

**GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL -
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th JULY 2015.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors M Rowley (Chair), D Watson, A Gordon, C Buckseall, D Hodgkinson, D.Rushton, N Batchelor.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs T Bailey and K Harden, and John Padwick.

ALSO PRESENT: Rachael Gladstone-Brown [RG-B], Estate Manager, Boughton Estates,

050/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

051/16 CO-OPTION REQUEST.

A letter had been submitted and circulated to all Cllrs from John Padwick expressing interest in being co-opted back on to the Parish Council. This was warmly agreed by all Cllrs present.

052/16 PUBLIC SESSION

- a) i) R G-B reported that the Greenbelt tickets had been circulated and had all been sold already.
 - ii) Tough Mudder – it is a smaller event this year – maximum of 8000. Cllr Gordon highlighted the number of lorries on the road whilst the event was taking place. Cllr Gordon added that there were queues of traffic through the village going towards Kettering. Boughton Estates are aware of the problems and will hopefully improve on the traffic problems for this year's event.
 - iii) Turbine – ongoing background work is taking place.
 - iv) Newton barns planning application – to be discussed within the Planning section of the meeting.
 - v) Tree management: more historic species such as limes are being planted; trees such as poplars are not native trees. The planting is being carried out with the approval/input of the Forestry Commission. Cllr Watson asked if an article could go in the newsletter (before the end July the cut-off date).
 - vi) There may be another open day by Boughton Estates in September/October – possibly a tour of the armoury or the airfield.
 - b) i) There was no County Councillor report.
 - ii) Borough Councillor Report.
Cllr Rowley gave a brief update at Borough level. He has his first Borough Council meeting on Wednesday. He is on the Planning Committee and will be involved in Planning Policy. Input at both Borough and Parish Council levels is not appropriate, so he will decide before each application which option is best – not to be present within the planning section of the PC meeting, but to be able to make a decision in the KBC Planning Committee meeting, or vice versa. He will decide on a case by case basis.
 - c) No police were present - they had informed that there would be no attendance in advance. Police crime figures for June had been circulated to all Cllrs.
 - d) There will be a Geddington walkabout with Adam Simmonds on 27/7/15 (note: this was later changed to 28/7/2015), at 2.30pm, to last 30 minutes.
- ACTION 1: Cllr Rushton will compile the list of questions for the Police Commissioner for the September meeting. These are needed well in advance for the Clerk to send to the Commissioner's office as per requested.**

053/16 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

- a) Parish Council AGM held 18 May 2015

The Minutes of the AGM were agreed to be a true record. A point to note related to August- this will be decided later in this meeting.

b) PC monthly meeting held 8 June 2015

The Minutes of the meeting were agreed to be a true record.

c) Matters arising; progress on agreed actions

The Clerk reported that all action points had been actioned, but expanded on the following:

Action 3 - Vegetation growth/ cutback needed on the A4300. This had been reported to NCC but it had been highlighted within the June meeting that the trees on the Southern entrance to Geddington were the Parish Council responsibility. It was agreed that the best option would be to progress cutback of the trees in the autumn when there would be less foliage. It was noted that temporary traffic lights would need to be installed when the work was carried out. Rachael G-B said that the Boughton Estates tree surgeon would look at that stretch for foliage removal as well. Cllr Rowley suggested that GVFB may also be able to give the area a “spring clean”.

Action4 (extra parking for the sheltered bungalows on Queen Eleanor Road). Cllr Rowley reported that there was not enough turning space for an extra parking space.

Action 7 (red chimney on the Old School house). Cllr Batchelor has spoken to the owners, who will now change them for black chimneys.

ACTION 2 – Cllr Rowley to send Cllr Batchelor the name of the new Planning Enforcement Officer.

5. PLANNING

a) KBC Decision notices

3 decision notices had been approved by KBC Planning:-

KET/2015/ 0379 Removal of hedgerow – Little Oakley.

KET/2015/ 0008 and 0009 – Work to Moat Farm, Little Oakley.

KET/2015/ 0289 revised plans for 34 Skeffington Close, Geddington.

b) APPLICATIONS (see list on Page 2).

KET/2015/ 0484 Ms Holland – change of use from private to riding stable (improvements to existing vehicular access from New Road and car park).

It was acknowledged that the concerns that had been previously raised appeared to be addressed now.

The application stated that:-

-There will not be horseboxes coming and going with regularity.

-Horse riding is not being charged for.

-There will be only four spaces for cars – it will only be Mrs Holland who will be doing the horse riding lessons).

-There would be no activity on Monday, 10.00am to 7.00pm until October, 10.00am to 3.00pm in the winter months,

-The horse riding activity will be for adults and children.

-The entrance and pedestrian access will only be via the main road.

-Noted by the Parish Council that the inference is that the entrance from the highway has been approved, but it has not been approved.

Cllr Gordon commented that it will now be hard to turn this down from a rural economic/ employment view. Cllr Rowley said that he has asked the Enforcement Officer to ensure that a fence was installed bordering the Red Lion Car Park and to ensure it meets the restrictions on the second application. Cllr Watson commented that the Parish Council has reasonable concerns which have been met.

Cllr Hodkinson noted that one outstanding concern is that the approval of the amended application should have a further proviso – that the whole length of the hedge on the main road is cut back. This will ensure better vision – the current lack of maintenance for the hedge will obscure the view. The hedge should be kept trimmed back to sight line.

Cllr Gordon proposed that the Parish Council would now support the application, with the proviso of the full length of the hedge being cut back and kept trimmed back to the sight line. Seconded by Cllr Rowley. All were in favour.

KET/2015/ 0033 and 0056, – amended plans submitted.

*Mrs Gladstone-Brown Boughton Estate Ltd,
Full Application: Barn conversion to 3 no. dwellings, single storey side
extension and creation of new farm access road
Newton Mill Farmhouse, Newton Road, Geddington*

KET/2015/0033

The amended plans show two skylights and a different shade of porch way.

Cllr Rowley proposed and Cllr Gordon seconded that the submission should be “we have no objection to the plans submitted, but would like our original concerns addressed (relating to the access road).”

KET/2015/0056

It was agreed that no further meeting would be needed for this amended application, with no comment submitted.

KET/2015/ 0494

Bowood Cottage (Mr & Mrs Goode.

It was agreed that no further meeting would be needed for this amended application, with no comment submitted.

c) Consultation on Focused Changes to the Pre-Submission North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) – closure date is 27 July 2015.

The document had been previously sent out to all Cllrs. The consultation for this has been carried out at a high level, with no changes listed.

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

Cllr Hodkinson said that as Cllr Padwick had been co-opted back on to the Parish Council, it would make sense for the work of the Parish Plan to be carried out by all three Cllrs. All agreed with this. The three Cllrs would meet within the next month. The data inputting had been achieved, and there was a programme of activity for the next month. Cllr Hodkinson added that the policy side of the Parish Plan needed to be reported on in September. A short note as to progress would be sent out to the volunteers.

CORRESPONDENCE – received since last meeting

053/16 SLCC – “New challenges, new opportunities” event 15th – 17th October 2015

054/16 CPRE – Newsletter, June/July 2015

055/16 SLCC – 2015 Regional Road Show 19 August 2015 at Kettering Park Hotel.

056/16 Cycle 4 Cynthia 2015 – fundraising for Cynthia Spencer hospice Sun 13915 at Althorp.

057/16 CPRE Campaigns – funding for cycling and walking.

058/16 SLCC – The Clerk magazine – for parish councils

059/16 Police Crime Commissioner - support for “Thunderclap” request.

All correspondence had been sent out in advance: there were no issues or comments raised relating to the correspondence.

060/16 RURAL FORUM (QUARTERLY) MEETING (JUNE 2015) – report by Cllr Watson.

Cllr Watson informed the meeting that Chief Inspector Gary Ashton had been present at the meeting. The main issues he had spoken of were community police and parish special constables.

Cllr Watson then gave a summary of main themes of the meeting. The issue of Borough Cllrs not listening to members of the Rural Forum had been raised again: the Borough Cllr answer is always justification of why they are doing what they have decided. Danny Moody from Ncalc has suggested a review, as the structure of the meetings needs to be reconsidered. Cllr Watson added that it is a pointless exercise having only Cllrs present at the Rural Forum and the A6 Town Forum; the officers need to be there as well.

The next Rural Forum meeting is on 17 September. They would like to meet in Geddington for this meeting.

ACTION 1: Cllr Rowley to email the relevant person in Adam Simmonds' office for relevant wording so that an article can go in The Newsletter, Facebook and on the website.

ACTION2. – Clerk to check with Brian Leaton as to availability of the Village Hall on 17 September.

061/16 FINANCE

Community account statement as at 17.06.15 £14,540.29

Business Saver account as at 17.06.15 £10,718.72

a) Accounts received

None

b) Accounts for payment

Haines Watts Northamptonshire LLP	£396.00	Financial statements for the year ended 31.3.2015
Wicksteed's	£1641.60	Agreed maintenance work.
Depreciation of equipment allowance – Parish Clerk	£60.00	For Apr, May and June 2015.
Expenses – Parish Clerk	£25.51	Printer cartridges £10.99, stamps £13.52, £1.00 BT contract

Proposed by Cllr Gordon for the accounts for payment to be approved, Seconded by Cllr Buckseall, all were in favour.

c).2014/15 Accounts and annual return – for final approval and sign off.

The Clerk updated Cllrs as to the annual return. There were no questions relating to the figures or the return. Cllr Watson advised that the figures should be signed off by 30 June; the external auditors will issue an intention to qualify the audit of Geddington notice, as they were not signed off until 13 July. He explained that the notice prevents some authorities from achieving a high performing council status for a year. This had already been relayed to the Clerk by BDO, the external auditors. The Clerk explained that she had spoken to BDO as to not having the annual return form for 2013-14 which was needed and the internal auditors filling in the wrong section on the annual return, but they do not class these as mitigating factors.

Cllr Rowley proposed that the accounts and annual return be signed off by the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Gordon. All Cllrs present were in favour.

062/16 ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

a) Defibrillator project – update to proposed telephone kiosk usage.

Cllrs were informed that the Defibrillator contract had been sent off. Confirmed that the GVFB had donated the funding required and the Geddington defibrillator group were exploring and then going to apply for charity status.

b) Tree maintenance – update by Cllr Rowley.

Cllr Rowley reminded the Parish Council that as per the discussion in the June 2015 Parish Council meeting, it was the Parish Council's responsibility to provide the tree maintenance for the trees on southern entrance to the village and the maintenance work would be best carried out in the autumn or winter when there is less foliage.

c) Tree removal – request by Nick Lyon for input –

Knowledge of any good cause that would be glad of wood/wood chippings?

No suggestions were forthcoming.

Cllr Rowley asked if the wood chippings are on the banks of the berm.

ACTION 3 - The Clerk to check this with Nick Lyon.

d) Play area, recreation field.

- i) Confirmation is needed (for signed certificate of satisfaction) that the work has been completed to a satisfactory standard.

ACTION 4 - Cllr Buckseall will inspect the play area for the standard of work carried out and email the Clerk.

- ii) Ongoing inspection and maintenance of play area in recreation field - KBC update.

The Clerk reported that enquiries with KBC have shown that ongoing inspection and maintenance is carried out by the Borough Council. It is unclear why the ground surface matting that was unsafe had not been highlighted for work needing to be carried out, but a Rospa inspector carries out the inspection every few months so the play area is inspected by a recognised professional.

e) Website – Sponsorship renewal request.

The request has been received, for £18.00 sponsorship for the year, from the Geddington website Secretary. After a discussion as to whether sponsorship for the year should be approved, it was proposed by Cllr Hodkinson and seconded by Cllr Rushton that £18.00 sponsorship for the year be sent to Geddington.net. All were in favour.

063/16 HIGHWAYS/ LIGHTING/ FOOTPATHS/ ROAD SAFETY

a) Highways

Overgrown hedges are on either side of the Ise brook. One hedge backs on to Bob Austin's property and are his responsibility, not Highways. The hedge on the opposite side of the River Ise is Peter Clipston's responsibility. A large sign is obscured by an overgrown tree. Although it is the individual's responsibility, the NCC sometimes cut the hedges when they are carrying out other maintenance work in the area.

b) Lorries

They are still accessing the village. On 9 July 2015 50 lorries came through the village within a two hour time slot. Cllrs were urged by Cllr Rowley to fill in the questionnaire that has been sent by the NCC – one per household.

It was reported that a camera had been installed at the Weekly roundabout, to gain information about usage of the A4300 by lorry drivers. Commented that £31 million had been spent on the bypass and it looked empty. Figures show that there is more traffic using the A4300 now, but there are also more using the by-pass. The by-pass is therefore working, but not to the extent that it was expected to. Additionally, the speed of vehicles using the A4300 has increased within the Geddington area. Cllr Rushton commented that Cllr Harker had been given the issues. NCC has been given the views of the Parish Council plus a certain number of villagers and other people. They also need to obtain the views of the road building firm, install a camera to have the evidence of traffic flow. Cllr Rowley reported that they are working on the issue. He will also ask for the signs to be taken down that are misleading.

c) Street Lighting; Public Rights of Way – any issues raised or to be reported.

Cllr Hodkinson reported that there had been a Facebook query over public rights of way.

d) West Street: new street light – progress report (Cllr Hodkinson)

Cllr Hodkinson reported that a follow up letter to Henderson Connellan was required.

ACTION 5 – THE Clerk to send a chase up letter.

NEWTON & LITTLE OAKLEY.

Cllr Watson reported that he had written by email or letter to all residents of Newton informing them of the July Parish Council meeting that would be held in the Field Centre.

There was no report for Little Oakley.

AOB

Cllr Buckseall reported that there had been concerns about the dogs in the recreation field, on Facebook. Cllr Rowley said that he had requested for an Enforcement Officer/Dog Warden to monitor the dog activity in the field. Cllr Watson reported that dogs are being exercised off their leads. A Bye law states that dogs should be kept on the lead. Cllr Gordon reported that his wife had suffered verbal abuse when she had remonstrated with some dog owners over this point. It was also pointed out that the dogs use the play area site – a consequence of not being able to fence this area off.

All Cllrs agreed that an August meeting was not required, but the option was there, of convening special meetings if required for planning applications or other urgent matters.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA

Report back on Parish Plan progress.

Flood items at the Fire Station

The meeting closed at 9.22pm.