor Harden expressed concerns that the brook needs dredging. This has not been done for many years. It was felt that this was the responsibility of the Environment Agency. Ruth Rolls directed the Parish Council to the County Council's website for roles and responsibilities of various organisations relating to flood issues.

Councillor Hopkins did consider that most of the recent flooding problems have been due to surface water and the incapacity of drains. He pointed out the particular problem of the ford where there is a bottleneck where the drainpipe diameter varies. There are also no surface water drains. He also stated that the flood bund at the top of Wood Street has problems because the pipe is not big enough to take the water away, although Councillor Kelman has inspected this recently and it is not a problem at present.

## **PLANNING**

### **Applications**

KET/2013/0842 Full planning permission 1 new dwelling, 23 West Street, Geddington (land adj.) – Mr & Mrs Storey

*Councillor Gordon read out a letter from the applicants. It was agreed by those present that this application should be objected to on the grounds that it is designated as an environmentally important open space and that access is directly on to the A43.*

Variation of entertainment licence – Buccleuch Estates

*Mr Sparrow informed the Parish Council that this variation was purely an amendment to include Bank Holiday Mondays.*

Councillor Hopkins asked that the numerous signs stuck on lamp posts in the village should be taken down by the Estate.

Mr Sparrow stated that it would be helpful if members of the Parish Council could be present at the meeting arranged for 18<sup>th</sup> March. The Estate are undertaking research to see the impact of noise on neighbouring areas. The intention is that the Estate should have greater control of events themselves. They are also looking a feasibility study for use of the Sawmill and another site with the intention of improving things in general.

Mr Sparrow will send a draft proposal to the Parish Council in the near future so that a Parish Council delegation can be put together to work alongside the Estate.

## **Approvals**

KET/2013/0620 Single storey front extension and alterations to first floor front windows, Hillside, 4 Grange Road, Geddington – Mr & Mrs Hulett

## **GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014**

**Members present:** Councillor M Rowley (Chairman)  
Councillors T Bailey, A Gordon, K Harden, D Hodgkinson, P Hopkins,  
I Kelman

**Apologies:** Councillors Locock, Padwick and Watson

### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 were read confirmed and signed.

### **BENEFITS FROM SLCC**

**129/14**

It was agreed that the situation should be monitored over the forthcoming months and that this should be reviewed at the November meeting, since the subscription has already been paid for the year.

### **VILLAGE OF THE YEAR**

**130/14**

The Parish Council were in receipt of the documentation for the Village of the Year competition. Councillor Hopkins suggested that the various organisations within the village should be contacted to ask them to contribute ideas. Councillor Rowley agreed to write an article for the newsletter and for the website.

*Councillor Bailey left the meeting at 8.30 pm*

### **KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL ISSUES**

No report.

### **NORTHANTS COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

**131/14**

County Councillor Harker reported that the County Council were intending to consult residents on relocation of the barrier at Clay Dick. Councillor Hopkins felt that this was a wasted exercise since very few residents were in favour of this. The Parish Council await plans from Boughton Estates re use of the old buildings on the site.

Councillor Hopkins complained about the state of the potholes in West Street, Queen Street and on the main road.

### **YOUTH CLUB**

**132/14**

The Youth Club Committee had complained that they were the only organisation where the Parish Council had insisted that a Parish Councillor should be present at Committee meetings. Following a conversation regarding the terms of the Lease, it was agreed that the Youth Club should be relieved of this formality. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Secretary informing him of this decision.

### **VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT AND PLAN**

No report.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**133/14**

Councillor Harden has received 74 signatures to date in support of Community Speedwatch, which is insufficient for the project to go ahead.

## **NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY**

No report.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION**

**134/14**

There has not been a meeting to clarify the role of the Flood Warden since it has been difficult to arrange a date where all three participants can attend. Councillor Rowley agreed that if this has not taken place by the next meeting, then Sarah Pask should be asked to submit her ideas as to what the role of the Flood Warden should be.

With regard to practical problems surrounding access to the ford when water levels are high, it was suggested that signage could display the water level from a distance and that there should be improved visual awareness of the danger of entering the ford at times of high water.

Councillor Hopkins suggested that the Parish Council should let the County Council and the Environment Agency know of their concerns that the ford is not closed when water levels are high. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the County Council asking them for a review of the signage.

Councillor Harden met with a County Council representative and pointed out that the river is full of silt. It was felt that this has a positive effect in that it does form a natural barrier to stop water getting through to the berm.

## **VILLAGE HALL**

**135/14**

Councillor Gordon reported that the Bowls Club have taken responsibility for the alleged incident where a laid sustained a leg injury. They have contacted their insurers.

The Sports Facility Committee have managed to set up a bank account to allow them to deposit the £50,000 grant. A meeting of the sub-committee is being arranged to progress the project further.

Secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee, Mr Brian Leaton, sent a letter to the Parish Council clarifying the role of Village Hall trustees. It was agreed that this should be scanned and distributed to Parish Councillors. Parish Councillors should also be made aware of access to the Dropbox.

## **ROAD SAFETY**

No report.

## **LIGHTING AND FOOTPATHS**

**136/14**

Councillor Rowley proposed and Councillor Kelman seconded that Councillor Hodkinson should take on the responsibility for Lighting & Footpaths. All in favour.

It was reported that there is a light out in Wood Street and another in Queen Eleanor Road. One of the lights on the 20 mph speed limit sign is also broken. Councillor Rowley will send details of Street Doctor to Councillor Hodkinson. He will also update responsibilities for the village website and through social networking.

## **RURAL FORUM**

No report.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **137/14**

A member of the public wrote to the Parish Council expressing concerns about the speed of traffic using Newton Road.

### **138/14**

The Borough Council are arranging a training session for update on permitted development rights, neighbourhood planning, advice on commenting on consultations and 5 year land supply. It was agreed that Councillor Hodkinson should attend this event.

### **139/14**

A further Borough Council Planning Policy Committee meeting has been arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the Site Specific Proposals Local Development Document – Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Options. It was felt that since the Parish Council's recommendations have not changed, there was no need to send a representative along to this meeting.

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

Two items which had been removed from this evening's Agenda prior to the meeting will be carried forward to the next meeting, namely:

- Review of Parish Council Agenda and Meeting
- Proposal as follows:
  - 'That this Parish Council concerned with the overall burden of local taxation agrees to thoroughly review Council assets, income and expenditure in advance of the April 2014 Parish Council meeting. In this respect the Finance Committee is instructed to:*
  - \* Bring forward a complete list of assets with options as to how these might be exploited to increase Council income.*
  - \* Critically review both income and expenditure and report to the Council the main and regular items, again with options for savings.*
  - A full report to be published to Parish Councillors by 31st March 2014 with a full debate, conclusions and decision to be taken at the April 2014 Council meeting.*

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm

## **GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL** **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014**

**Members present:** Councillor M Rowley (Chairman)  
Councillors T Bailey, A Gordon, K Harden, D Hodkinson, P Hopkins,  
I Kelman

**Apologies:** Councillors Locock, Padwick and Watson

### **ACCOUNTS**

#### **140/14**

Community Account Statement as at 17.1.14	£199.63
Business Premium Account Statement as at 17.12.13	£15,710.26
Transferred from Business Premium Account to Community Account	£5,000.00

#### Accounts received

HMRC VAT repayment	£1590.00
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#### Accounts for payment

Sharon Baker Secretarial services (1572)	£35.00
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Zurich Municipal Annual insurance premium  
(cheque reissued – previous cancelled (1571)  
due to revised figure minus insured tables) (1573) £432.38  
Northamptonshire ACRE OCSI Parish Profile report for Geddington (1574) £65.00

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

**Zurich Municipal additional information**

It was noted by Councillor Hopkins that the Parish Council had managed to save money by removing the 22 tables in the Village Hall from the policy. However it was pointed out that the Parish Council does need to inform Zurich of the value of the play equipment which may have an effect on the premium.