

**GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL -
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th JUNE 2015.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors M Rowley (Chair), D Watson, A Gordon, D Rushton, T Bailey, N Batchelor.

APOLOGIES: Cllr D Hodkinson

ALSO PRESENT: Seven members of the public and PCSO Donna Fenner.

040/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None were declared.

041/16 PUBLIC SESSION

a) Questions from the public

i) (Agenda item 8b) Defibrillator project – close of BT consultation for “Adopt a Kiosk” application by L Chambers. Request for approval by the Parish Council.

This agenda item was moved to the public session as a member of the Geddington Defibrillator team was present. The Council was informed that there had been no response to BT’s consultation. Questions were answered as follows:

- The Post office pays for electricity used for seven years.
- The telephone box itself will be the Parish Council’s responsibility. Equipment within the phone box is not the PC’s responsibility.
- The Defibrillator Team may need to set themselves up as a registered charity, to deal with the insurance on the equipment. It was noted that specialised insurance is needed.
- GVFB are happy for the £2000 funding for the project to be given to the CHT: The CHT will own the equipment but it will be held in Trust for the Defibrillator Team.

ACTION 1: Parish Clerk to read the defibrillator contact.

ACTION 2: Cllr Rowley to ensure that the Parish Council finalises the contract

ii) Village sign – The sign is being covered by vegetation - Kettering end of the village. Noted that other villages such as Isham have immaculate verges – why is Geddington looking so neglected? Cllr Rushton commented that the sign at the Corby end of the village was also being covered by vegetation as well, plus the 30mph sign is becoming obscured. Cllr Watson asked for the County Council to be contacted.

NCC also need to be asked why there does not appear to be any verge cutting in Geddington or Newton.

Additionally, no cut back to the shoots at the bottom of trees is taking place.

Cllr Bailey added that tree branches are also obscuring the road sign at the Little Oakley/ A4300 junction.

ACTION 3: Clerk to write to NCC to address the above issues.

iii) Building of residential homes – a member of the public wants to know if building of the Bryant Homes at the top of Bright Trees Road was still an option that Boughton Estates may wish to pursue. Cllr Rowley commented that the Parish Council could not comment on a possible option unless a planning application had been submitted. He added that the East Northants Spatial Review states the housing needs for the area, with 480 homes for rural areas needed over the next 15 years.

A further comment was made that the wood yard and the land opposite the wood yard would be another option, as it is the same size as the Bryant Homes’ proposal site.

Cllr Watson reiterated that the Parish Council cannot comment until a planning application has been received by the KBC, and the Parish Council needs to remain open minded.

The discussion closed with the member of public stating that the people who have leased the land have been asked to leave – they have a 6 months lease. The ground has also been surveyed.

- iv) Parking for the sheltered bungalows – Queen Eleanor Road. A member of the public said that there were six bungalows but only parking spaces for five vehicles. He stated that there is a gap of 21 feet between numbers 6 and 7. This would be enough for one more space. He also reported that number 9 bungalow has some urgent maintenance needs.

ACTION 4: Cllr Rowley will speak to the Housing Officer as both of these issues need to go to KBC. He is also trying to contact the Warden to introduce himself as the Borough Councillor.

- v) Reports from County and Borough Councillors

Cllr Rowley said that as a Borough Councillor he had not attended any meetings yet – the first one will be in July. He will be having a walk about with Adam Simmonds (Police Commissioner) in August, to concentrate on any crime areas and what issues the Police can help with.

- vi) Police Report / Crime figures

These had been previously been circulated to Cllrs. There were no comments.

- vii) Determine questions for Crime Commissioner Adam Simmonds – attendance at 13 July 2015 meeting.

Both the public and Cllrs were advised that questions for Adam Simmonds needed to be submitted in advance.

ACTION 5: All those present were asked to send in their questions in readiness for the July meeting (to the PC email address).

042/16 MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

- a) Full PC Special meeting held 11 May 2015
The Minutes were accepted as a true record.
- b) PC monthly meeting held 18 May 2015
The Minutes were accepted as a true record.
- c) Full PC Special meeting held 1 June 2015
The Minutes were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising; progress on agreed actions

No matters were raised for the above three meetings.

The clerk reported that all actions from the last meeting have been actioned.

Correspondence received.

043/16: Letter from Paul Adams (to Cllr Rowley) regarding two large trees on land opposite Pathway Cottage, Geddington (not PC responsibility). - circulated 26.5.15 by Cllr Rowley.

044/16: Update on progress of draft Core Strategy – from Thomas Shaw North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit

045/16: Newsletter May 2015 – from Clerks and Councils Direct.

046/16: SLCC – roadshow and conference dates notification.

047/16: I.T. linked discussion for -

a) New requirements for parish councils as per Openness & Accountability Ncalc course (attended by Cllr Watson, April 2015).

Cllr Watson said that there had been uncertainty amongst some of those people who attended the Openness & Accountability course he attended in April, as to level of financial transactions that parish councils need to disclose. Some attendees thought that anything over £100 should be published. However, every payment comes to the PC, with the agendas and minutes of the meetings on the internet and Facebook.

b) Priorities for new Social Media and Communications lead (Cllr Rowley/ Cllr Rushton)

Cllr Rowley indicated that more information needs to be published on the Web, with parish councils having to be more transparent. Different /better ways of communication will be explored in more detail by Cllrs Rowley and Rushton, before coming back to the Parish Council for decision to be made or approval to be given.

Cllr Rushton asked what could happen with emails. One possibility is all Parish Cllrs having their own parish council email address. There could also be one for planning issues, one for Newton and one for Little Oakley. It was felt that an overhaul of communications as a whole was needed to encourage more involvement from the three wards and residents' input into their village issues. It would also give the PC more overall control on the material that was published.

Cllr Watson concluded that a report was needed to state the options and the recommendations.

048/16 FINANCE

Community account statement as at 17.05.15 £15,711.54

Business Saver account as at 17.03.15 £10,717.28

a) Accounts received

None

b) Accounts for payment

Parish Clerk	£883.20	¼ yr. salary (Apr, May, Jun 2015)		
PAYE	£220.80	¼ yr. for Apr, May & Jun for July submission		

Cllr Rowley proposed the Parish Council's authorisation of the payments, seconded by Cllr Gordon. Agreed by all Cllrs present.

The redemption of 2½% consolidated stock – two options have been received from HM Treasury. The paperwork has been completed by the clerk and once authorised signatories are obtained, the form can be sent off for stock redemption.

PLANNING

It was agreed by all Cllrs present that it was logical to have planning issues as the next item following the public session for future agenda order.

ACTION 6: Clerk to enact for future agendas.

a) KBC Decision notices

i). The Old School House, Grafton Rd – driveway work approved.

b) Planning Applications for consideration

i). KET/2015/0330 – Office of Northamptonshire Police & Crime Commissioner – erection of three storey office building - land at Cherry Hall Road, Kettering. Note: Not a statutory consultee, for discussion and information only.

An informal short discussion produced no major issues that Cllrs wished to be conveyed as informal comments.

ii).KET/2015/029 – (amended plans). Full application. Mr Dawson, 34 Skeffington Close. 1st floor rear extension. Front extension to create porch.

[Extension to timescale requested but rejected. 10 days' notice for comments expires 8.6.15].

Cllr Batchelor explained the amended plans as per the paperwork. Cllr Rowley commented that the neighbours of 34 Skeffington Close were happy with the amendment.

Cllr Gordon proposed that the Parish Council would now support the application. Seconded by Cllr Rowley. All in favour.

iii).KET/2015/0370 – Dr Whittaker, Barn Owl cottage, 21 Corby Road, Little Oakley – application for listed building consent – replacement windows, new sills, replacement/reglaze doors.

Cllrs agreed that the whole appearance of the proposed work was sympathetic to the building and its surroundings. Most of the work would not be visible from the road.

Proposed by Cllr Rowley that support be given to the listed building application. Seconded by Cllr Gordon. All in favour.

- c) **Other planning issues:** A comment was raised that the red chimneys on the old school house were inappropriate for the building. However, they may be there as a temporary measure or may be awaiting being painted.

ACTION 7: Cllr Batchelor will informally knock on the door to see if he can gain further information. After 30 days, the issues will be revisited, with the option of contacting the Planning Enforcement Officer at KBC.

d) Parish Plan: update by Cllrs Hodkinson and Rushton.

There was no update available at the present time.

049/16: ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION.

- a) Maintenance work to bus shelters – Quotations obtained.

The Parish Clerk updated Cllrs that despite a request for a more detailed and firm quotation from MW Builders, and a chase up for the quotation from the Cranford building firm, neither had been sent. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Watson that the next cheapest quotation which included a reasonable level of detail was that submitted by Rick Loak and that he should be contacted to carry out the work. Seconded by Cllr Gordon. All in favour.

- b) Defibrillator project – end of BT consultation for “Adopt a Kiosk” application by L Chambers. Request for approval by the Parish Council.

Discussed within the public session

- c) Geddington-Fest and Gedd-Stock – concerns received by Cllrs Batchelor and Rowley, of West Street residents in particular, to the 11.00pm finishing time.

Cllr Rowley commented that the events by both the White Lion and White Hart had always over-ran the stated end time. From April 2015 it would be more difficult to address this. However it was felt that it is unfair for Boughton Estates to adhere to sound or time limits, when the two pubs are not doing this. It was suggested that KBC may be able to agree a closing time for the events with the pubs on the strength of fairness. Cllrs were divided on possible closure times, which ranged from 8.00pm to 11.00pm. The Stone Pit land has a cut off time for noise of midnight. It was also pointed out that rock bands in a village may not be appropriate. Cllr Batchelor added that it is not only noise issues that residents are concerned with. Some of the attendees drink, walk down the street, but then urinate on residents' property - the other pubs also shut at 11.00pm. Additionally, it is profitable for the White Hart to run the event, but they make no effort to clean any of the mess up afterwards.

050/16: HIGHWAYS / LIGHTING/ FOOTPATHS /ROAD SAFETY.

- a) Street Lighting: Public Rights of Way – any issues raised or to be reported.
- b) West Street: new street light – progress report (Cllr Hodkinson)

Both 5a) and b) were discussed together.

Cllr Hodkinson had provided an update and a report in advance for both items a) and b). This had been forwarded to the Cllrs in advance of the meeting. Cllrs were satisfied with the update, and there were no further queries raised.

NEWTON

- a) Cllr Watson asked if all Cllrs were aware that the Buttery's new restaurant and other improvement works had been completed and the new restaurant was now open for business.
- b) The junction of Newton Road – lack of visibility when exiting the village was recognised by everyone using this junction. Moving the hedge was previously ruled out as this is classed as “ancient hedge”. Creating a shallower bend by means of work to the other side of the road is not feasible – the figure previous given for such work was £1/2 million. Provision of a mirror was turned down for insurance purposes – it would have to be south facing therefore potentially blinding a driver to oncoming traffic.

No other suggestions were forthcoming.

LITTLE OAKLEY.

- a) The massive pothole at the A4300 end of the village has been filled.
- b) A safety fence next to the stream and footpath has been broken. It was stated that it is not a footpath issue, as the land is not owned by the farmer. Cllr Bailey believes that it is not Boughton Estates land. It may therefore be KBC land, with the verge belonging to the Highways. Cllr Bailey will check this.

Cllr Bailey confirmed that the cheque for the marquee has been sent to the Treasurer LOSC. It should be ordered by now. The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Bailey had been asked to forward the invoice when it is received and if any outstanding monies are left, that this should be discussed at the next PC meeting.

Items for next month's Agenda

No items were raised.

AOB

Cllrs decided to hold the next meeting in Newton at the Newton Field Centre, on 13.7.15 at 7.30pm.

ACTION 8: Cllr Watson will arrange this.

ACTION 9: Clerk to ensure the change of venue is heightened on the agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting closed 9.10pm.