

**GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER 2014.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor M Rowley (Chair), D Hodgkinson, I Kelman, K Harden, D.Rushton, A Gordon, P Hopkins, J Padwick, N Batchelor, T Bailey, C Buckseall.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Watson.

ALSO PRESENT: Rachel Gladstone-Millar – Interim Estates Manager, Boughton Estates Ltd, Councillor J Bullock, 4 members of the public.

069/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

070/15 PUBLIC SESSION

Pam Hopkins asked if the parish clerk could send the agenda and minutes of each Parish Council meeting to her, for the Geddington website, as at the moment she was reliant on Cllr Hopkins for the signed off agenda and minutes.

Cllr Bullock will check and confirm that the Planning Committee meeting at which the Lavender Nursery planning application will be discussed, will be held on 16 December 2014.

Commented that the two new dog waste bins are appropriately sited – in Wood Street and Queen Eleanor Road.

Cllr Bullock had received a request for funding concerning the brickyard garden. He asked if the Parish Council had any comments to make. A general discussion confirmed that the brickyard had been discussed within Parish Council meetings, updates had been given, and it was felt that it was a positive step forward for support to be given to the project.

Cllr Bullock confirmed that he had provisionally allocated £200 from his councillor funding for contribution towards purchase/installation of non-destructible bench. A formal request needs to be submitted, and it has to be formally approved by 31 January 2015. The Clerk confirmed that she would do this.

ACTION 1 – Clerk to submit funding request formally.

ACTION 2 – It was requested that an update as to bench purchasing (siting of, number of, purchasing, and funding) be added to the January agenda.

Rachel from Boughton Estates updated as to Boughton Estate work. Landscaping issues for the Boughton Estates proposed road to the South of the village had been resolved. The planning application for homes to the north of the village would be submitted to KBC shortly.

Cllr Rowley informed the meeting that invitations to attend a meeting at Boughton Estates on 17 December had been received, but it was being politely declined, as it was felt that such a meeting needed to be opened to the community, not just to the Parish Council. The invitation was for an information session concerning the Boughton Estates proposed work in the immediate area in and surrounding Geddington.

Rachel confirmed that the sights and visual displays for the turbine could be viewed again now that they were finalised.

A reminder was given for the forthcoming events – Tough Mudder (to be held the last weekend in May), and the Green Belt Festival (normally held on the August bank holiday).

Police crime figures

The police crime figures were referred to - there were no comments.

ACTION3 - clerk to write to the Police Commissioner to ask him to attend a Parish Council meeting. The rural policing policy needs to be explained, and what is the attendance at meetings now that the rural team has lost two PCSOs.

A member of the public informed councillors that the planning application to take down the tree (corner of Queen Street/Grange Road) and the resulting temporary TPO will come into force on 24 December 2014. Councillors were informed as to comments that the Planning Department has received from the public and from NCC, although some comments have not yet been acknowledged.

Cllr Hopkins said that the Parish Council cannot report on the tree felling, but comments can be submitted relating to its effect on the road and other environmental effects.

ACTION 4: The Parish Council to comment to the Planning Department regarding the state of the road (deteriorated in the last three years), flooding and drains, copy to go to the County Council, before 24 December deadline. The objections will all be environmentally based.

Cllr Hopkins asked Cllr Bullock if the issue can go to the Planning Committee, one of the reasons being the serious concerns of the Parish Council to drain damage.

ACTION 5: Cllr Bullock to check what is happening with this and inform Cllr Rowley.

071/15 MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Gordon, seconded by Cllr Padwick

An update was given as to progress of the action points, the clerk reported that actions awaiting replies are to be or have been chased.

CORRESPONDENCE

072/15: Information from Ncalc including subscription fee for 2015/16

073/15: Work Programme from KBC from 13.11.14

074/15: Email from Julia Baish (Senior Development Officer, KBC) – Scheme of Delegation.

075/15: Defibrillator purchasing information.

076/15: KBC Rural Forum –agenda for 27.11.14 and minutes of the last meeting.

077/15: KBC – List of key contacts.

Item 075/15 - Cllr Rowley believed that money has been found to purchase a defibrillator, and the school PA is talking to various bodies in the village to determine the siting of and who will be responsible for it.

PLANNING

a) Applications.

Cllr Gordon said that the following applications had been approved:-

Mr & Mrs Gibson – 1 Bridge Street (KET/2014/0651) –Approved.

Mr N Lyon - 4 Priory Court (KET/2014/0579.- Approved

Mr McCallum/Toppin – The Old School house (KET/2014/0614) – Approved.

New applications for comment:-

i).KET/2014/0667 – Mr. G Holland, Croft Barns, 14A Queen St. Changes of use of part of paddock to all weather manage.

The discussion resulted in two proposals:-

Proposal 1:- to support the application. Cllr Gordon proposed the motion, there were no seconders.

Proposal 2:- to object to the application on the following grounds – it is a historically and visually important designated open space. Proposed by Cllr Rowley, seconded by Cllr Padwick.:-Eleven Cllrs agreed with proposal 2, one Cllr disagreed with this proposal.

Cllr Hopkins asked if the following proviso could be added to the Parish Council comments – the stipulation that if the application was approved, that a restriction be applied that it is for personal use, not business use. All agreed.

ii).KET/2014/0766 - Ms S Wallington, 1 Wood Street, Geddington. Repair works to floor joists including installation of supporting beams and column.

No objections.

iii).KET 2014 0780 /783 Mr C LeBlond, 8 Priory Court demolition of out buildings and erection of single-story extension with garage.

This is a re-apply, with alternative material now specified to the original aluminium/zinc roof.

No objections.

b) Other Planning issues

Cllrs Padwick and Rowley will determine who will attend the Planning Committee meeting on 16 December 2014 for the Lavender Blue Nursery Planning application.

078/15 FINANCE

Business Saver account as at 17.9.14 (Issued quarterly) £10,714.71

Community account statement as at 17.11.14 £9,639.02

(Note - £405.99 of cheques authorised as per 10 November 2014 meeting had not yet been presented as at this date).

a) Accounts received

None.

b) Accounts for payment

Hire of village hall	Ch.101600	£65.00	(Parish plan input/consultation) 07.12.14	
Expenses – Parish Clerk	Ch.101601	£15.76	£6.36 stamps, £9.40 ink cartridge	
Salary – Parish Clerk	Ch.101602	£375.01	Nov and Dec + underpayment made of £86.61 Aug – Oct 2014	

c) Budget projections for 2015/16

There was a general agreement that a special meeting was needed in January for budgetary discussions. A second agenda item of Clerk’s review needed to be added as the six month probationary period ends on 31 January 2015 (this would be a closed session).

A short discussion ensued as to how many benches needed to be purchased, as this was relevant for the budget discussions. Cllr Hopkins said at least three benches were needed, these could be purchased out of this year’s budget.

A further discussion concerning the reserves currently held resulted in general agreement that the Parish Council should not hold reserves higher than the yearly income. An alternative view was that the figure held in reserves should be a maximum of two years’ income as per the auditor’s thoughts. Cllr Hopkins felt that a reserves level of a year’s precept was sufficient. It was decided that more time was needed for the discussion, and the meeting in January would serve this purpose.

d) Precept

A final discussion was needed (for submission by end January 2015). Cllr Rowley said that the final decision for the precept would be made at the special meeting.

Cllr Batchelor left at 8.40pm.

Cllr Rowley asked Cllr Bullock if he had heard of any proposals as to electricity costs of street lighting. Cllr Bullock had heard nothing relating to this at the present time.

The comment was made that there also should be an element of self-funding for any items required or projects – if anything is needed in the village it is the responsibility of the person/ group/ organisation to at least part-fund the item(s) required.

Cllr Rowley ended the discussion by asking councillors to submit their ideas and projects for the village.

079/15 FINANCE & ASSET REVIEW – UPDATE

a) Update from Village Hall group/Village Hall issues

Cllr Rowley reported that the Village Hall group had met, the meeting was productive. There was some doubt over ownership of certain parts of the bowling club area. Cllr Hopkins clarified the ownership details.

ACTION 6: Cllr Hopkins agreed to email the relevant maps in the Dropbox to Cllrs.

080/15 ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

a) Benches – Update needed - replacement of benches/change of location/specification of material used.

Cllr Rowley said that regardless of decision as to number of replacement new benches needed, at least three were required, and the purchase should proceed within this financial year. The Cricket Club then needed to pay for the benches that they are requesting. It was agreed that three would be purchased, with the concreting of the bases to be carried out in the spring. Proposed by Cllr Hopkins, seconded by Cllr Kelman. All agreed.

b) Geddington cricket club requests – updates needed for:-

(1) For seating (possible shared funding) around the cricket pitch.

Cllr Kellan said that the Cricket Club had conveyed that they would like three benches along the boundary curve (a bench in front of each tree within the arc of trees seen as you come out of the carpark looking over to the cricket pitch. No decision was made however as to how many would be purchased by the cricket club.

(2) Approval to move the cricket nets to another area of the park.

The decision was deferred until confirmation from the Village Hall management committee as to a suitable location.

081/15 HIGHWAYS/ LIGHTING/FOOTPATHS/ROAD SAFETY

a) Additional light in West Street – update.

There was no update.

Defective lights update: It was reported that one street light at the bottom end of Wood Street had been repaired, the one at the top of Wood Street was still awaiting repair.

The light in Wormleighton Way/Queen Eleanor Road was awaiting repair.

The light outside 48 Grange Road had been reported.

b) Blocked highway drains in the village – update

The Clerk reported there was no update.

It was reported that a drain between the Post Office and the car park entrance needed clearing (Boughton Estates responsibility).

ACTION 7: – Clerk to report this to Boughton estates.

c) Removal of Tree update (corner of Queen Street/ Grange Road)

Discussed within the public session.

Cllr Hodkinson asked all Cllrs to be aware that any large bushes or trees that needed cutback are more easily identified at this time of the year (blocking street lights as well as blocking footpath access). If any were noted he would report them to Street Doctor for action required.

NEWTON & LITTLE OAKLEY

Little Oakley Social Club request concerning a marquee tent

Cllr Bailey had submitted a request for consideration of purchase of a marquee for fund raising activities in Little Oakley, and any possible sources of finance. He reported that the Social Committee hut could only accommodate 30 people adequately. For large functions a marquee had been loaned, but this could not go on indefinitely. The cost was approximately £950.00 plus delivery.

Questions asked included:-

-Is it permanent? Answer – No – for the summer months only.

-Help from ACRE? Answer – No, they cannot help as it cannot be called a village hall. The Social Committee do not own the freehold or have a long lease. This is why the Social Club cannot apply for charitable status.

-They are not affiliated as a village hall or a community group.

-Who would own it - Answer – Lt Oakley Social Club – as Trustees (the land is owned by Boughton Estates).

Cllr Bailey was advised that the Social Club could request a funding contribution at both county and borough levels, from both Cllr Harker and Cllr Bullock.

Cllr Rowley summarised the discussion by saying that in principle the Parish Council wished to support the purchase of such an item, and the Parish Council would match fund anything that the Borough or County Council can grant. Proposed by Cllr Hopkins, seconded by Cllr Rowley.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA /AOB

AOB.

Cllr Padwick reported that the Parish Plan consultation day had gone well, and he urged for any Cllrs who had not returned their forms, to do so. There was a 20% return rate for the questionnaires, issues raised included usage of buses, lighting, drains, parking, speeding and facilities for older teenagers. He reported that the results would come to the Parish Council before being circulated.

The resurfacing in West Street has not yet been carried out – this is because West Street could not be closed whilst Bridge Street was closed.

ACTION 8: The clerk to ask NCC Highways when it will be resurfaced.

It was reported that the pond in the meadows is in a terrible state. Cllr Rowley said that the GVFB had made enquiries and it had newts in it at present so could not be touched. A further comment was made however that newts wander at this time of year so may not be in the pond after all.

ACTION 9: Clerk to email the GVFB to find out the date of their next meeting so that the pond issue can be raised with them.

ACTION 10: Cllr Rowley will try to find a newt expert.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.