

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th DECEMBER 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors M Rowley (Chair), D Watson, D.Rushton, J Padwick, D Hodkinson, A Gordon, T Bailey

APOLOGIES: Cllrs K Harden, N Batchelor.

107/16 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.

108/16 PUBLIC SESSION

a) Questions from the public

No members of the public were present.

b) Reports from County and Borough Councillors

i) County Councillor.

There was no report from Cllr Harker.

ii) Borough Councillor.

Cllr Rowley reported that there was very little happening at the present time.

c) Police Report / Crime figures

No police representative was in attendance at the meeting. The crime figures had been sent to all Cllrs in advance of the meeting. Two crimes had been recorded for Geddington; one “criminal damage” and one “other offences”. No crimes had been recorded for Newton or Little Oakley.

109/16 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

a) Parish Council monthly meeting held 9 November 2015

The minutes were agreed to be a true record.

b) Matters arising: progress on agreed actions

No queries arose concerning the minutes. The agreed actions were report as follows:-

09.11.15 – Action 1: clarification of map – line from Oakley Vale to the Oakley Vale/Little Oakley road. Clarification obtained from Corby Borough Council that the marking is not a road.

09.11.15 – Action 2: Cllr Batchelor was not present; it could not be confirmed therefore if the adjustments to the Site Specific Proposals Local Development Document had been submitted (for the Geddington map only).

09.11.15 – Action 3: Cllr Bailey had not received the Little Oakley map from Cllr Bachelor. No changes to the map were required; it was for information purposes only.

09.11.15 – Action 4: Risk register sent to internal and external auditors as per councillors’ request.

09.11.15 – Action 5: The clerk had written to Jim McNally to clarify that the street lamp by no.16 West Street would be replaced at no charge to the Parish Council. A time scale for replacement was also requested.

Cllr Hodkinson asked for clarification as to the resolving of the hedge cutting bordering Bob Austin’s property. Cllr Rowley explained that it was now clear that the section of hedge referred to is NCC’s responsibility. Cllr Hodkinson pointed out that hedge trimming was still needed - area concerned is on the A4300, west of the road by Dallington Close.

A further question regarding boundaries/Parish Council responsibilities was raised concerning the village green. There is a plan dating from 1936 to show the responsibility of this area. A question the Parish Council may consider is whether the designation under current legislation of village greens should be pursued.

PLANNING.

a) KBC Decision notices

KET/2015/0814, Mr T Harker Cobley Lodge Farm Corby Road, Little Oakley, Infill south east elevation to allow for additional kennels – *Approved.*

b) Planning Applications

- i) Ket/2015/0944 Mr L Humphries 34 Kettering Road. Conversion of existing garage to habitable room and construction of replacement single detached garage

Those Cllrs present agreed that they had no objection to the application.

- ii) KET/2015/0903 Boughton Estate Ltd. Single storey side extension and creation of door opening to rear elevation

No.2 Wood Street had been emailed and called on by the clerk to inform them that the application would be discussed at this meeting. They had also been asked to inform their neighbours of this. No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Those Cllrs present agreed to support the revised planning application.

c) Draft Parish Plan

- i) General comments

Detailed work had been carried out to convert the large amount of raw data into a meaningful report. A small amount of work needs to be carried out with the diagrams, and the document needs to be proof read. Nothing contradicts the original work that was carried out.

- ii) Discussion as to issues raised by residents of Geddington, Newton & Lt Oakley

The main issues are traffic, street specific lighting, speeding, heavy lorries, affordable housing, dog mess, the no.8 bus service. It was noted that comments on Facebook often refer to dog mess and traffic.

Other comments:-

- The people who are happy don't respond.
- Very little is different from the last survey.
- It is reassuring that people feel safe.
- Noted that the A4300 is still busy, but the traffic has reduced. Rumble strip metres are checking the traffic flow on the A43 and A4300.
- The 20mph perimeter signs are making very little difference to the speed of some vehicles in the village.
- Flooding is not now an issue, with the berm working and the lip on the bridge taken away. However, on-going maintenance is needed.
- An on-line questionnaire may be considered in the future.
- A question of the month may provide more on-line responses.

- iii) Date for convening Volunteers' Committee

A small group of volunteers will meet, and information conveyed as to what has been found, what progress can be made, and what practically needs to be done.

Cllr Hodkinson summarized by stating that the document now needs to be tidied up and completed, the volunteers need to be contacted again, and an article is needed for the newsletter.

110/16 RURAL FORUM - held 26.11.15

Cllr Watson was concerned that the Borough Council did not seem to take note of the Rural Forum's thoughts on some of the issues raised. The Leader of the Borough Council has not attended any of the meetings, although the portfolio holder for Finance is due to attend the next meeting.

The November meeting held discussions on travellers and travellers' sites, and street lighting.

Cllr Rowley clarified here that the Parish Council was not a lighting authority; the County Council is the authority for all the lights. The Borough Council opinion is that the village lights are the responsibility of the County Council to maintain. No one is going to be pressured to accepting themselves as a lighting authority. Cllr Watson added that the Parish Council needs to be seen as not accepting responsibility for anything it does concerning lighting. The proviso must always be "we do not accept any responsibility for street lights".

All Cllrs present agreed that we are resolved that "we are not the lighting authority".

Cllr Hodkinson added at this stage that he is now a member of the Standards Advisory Committee, along with one other new member.

CORRESPONDENCE - received since last meeting.

111/16 Rural transport (11.11.15) - Rural Services Network:

112/16 Rural broadband (18.11.15) - Rural Services Network

113/16 Rural vulnerability service – transport (24.11.15) - Rural Services Network

114/16 Weekly newsletters x 4

115/16 KBC – Work Programme – November 2015.

There were no comments for any item of correspondence.

116/16 FINANCE

a) Bank balances

Community account statement as at 17.11.15 £ 9,275.11

Business Saver account as at 17.11.15 £10,720.06

Accounts received

None

Accounts for payment

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|--|
| SLCC | £88.00 | Renewal notice – membership Jan – Dec 2016 |
| Toseland Building & Maintenance | £790.00 | Recreation field fencing |
| Door and Desk Name Plates Direct | £32.60 | Desk name plates |

Cllr Hodkinson proposed that the above accounts be authorised for payment. Seconded by Cllr Gordon. Agreed by all Cllrs present.

- b) Desk name plates – were agreed to be purchased and authorised for payment as per above “accounts for payment”.
- c) Precept 2016/17 decision (cut-off date of 30.11.15 for any capital expenditure projects).
Cllr Watson summarised the budget for 2016 – 17, and noted that the reserves are quite high. £1,500 was still included in the balances that were left from the previous Village Plan and hence to be ring fenced for any future Village Plan work. He suggested that the precept should remain the same, at £9,000. Final decision will be voted upon at the January 2016 meeting.
- d) Little Oakley Marquee grant - Balance still not accounted for.
The clerk informed the meeting that there was still no audit trail showing what the remaining Parish Council grant to the Little Oakley Social Club had purchased. Cllr Bailey has been chasing to get this resolved. Cllrs agreed that the Social Club Secretary needs to write a letter informing of what the remaining balance has purchased or put towards.
ACTION 1: Cllr Bailey to inform the Social Club Secretary of this.
- e) Village Hall - internet and AV equipment – initial discussion.
Cllr Rowley said that some people are not hiring the hall as there is no broadband and AV equipment for the main hall. He asked if Cllr Gordon would take it forward to the Village Hall committee for consideration.
ACTION 2: Cllr Gordon to raise this issue with the Village Hall committee.
- f) Charging point for electric cars in the village hall car park – initial discussion.
Cllr Rowley noted that more people in the village are buying electric cars. It is a revenue source – you have to pay for a high power charge. The charging point is installed free of charge. There are no other charging points in Kettering.
ACTION 3: Cllr Gordon to raise this issue with the Village Hall committee.

117/16 ENVIRONMENTAL & RECREATION

a) **Unsafe fencing on Church Walk/Stamford Road.** This issue was raised when the Borough Council walkabout took place. The fence referred to is the fence by the dog walking area. This is Parish Council responsibility and Cllr Rowley will attend to it.

ACTION 4: Cllr Rowley to attend to the unsafe fencing.

b) **Village tour 25.11.15 – Any issues arising**

i) Weeds on the footpath in Chapel Lane need attending to. Cllr Rowley will speak to “Brendan” to clear the weeds.

ACTION 5: Cllr Rowley to speak to “Brendan” to clear the weeds.

c) **Approach road to Newton** – No changes can be made to the junction, but land owners have agreed to dig up the hedges on both sides of the junction, pull back as much as possible and add a fence. Hedges will then be replanted. The surrounding stretch of road will have a 50mph speed limit imposed; with Little Oakley possibly having a 40mph limit introduced which may help with the “rat run” route. Boughton Estates will carry out the work once everything has been agreed.

c) **Update for work/work schedule needed to trees on the A4300 as per earlier requests.**

Cllr Rowley informed Cllrs that some support by the Borough Council is needed, for the cut back and the shredders. NCC would provide temporary road traffic lights and the GVFB would be approved to see if they were able to carry out some initial work as well.

ACTION 6: Cllr Rowley to approach the relevant people for the tree cutback/maintenance work.

118/16 HIGHWAYS/ LIGHTING/ FOOTPATHS/ ROAD SAFETY.

a) **West Street: new street light – progress report**

Cllr Hodkinson reported that no progress had been made as to Jim McInally getting back to him. It was decided that the project can continue, but it must not be finalised until it has come back to the Parish Council. This issue is not to be chased at the present time because of other related issues.

b) **Street Lighting, Public Rights of Way – any issues raised or to be reported.** All repairs were still outstanding. Cllr Hodkinson has added one further street light repair (near 35 Wood Street). Cllr Rowley asked for a list of the outstanding repairs from Cllr Hodkinson.

ACTION 7; Cllr Hodkinson to forward a list of outstanding repairs to Cllr Rowley.

ACTION 8: The clerk to contact Jim McInally again regarding the 16 West Street replacement light.

NEWTON & LITTLE OAKLEY

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA/AOB

a) Precept 2016 -17.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.