

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th JANUARY 2016.

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

APOLOGIES: Cllrs K Harden.

119/16 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.

120/16 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 said there had been little happening over the December and early January period, but the meetings schedule would be resuming shortly.

c) Police Report / Crime figures

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

121/16 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

a) Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting held 14 December 2015

The following typos to be corrected:-

14.12.15 - 110/16. 2nd para, line 3 – “Borough Council should read County Council”. 14.12.15 - 117/16 Action 5 – “Brenda” to be changed to “Brendan”.

The Minutes were agreed to be a true record pending the corrections.

b) Matters arising; progress on agreed actions

The agreed actions were report as follows:-

14.12.15 Action 1: Cllr Bailey to inform the Social Club Secretary that he/she needs to write a letter informing the Parish Council of what the outstanding marquee grant balance has purchased, or what it will be put towards. Outstanding.

14.12.15 Action 2: Cllr Gordon to raise internet and AV equipment (initial discussion needed) with the village hall committee. Outstanding - there has not been a meeting since the December Parish Council meeting.

14.12.15 Action 3: Charging point for electric cars in the village hall car park.

Outstanding – this will be raised by Cllr Gordon at the next village hall committee meeting.

14.12.15 Action 4: Cllr Rowley to attend to the unsafe fencing in the meadow – New Road end – Outstanding.

14.12.15 Action 5: Cllr Rowley has spoken to Brendan to clear the weeds (in Chapel Lane) - Actioned

14.12.15 Action 6: Maintenance/cutback work to trees on the A4300. Work will commence in February, weather permitting.

14.12.15 Action 7: List of outstanding repairs to street lights has been forwarded to Jim McNally.

14.12.15 Action 8: Jim McNally has been contacted regarding replacement light for 16 West Street.

PLANNING.

a) KBC Decision notices

There had been no planning application decision notices received.

b) Planning Applications

No planning applications for discussion and comments have been received since the last Parish Council meeting.

c) Draft Parish Plan

c) Draft Parish Plan questionnaire responses – update
Rushton/ Padwick

Cllrs Hodkinson/

Cllr Padwick stated that the approval of the Parish Council was being requested to seek a meeting with the volunteers, the meeting to be held end of February or beginning of March. The aim of the meeting would be to pin point what has been highlighted by the Parish Plan, and what actions should now be taken. To bring it up to date, any other issues that have arisen in the past year should also be considered. It was noted that the Parish Plan questionnaire report needs to be finished. The Chair will then approve the draft completed document.

Cllr Watson commented that little had changed from the previous work that had been carried out and what would now happen with the Village Design Statement? Cllr Padwick said that it would be updated following on from the proposed meeting with the volunteers.

Cllr Padwick commented that the main issue appeared to be street lighting, with traffic on the A4300 and lorries in particular being another bone of contention. It was agreed that the summary of the findings would be written and this would tie in with the deadline for the newsletter (end of January).

The meeting with the volunteers will be arranged, to include anybody else that has also been involved (with the draft village plan).

ACTION 1: Cllrs Padwick, Hodkinson and Rushton to arrange the above meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE - received since the last meeting.

122/16 Email regarding proposed developments in the Ise Valley - sent by private resident concerning Desborough potential new build (19.12.15).

123/16 Email from Nalc – one page summary of Local Government Finance Settlement (22.12.15)

124/16 Rural Vulnerability Service newsletter - Rural Transport (December 2015)

Comments made: 122/16. Cllrs commented at length concerning the urban drainage system, and would it be adequate to deal with any new development? It was noted that there is considerable drainage into the river Ise; it is only the berm that now prevents regular flooding of properties bordering the river. Additionally, the fields in and around Newton are regularly lying under water in places. There was concern that additional drainage and run off into the river would have a knock on effect to villages further down the river Ise's course, and the level of water may rise to pre-berm levels.

It was pointed out that draining and flooding are now the responsibility of the County Council, and there was a list of guidelines which have to be put into place concerning drainage. Cllr Padwick asked if the Environmental Agency, the County Council and the Borough Council work in partnership for drainage issues. Cllr Rowley said that all the drainage issues were being transferred to the County Council, together with non-river issues, sewage pipe work and storm water run-off. All planning applications will be given an environmental flood risk.

It was then pointed out that the Parish Council does not have any statutory consultation regarding Desborough.

It was agreed that the Kettering Borough Planning department be written to, highlighting that any potential future development in the Ise valley in the Desborough area would have an impact on the River Ise and hence the communities downstream of Desborough through which the river runs. The vulnerability of Geddington to flooding and the current depth/height/ spread of the berm to be highlighted within the correspondence.

Further correspondence to be sent to Sue Dunkley (sender of 122/16 email) acknowledging her email and informing her that we are actively looking in to the matter.

ACTION 2: The Clerk to correspond with the Planning department at KBC. ACTION 3: The Clerk to correspond with Sue Dunkley.

ACTION 4: Cllr Rowley will speak to Rob Harbour, Head of Planning at the KBC to reiterate the above concerns.

There were no comments for any other item of previously circulated correspondence. However, the clerk informed Cllrs that two letters had been received too late to be added to correspondence on the agenda.

Letter 1 – From the Youth Club, chasing tree maintenance work bordering the Stonepit Land car park. The clerk said that she had chased the inspection work that Boughton Estates needed to carry out.

Letter 2 – an invitation concerning the holocaust. The clerk agreed to scan this and circulate to all Cllrs.

RURAL FORUM.

The next meeting of the Rural Forum is on 4.2.16.

125/16 FINANCE

Community account statement	as at 17.12.15	£12,545.97
Business Saver account	as at 17.12.15	£10,721.40

a) Accounts received

NCC – ch.no.978056 £4,000.00 Geddington tree works at St Mary Magdalene Church.

b) Accounts for payment

Wilby Tree Surgeons Ltd	£3942.00	Tree works completed as per NCC and inv.no.11498
Zurich Insurance PLC	£494.82	Parish Council Insurance – 6.2.16 to 5.3.17
Anita Curtis	£883.20	Salary 1.10.15 – 31.12.15
PAYE – already paid by Anita Curtis on own debit card to HMRC	£223.20	Oct - Dec 2015. Note: £2.40 overpaid, figure to be corrected end Mar 2016.
Anita Curtis	£60.00	Depreciation of equipment allowance Oct – Dec 2015
Anita Curtis	£3.78	Expenses (stamps)

One invoice authorised and cheque written for £32.60 (to Door and Desk Name Plates Direct) was cancelled and a second cheque written for £39.12 (VAT had been omitted).

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

c) **Precept for 2016 – 2017 – decision to be approved by the Parish Council.**

Cllr Gordon proposed that the precept remain at £9,000.00. Seconded by Cllr Rowley. All Cllrs were in favour of the decision.

ACTION 5: Cllr Watson will forward an electronic copy of the Parish Council 2016/17 budget for circulation to all Cllrs.

d) NCC - Budget and council plan consultation invite.

After a prolonged discussion, it was agreed that the following comments be fed back to NCC.

1. Possible cuts to bus services.

Geddington, Newton and Little Oakley Parish Council carried out a survey a short time ago part of which included questions as to support and usage of the bus services which run through Geddington, Newton and Little Oakley, as and when appropriate.

Considering Geddington is only 3 miles from the nearest town (Kettering), the bus services that are currently provided are already perceived to be quite limited. The majority of people who took part in the survey stated that it was a necessary service that needed to be provided for a rural area. The bus goes through the village of Geddington on its journeys between Kettering and Corby, and so the service is cost efficient in that it does not have to deviate from a main road route.

The service already finishes at 6.00pm, with that being the last bus from Corby, hence it is not able to be used by a lot of the working population of the village. Children still need to use the bus to access activities in Kettering and Corby as the two nearest towns are too far for young children to walk.

For those people without transport, the bus routes are a lifeline as there are no shops in Geddington. Withdrawal or cutbacks to the service would add to rural poverty

2. Possible cuts to grant - Newton Field Centre, Newton (Nr Kettering).

The Parish Council understands that for the 2016 / 17 year no grant has been allocated to the Newton Field Centre?

The Centre has worked very hard to bring in extra income and make plans to mitigate potential loss of grant. However, despite working extremely hard to secure extra business with the additional resulting income, the likelihood is that the Centre will have to close within two years if no grant at all is provided to support the Centre. The Centre is mainly concerned with providing high quality but affordable fieldwork opportunities to school groups, including practical science and geography courses for primary schools and ecology courses for GCSE biology students. Additional business secured includes hosting events by the Astrological Society and as a Scouts activity overnight centre, but the Centre is still reliant on school activities and a county grant as its main sources of income.

3. Possible cuts to Emergency Planning - Response Committee

Any potential cuts to the provision of grants to the above charity may impact upon flooding in the area. It may result in slower response times when responding to emergencies. Geddington has in the past suffered badly from flooding of the Ise brook. The building of the berm and the removal of the lip by the bridge has so far alleviated the constant threat of flooding. The Parish Council would be extremely concerned if any cutbacks to services involved with prevention of flooding and flooding risks, negated the excellent results that building of the berm has achieved. The cutbacks may also involve less maintenance to the berm and the surrounding river area, which may also prove disastrous for the village again.

ACTION 6:- Cllr Hodkinson to send the relevant section .of the Parish Plan questionnaire - responses report (draft as at 11.1.16) to the clerk, as supporting evidence for possible cuts to bus services feedback.

ACTION 7:- The clerk to send all the feedback to NCC – consultation.

It was also noted that there is a budget meeting at KBC on 21.1.16. Cllr Rowley will be attending, and possibly Cllr Watson as well.

Cllr Watson examined the Youth Club annual accounts that had arrived too late to be added to the correspondence. He noted that the reserves are £18,250.00, not the stated £27,000.00.

ACTION 8: The Clerk to circulate the letter from the Youth Club plus a copy of the annual accounts, Jan – Dec 2015.

Cllr Rowley had received notice from the Youth Club that there were two forthcoming caravan rallies. It was agreed that it would be helpful if a sign could be put up indicating that an authorised caravan rally was taking place. Additionally, it would be beneficial if notification of the rallies could go into the newsletter, as previously there have been enquiries as to if it was gypsies parked in the car park. It was also noted that Cllrs were being informed of the dates, but they need to know in advance as there may be a clash of usage of the car park. Agreement does need to be determined before the events are organised. The school is using the Stonepit Land car park shortly for cycling proficiency tests, but fortunately it is not one of the Youth Club events dates.

ACTION 9: The Clerk to ask the Youth Club if a notice could be displayed when such rallies take place to show that it was an authorised event.

ACTION 10: The Clerk to ask if they could put a notice or an article in the newsletter to this effect.

ACTION 11: The Clerk to write to the Youth Club asking if the Parish Council could be notified of potential dates before they are organised.

126/16 ENVIRONMENTAL & RECREATION

- a) **Progress report and work schedule for maintenance work to trees on the A4300.**

Cllr Rowley reported that this work should start next month, weather permitting.

127/16 HIGHWAYSTREET/ LIGHTING/ FOOTPATHS/ ROAD SAFETY.

- a) **Grafton Rd/Wood St - Proposed parking restrictions**

The proposal from NCC is to put parking restrictions in place, Monday to Friday 8 00 – 9.00am and 3.00 – 4.00pm, at the bottom of Wood Street and into Grafton Road, and in the area in front of the school.

ACTION 7:- The clerk to send all the feedback to NCC – consultation.

It was also noted that there is a budget meeting at KBC on 21.1.16. Cllr Rowley will be attending, and possibly Cllr Watson as well.

Cllr Watson examined the Youth Club annual accounts that had arrived too late to be added to the correspondence. He noted that the reserves are £18,250.00, not the stated £27,000.00.

ACTION 8: The Clerk to circulate the letter from the Youth Club plus a copy of the annual accounts, Jan – Dec 2015.

Cllr Rowley had received notice from the Youth Club that there were two forthcoming caravan rallies. It was agreed that it would be helpful if a sign could be put up indicating that an authorised caravan rally was taking place. Additionally, it would be beneficial if notification of the rallies could go into the newsletter, as previously there have been enquiries as to if it was gypsies parked in the car park. It was also noted that Cllrs were being informed of the dates, but they need to know in advance as there may be a clash of usage of the car park. Agreement does need to be determined before the events are organised. The school is using the Stonepit Land car park shortly for cycling proficiency tests, but fortunately it is not one of the Youth Club events dates.

ACTION 9: The Clerk to ask the Youth Club if a notice could be displayed when such rallies take place to show that it was an authorised event.

ACTION 10: The Clerk to ask if they could put a notice or an article in the newsletter to this effect.

ACTION 11: The Clerk to write to the Youth Club asking if the Parish Council could be notified of potential dates before they are organised.

126/16 ENVIRONMENTAL & RECREATION

- a) **Progress report and work schedule for maintenance work to trees on the A4300.**

Cllr Rowley reported that this work should start next month, weather permitting.

127/16 HIGHWAY STREET/ LIGHTING/ FOOTPATHS/ ROAD SAFETY.

b) Grafton Rd/Wood St - Proposed parking restrictions

The proposal from NCC is to put parking restrictions in place, Monday to Friday 8 00 – 9.00am and 3.00 – 4.00pm, at the bottom of Wood Street and into Grafton Road, and in the area in front of the school.

Cllr Rowley explained that there was no proposed parking restriction in front of no.1 Wood Street; this was to prevent the current residents having to move their car for the affected hour in the morning and again in the afternoon, and having to move the car back an hour later each time. However, although the proposed action was broadly welcomed by the Cllrs, a further proposal was made:-

1. For the lines on the school side and on the corner of the old school house to both be double yellow lines.

2. The line opposite the school - from Lyons Yard going North (up Wood Street) - to be as per the time restrictions.

ACTION 12: the Clerk to feed this back to NCC.

It was also agreed that the request should go forward for double yellow lines to be painted on the corner of Newton Road, up to the first drop kerbs.

ACTION 13: the Clerk to put forward this request to NCC.

b) Draft Northamptonshire Parking Standards Consultation

It was agreed that the draft document that had been sent was very good and informative. There was no feedback to be sent to NCC.

c) NCC Online survey - feedback – work on local roads and footpaths request.

This had been added to the agenda but it was a survey for individuals to complete if they so wished. No comments therefore to be sent back to NCC.

d) West Street: new street light – progress report -

Cllr Hodkinson

Clarification was given as to further action for the light by 46 West Street: further progress is to be put on hold for the foreseeable future.

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

Cllr Hodkinson

d) West Street: new street light – progress report -

Cllr Hodkinson

Clarification was given as to further action for the light by 46 West Street: further progress is to be put on hold for the foreseeable future.

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

Cllr Hodkinson

All repairs to street lights had been carried out over the Christmas period. There is now only one street light that needs repairing (opposite 33 Wood Street). – This has been reported. Thanks also to be given to Jim McNally at KBC for all his help over the past few years, and that an introduction to his successor would be appreciated.

ACTION 14: the Clerk to communicate this to Jim McNally at KBC. .

ACTION 15: Cllr Rowley to ask Brendan at NCC what is the process now for the issues Jim McNally has previously dealt with, and are there any moves to replace him?

NEWTON & LITTLE OAKLEY

There was nothing to report from Little Oakley.

There was no report from Newton, but it was noted that the improvements to the entrance to Newton is at the stage of waiting for a plan from NCC Highways to show in detail their proposed works.

A.O.B.

The graffiti around the village has been noted. Cllr Rowley will add the graffiti to his report.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA

No items for next month's agenda was suggested.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.