

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL -
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th MARCH 2015.

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr Buckseall.

ALSO PRESENT: Rachael Gladstone-Brown (Estate Manager, Boughton Estates), Chief Inspector Dennis Murray. PCSO Donna Fewer.

112/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Rowley declared an Interest relating to Finance item 124/15 c) “sub-leasing of Stonepit land” (1st Geddington Scout Group Chairman).

113/15 PUBLIC SESSION

- a) Crime figures for February 2015 were relayed by PCSO Fewer.
- b) Chief Inspector Murray then gave a police update, focusing on current priorities for the Police, the Futures Team and the policy relating to numbers for the Rural Teams. Points made and explained were as follows:
 - i) One member of the Rural team had left and the new Sector Inspector is Adam Ward. There is one new Police Officer on Rural, but less PCSOs (staff movement). There are now four PCSOs that cover this area. The Commissioner is recruiting more Specials. There are 400 Specials now and the aim is to have 900 in 12 months’ time.
 - ii) Chief Inspector Murray then gave information relating to the Futures Programme. He is the lead for the initiative, together with Inspector Julie Mead (covers Kettering and Oundle). This is a pilot scheme currently being run in one urban (Wellingborough) and one rural area (Oundle). The initiatives are varied, from a PCSO patrolling on horse-back to joint working with the Fire Brigade. There are 16 partners involved in the Futures Group. PCSOs are making regular visits to schools, which is helping with PCSO led intelligence. Oundle now has its first Parish Constable. It now also has 100% coverage on Business Watch, with 300 volunteers signing up to help with this and other initiatives. Other cross agency working - East Northants council vehicles – “we are visible guardians”. There is cross border rural work, dealing with cross border crime. However, the flexibility that is needed to operate such teams means that PCSOs have to be taken from different places and teams, when extra manpower is needed to deal with a particular issue, for example, by the Child Protection teams.
The Police are working to put drones in the back of RIVs – this is a more cost effective way of surveillance, instead of using a helicopter. This resource is being cut back, with the set up now being regional. The drones can be used at night as well.
Other initiatives include the Planning Unit driving training for the Fire Brigade.
The Futures Team initiatives are being tested now whilst additional government funding for it is available.
 - iii) Part of the joint working initiative now involves sharing costs – for example, Kettering “front office” is now within KBC offices. A similar process with take place shortly in Corby, with the front office moving into the Cube. In Oundle, the front office is closed, with the front line work being carried out at Fletton House (a one stop shop). These working practices are leading to more integrated working and police officers not necessarily working from a Police station. It also means that it may be a member of the Fire Service being in charge of an emergency, not a police officer, for example.

- iv) Commented that a further £40 million has been taken out of the budget, from £130 to £90 million. The next review is expected to state that a further 5% will be cut from the budget. The Police are, however, aiming to give the same or better service than before. Reductions in manpower resulted in some ring fencing – cuts in PCSO numbers led to only PCSOs being able to apply to become police officers to minimise redundancies. Cllr Rowley commented that PCSO coverage for this area used to be 6, now it is 4. Chief Inspector Murray said that the service is more demand-led now, rather than having patrol areas only. They still default back to the patrol areas, however, when there is less demand for additional manpower. The way forward is more parish constables and special constables. A recruitment drive for special constables has seen 60 recruited in 6 weeks – compared to 90 recruited in two years in Leicester.
- v) The Commissioner is aiming for a 40% reduction in violence. “Operation Limit” has been set up to concentrate on initiatives to achieve this.
- vi) Cllr Watson commented that the information given had been very useful, but why not update the public more, using community newsletters. He also noted that regarding the Rural Forum, going through 10 pages of numbers was a waste of time, and it may be useful for Chief Inspector Murray to attend every two or three sessions rather than a PCSO, in order to update on current thinking, new ways of working, new initiatives etc. Chief Inspector Murray said that he took on board that the public need to know some of the new initiatives that are happening, even though some are very much at the pilot stage.

ACTION 1 – Clerk to email the Chief Inspector regarding contacting the Rural Forum to arrange a Rural Forum slot.

Cllr Harden asked if an article could be forwarded for the Northamptonshire Watch newsletter. Chief Inspector Murray agreed to do this. He asked the PCSO to follow up why Cllr Harden is not now receiving FarmWatch.

- vii) Commented that the Fire Service are not governed by the same rules as the Police concerning RIPPA.
- viii) Local issues raised: Cllr Rushton asked why no action had been taken concerning the three cars that park at the end of Newton Road every day. The PCSO was asked to follow this up with Scott Little, the new rural sergeant or Adam Ward, the new sector sergeant.

Chief Inspector Murray left at 8.20 pm after being thanked for his comprehensive update.

Cllr Hopkins then informed the PCSO of traffic parking issues in Grafton Road by Orchard Close. Cars are parking and blocking the complete width of the path. The school has a working allotment now and children need to access the path leading to the allotments.

It was also reported that Hamilton’s of Rothwell are driving through the village from Grafton Underwood and up Newton Road at over 20 mph.

PCSO Donna Fewer left at 8.23pm.

Rachael.Gladstone-Brown (R.G-B) then updated as to Boughton Estates matters.

-.She now has the permanent role of Estates Manager.

-.She informed that the drains reported as blocked by the Post Office have now been cleared out.

-.The bridleway gate query - they have previously been opened as and when required. It was not clear which bridle gate was being referred to as giving no access. It was agreed that this would be plotted on a map and sent to R.G-B.

ACTION 2: Cllr Hodkinson to action the above, for the Clerk to forward to Boughton Estates.

- The turbine by the cam grain site has not yet progressed. There will be a consultation evening at some stage concerning the turbine.
 - The other events are as previously given (Tough Mudder and Greenbelt).
 - The Tapestry suite will now be used - holding 120 people for dinners.
 - There is a wish to be involved more with the village, communication, tours, educational visits, involvement of young people. R.G-B was asked if she could provide an article for the newsletter, which would help to determine what the village wanted, and if there were any crossovers (with the Village Plan consultation). She agreed to write an article for the Newsletter. It was added that she could also do this via Facebook and the website. Cllr Padwick added that YouthWorks would be keen to develop relationships with Boughton Estates for work experience for rural careers.
- R.G-B also added that she was looking at flood plains at present.

114/15 MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes were accepted as a true record.

An update was given as to progress of the action points, the following was specifically reported:-

Action 5 (9.2.2015 Minutes): Cllr Harden had checked the electoral role but had not been able to determine the address of the relative (Trevor Barlow of Barton Seagrave, it is believed) concerning the moving of the plaque on the vandalised bench.

ACTION 3: Cllr Batchelor will carry out some further enquiries.

Action 6 (9.2.2015 Minutes): Cllr Kelman had checked the existing benches for disrepair, and had met Amanda McDade from KBC to finalise placement of the five benches, the order for which has been forwarded by the Clerk to KBC.

The Clerk reported that she will chase the actions for which no reply has been received.

CORRESPONDENCE

115/15 Ncalc - "cash for funders" – free "meet the funders" event Thurs 5/2/15 – *emailed to all cllrs 16/2/15.*

116/15 Request for help with West Street property numbering from Dennis Murphy - *circulated 16/2/15.*

117/15 CPRE Northants – Superfast broadband questionnaire – for both councillor and resident responses.

118/15 Letter from KBC – Parish/Town Elections 7/5/15 – *circulated 19/2/15.*

119/15 Prohelp information – free professional support for the voluntary sector – *circulated 2/3/15.*

120/15 Email from NCC – draft Information and Advice Strategy – consultation reminder, *circulated 20/2/15.*

121/15 Local and parish council app - information/promotion email – *circulated 24/2/15.*

122/15 Email from SLCC - Planning update newsletter – *circulated 25/2/15.*

Item 120/15 - Cllr Watson had fed his father's views back to NCC, stating that a fair number of elderly people would not know how to use the internet, their voices will therefore not be heard.

No other comments were made or queries raised concerning correspondence.

123/15 DIGITAL BY DEFAULT – NCalc course -report by Cllr Hodkinson to highlight specific issues raised.

Cllr Hodkinson reported that the new Transparency Code followed a lot of the lines of the old quality parish council scheme. He reported that the December 2014 information that had been sent through to parish councils may not be the final version, as there may be some revision carried out in March 2015. The 4th presentation in particular (all presentations were circulated to councillors on 2 March 2015) appeared to illustrate that a certain amount of experience was needed in order to comply fully with what may be the compliances required.

ACTION 4: The Clerk confirmed that she would keep her eye on what was being published on relevant website or from Ncalc.

Cllr Rowley added that Declarations of Interest are already being published on the KBC website, the Declaration also includes signatures.

Cllr Bailey added that digital was not always best, as per his experience when reporting mud in the road, and experiencing a service that was not user friendly.

PLANNING

(No planning applications lodged with KBC since January Parish Council meeting).

a) KBC Planning decisions for previous applications notified.

Mr & Mrs Storey 23 West St (land adj) 1 x dwelling KET/2014/0816 Application withdrawn.

Mr T Noone Burford House – (trees application) KET/2014/0817 No objection

Mrs S Markham Queen St (T1 Wellingtonia Tree application) KET/2015/0016 – No objection

b) Site specific proposals – consultation (see email sent out 17/2/15)

Schedule of dates for the timescale is listed on the document.

124/15 FINANCE

Community account statement as at 17.02.15 £8,544.76

Business Saver account as at 17.02.15 £10,716.05

a) Accounts received

Geddington Youth Club - rent for use of Stone Pit land £150.00

GVFB - “ “ £250.00

b) Accounts for payment

Wicksteed's Playgrounds invoice 5.3.15	Ch.101607	£54.00	Annual playground inspection	
Ncalc invoice course held 1.2.15	101608	£34.00	Training course	
SLCC – membership subscription	101609	£77.00	2015 – 12 month's membership	
Zurich Insurance Policy – YLL-122006-9223	101610	£458.32		
Parish Clerk salary	101611	£893.27	1.1.15 – 31.3.15	
Depreciation Allowance – Parish Clerk	101611	£60.00	1.1.15 – 31.3.15	
HMRC payment	101612	£223.20	1.1.15 – 31.1.15.	

1 x course booking request rec'd – “Openness & accountability” 28.4.15. £34.00

The accounts received were agreed for payment by all councillors present. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Harden.

c) Assets - Youth Club – i) Stonepit land sub-letting

ii) Request to carry out work on the Stonepit land area (see email sent out 1/2/15).

i). Cllr Hopkins stated that the Youth Club leases the footprint of the building, plus they are responsible for keeping the ground in good repair. They cannot solely use the land and the covenant of the document states that monies raised by use of the land must benefit the whole of the Parish (as per the Charity Commission letter dated 1974). It was noted that the Youth Club signed to accept the conditions for their lease of the land in 2001.

Cllr Watson commented that the Youth Club were not raising a huge amount out of any hiring of the land - £150 for this item appears on their accounts. Cllr Hopkins said that the monetary aspect for use of the field for subletting is not the issue, it is not theirs to sub-let. Cllr Rowley added that the Youth Club had said that this would not happen again, two years ago.

Cllr Batchelor said that a precedence was being set, the gate is opened for more subletting. Cllr Gordon said that they had a viable agreement, with the lease lasting 21 years from 2001. Cllr Padwick felt that it should be reclaimed for community use.

It was agreed that Cllr Bailey would draw up a letter to be sent to the Clerk/work with the Clerk, and the completed letter to then be sent to the Youth Club.

ACTION 5: Letter to be sent as stated above.

Cllr Padwick added a final comment by stating that a mechanism is needed for the use of the land, this could possibly be included in the letter as showing a positive way forward. Consent would still be needed in writing by the Landlord though.

ii). It was agreed that the Youth Club be given permission to carry out the work requested to the remaining wall by the gate.

The request regarding trees – to be put on hold at the present time, as good handling is needed. Cllr Rowley asked R.G-B if a tree expert can look at them. She agreed to ask a Boughton Estate tree expert to look at them.

ACTION 6: Clerk to inform the Youth Club of the decisions.

ACTION 7: Cllr Rowley will ask who is on the Youth Club committee.

125/15 ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

a) Parish Plan – update from Cllr Padwick.

Cllrs Padwick, Hodkinson, Hopkins, Rowley and Rushton are meeting on 18 March to start to look at a solution to use the information acquired at the Parish Plan questionnaire.

b) Bench purchasing – Timescales for installation and update by Cllr Kelman.

An update was given under Minutes/matters arising - Action 6 of the 9.2.2015 Minutes.

c) Yearly Playground Inspection – report received with repairs recommendations

Cllr Watson said that £306 plus VAT seems a sensible amount. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Padwick. Cllr Hodkinson commented that small, ongoing and minor maintenance could be checked on a councillor rota basis once a week, which would mean a person checking the play area only once every three months. The GVFB may be interested in helping out on a “checking of equipment – minor issues” rota as well. Cllr Rowley added that the Scouts have a community week in May and it may be something that they could be involved with as regards to the cleaning of the play equipment.

ACTION 8: Cllr Rowley to ask the Scouts if the cleaning of the play equipment is feasible to consider for their community week.

The playground inspection had highlighted that there was no signage for the park. It was agreed that this would be discussed at a future meeting.

126/15 HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING/FOOTPATHS/ROAD SAFETY

a) State of the verges - Newton to A43. (Cllr Harden to highlight this issue)

Cllr Harden stated that the state of the verges in Newton Road is awful now, the stretch of road concerned is from the grain store to Stamford Road. Cllr Watson commented that the road is not as wide as it used to be. Kerbs are only an option for wider roads. The road is not suitable for lorries but they need to be able to access the buttery. There is nothing therefore that can be done.

b) Lighting -

i) KBC Street lighting plans – accuracy request (email from DH 20/2/15)

Geddington - There are 107 street lights. 1x is not on the map, 6 x more are on the map than are on the streets, plus there is a street light in the former council housing garage site in The Woodlands. There is a question mark as to whose responsibility this light is.

Newton – the street light map is correct.

Little Oakley – Cllr Bailey will check that the map is correct for Little Oakley.

ACTION 9: Cllr Bailey to check lights in Little Oakley

Cllr Watson questioned the fairness of the borough councils, when every street light was being replaced in the county but not those of parishes.

ii) West Street new light update - by Cllr Hodkinson.

No 46 West Street is to be asked if the owner was willing to have a light installed, this would eliminate the kerb problem. A suitable light has been sourced for this site (as opposed to the kerb light). The cost is similar to a standard street light fitting - £2100 to £2500.

Several questions were raised, including the need to consult again, were councillors happy with this different style of light, and was there a need for it? It was noted that the style of light is very similar to the one further down West Street. There is a need for it – a footpath is in this area, there is no light, and if one is not installed a ramp will be needed. The road should not have to be dug up – cable should be in the footpath. It was decided that Cllr Hodkinson will work with Cllr Rowley on this issue.

ACTION 10: Cllr Hodkinson to work with Cllr Rowley on this issue.

One light in the village is on all day, Cllr Hodkinson will report it to Street Doctor.

NEWTON & LITTLE OAKLEY

No reports

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA/AOB

Review of the change of Agenda and Minute format to be added to next month's agenda.

Meeting closed at 9.51pm