

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL -
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th FEBRUARY 2016.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Cllrs J Padwick, T Bailey, K Harden.

Cllr D Watson was not able to attend until 8.15pm.

ALSO PRESENT:

Two members of the public and Rachael Gladstone-Brown (R G-B), Boughton Estate Manager.

128/16 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllr Rowley declared an interest in the planning applications, in his role as a borough councillor and on the Planning Committee.

129/16 PUBLIC SESSION

a) Questions from the public

“Linda” and “Angela” from Desborough wished to raise concerns regarding a planning application for outside of this parish boundary but that may affect this parish. The planning application concerned was proposed developments in the Ise Valley that the Parish Council had discussed (under “Correspondence” – item 122/16) at the 11.1.16 Parish Council meeting.

The two members of the public were informed that the issue had been discussed by Cllrs within the January 2016 Parish Council meeting. They voiced their concerns as to potential flooding as a result of a greater volume of land drainage into the river Ise. It was felt that a large amount of new build in certain areas of Desborough may add to this problem. Rushton would be the first village to feel the impact of excess water, although the river does not run through the village itself. It was also commented that when the river is full, sewage can legally be dumped in the river. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council’s concerns in relation to new build and a greater volume of run off into the river Ise had been sent to the Planning department at KBC.

R G-B then updated as to Boughton Estate issues.

- The clothes bin in front of the Post Office will be removed shortly.
 - A Boughton Estates tree expert will be inspecting the trees bordering the stonepit land car park, maintenance work needed to the trees as per information from the Youth Club. The work will be carried out on Tuesday 9th February 2016.
 - Boughton Estates events – there is no tough Mudder this year. The Green Belt will be held at the end of August. “Runstock” will be a new event – this is a 5k family running race around the park, to be held in August. Other days/events are weddings, corporate events and clay pigeon shooting.
 - The Newton Road junction with the access road to Newton. R G-B confirmed that work would be carried out on the Newton side of the road to re-positioning of the hedges. This is currently with lawyers. It was commented that the bank on the other side of the road is very high, could that be scraped back? Additionally, one tree on this side may have to be removed to improve vision at this junction.
 - Other tree felling that Boughton Estates intends to carry out cannot be carried out at present – there are too many bats. This work will have to be delayed until the end of the year.
 - Jessica’s tearooms will shortly be going up for sale.

b) Reports from County and Borough Councillors

i) County Councillor.

There was no report from Cllr Harker. However, Cllr Rowley confirmed that Cllr Jim Harker had resigned as the Leader of the Council. The resignation will be effective from May 2016, when a replacement will be appointed.

ii) Borough Councillor

Cllr Rowley reported that it had been very busy. The budget consultation had been carried out, with £1.52 million less being received from central government. All the proposed plans will still be able to go ahead however, as extra money has been generated within the Borough Council. £100,000 extra has been generated by additional planning applications, £350,000 from business rates and £500,000 from new builds. 50% of the additional money raised has been used to shore up funds, and 50% has been banked as reserves. The Borough Council has a four year plan in place, with the corresponding guaranteed funding.

Planning issues – The East Kettering development has 400 houses now near completion. The NCC parking guidelines for garages will be adopted shortly.

Precepts – they are 131% higher than last year, with 75% of the increase originating from the Desborough proposed precept.

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. Four crimes had been recorded for Geddington; one each of burglary, criminal damage, drug offence and violent offence. No crimes had been recorded for Newton or Little Oakley. Cllr Rowley added that he believed that this did not include three slashed cars in Queen Street and Newton Road.

130/16 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

a) **Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting held 11 January 2016**

The Minutes were agreed to be a true record.

b) **Matters arising; progress on agreed actions**

The agreed actions were reported as all being completed except for “unsafe fencing in the meadow – to be demolished”. This will be carried out by mid - February.

PLANNING.

a) **KBC Decision notices**

KET/2015/0916 - Mr M Knight 6 The Woodlands – 2 storey side extension. Approved by KBC.

KET/2015/0903 Boughton Estate Ltd, 13 Wood Street- Single storey side extension and creation of door opening to rear elevation. Approved by KBC.

b) **Planning Applications**

KET/2015/0963 Mr Nolan, 1 Newton Road,, Geddington - Single storey rear extension and first floor side and rear extensions with dormer to front. External insulation to existing house and render all brickwork

Commented that this is a very large extension. However, overlooking windows have been specified to be glazed with obscure glass. Cllrs were satisfied that the size of the extension relevant to the setting is acceptable. The application was approved by all those cllrs present.

KET/2015/0013 Mrs P Griffin 10 West Street, Demolition of outbuilding and erection of single storey rear extension. Listed Building Consent Application.

Ket/2015/0067 Mrs P Griffin 10 West Street, Demolition of outbuilding and erection of single storey rear extension.

Cllr Batchelor explained that two cottages have been previously converted into one dwelling. The applicant wishes to extend the kitchen into the back yard by creating a conservatory, and demolishing an old brick outbuilding. The height will be 6.2 metres at the apex. The application was approved by all those Cllrs present.

*Cllr D Watson attended the meeting at this stage, at 8.15pm.
Cllr N Batchelor left the room at this point, at 8.15pm.*

c) Draft Parish Plan

Draft Parish Plan questionnaire responses – update. *Cllrs Hodkinson/ Rushton/ Padwick*

The final proof read has still to be carried out, with all Parish Cllrs then having an electronic copy of the finished version. The volunteers meeting will take place on Saturday 12th March at 11.00am. Cllrs were asked to give their support to the meeting. The timing of the meeting should allow publication of the results of the meeting to be in time for the cut-off date for The Newsletter. Hard copies of the completed Parish Plan will be given to the volunteers' committee, with electronic copies given to other volunteers.

Cllr Hodkinson added that various administration arrangements are needed. The Clerk may be called on to help out when advised. Cllr Watson said that paper copies must be available for any volunteers that do not have email.

CORRESPONDENCE - received since the last meeting.

131/16 Budget consultation from KBC – link to copy of report regarding budget proposals, 2016/17.

132/16 Budget consultation – invitation to meeting 21.1.16

133/16 Holocaust Memorial Commemoration - Invitation by Mayor to ceremony 31.1.16

134/16 CPRE Northants: Spring Road Show 12.5.16 - planning help.

135/16 New edition of the Good Councillor's guide - NCalc.

136/16 Email from PCC – announcement of new major road safety initiative – 2.2.16

Newsletters:-

137/16 Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Broadband (January 2016)

138/16 Rural Vulnerability Service - Rural Transport (December 2015)

139/16 Rural Vulnerability Service – Fuel Poverty (January 2016)

140/16 Rural newsletter special (25.1.16)

141/16 Rural Housing Spotlight (January 2016)

142/16 Weekly email News Digest (27.1.16)

143/16 Rural news Special – “government grant proposals must be rethought” (1.2.16).

144/16 Trading Standards newsletter issue 9

Comments made:-

131/16 The Village Hall committee could apply for a further £5000 of grant money for the building of the village hall extension, from April 2016 if they so wish. The Brickyard Garden project and the Newton Field Centre may also both be eligible to apply for grants. Cllr Rowley explained that such grants for eligible applicants would come from the Community fund, which for 2016 – 17 is £44,000.

133/16 Cllr Rowley attended the Commemoration.

136/16 Cllr Watson stated that this is concerning more average speed cameras being purchased and coming into use.

There were no comments for any other item of previously circulated correspondence.

145/16 RURAL FORUM 4.2.16 - Feedback

Cllrs Watson/ Rowley

Cllr Watson had attended, and reported that the main agenda item was the budget. The information relayed at the Rural Forum meeting included the following:-

- Efficiency savings figure given totalled £250,000.
- The precept for Desborough had increased from £68,000 to £314,000. It had been noted that the increase in the overall precepts figure was therefore mainly due to the Desborough increase, and hence nothing to do with the Rural Forum.
- It had been commented that the efficiency savings figure was actually new money generated, not savings made.
- Noted again that the street lights in the towns are being replaced by NCC. KBC has always dealt with the maintenance of the street lights within the Borough – their responsibility has now gone into the PFI contract, the contract of which expires in November 2016. Cllr Watson added that he does not know who pays for the running costs of the street lights.
- The lighting issue is still on-going. Street lighting and solar farms have been carried forward to the next meeting. Other agenda items will be the Community Grant and fly tipping.
- The Towns Forum has a near identical agenda
- It had been observed within the Rural Forum meeting that it appeared that feedback was not really wanted from the Forum's members.

It was added at this point that there is a KBC task force for fly tipping, and that there is a concentration of builders' waste in Grange Road. Cllr Watson added that the amount of litter being dropped along the roads appears to be increasing.

146/16 FINANCE

Community account statement as at 15.01.16	£12,220.97
Business Saver account as at 15.01.16	£10,721.40

a) Accounts received

Geddington Youth Club – Rental of Stonepit Land Jan – Dec 2016.	£250.00
GVFB - Rental of Stonepit Land Jan – Dec 2016.	£250.00

b) Accounts for payment

Salcey group Ltd	Tree condition survey at St Mary Magdalene Church	£324.00
Adrian Ringrose (Architect for tree work as per Cllr Harker's email of 10.11.15).	Tree condition survey at St Mary Magdalene Church	£432.00

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

ACTION 1: The clerk to confirm with Cllr Harker and the PCC that the invoices relating to the tree works have been paid and that the Parish Council will not be expecting any more invoices.

- c) Changes to external audit - *alternative arrangements needed as per email from NCalc*
All Cllrs had been forwarded information from Ncalc, informing of the need to make a decision as to opting in or out of the new external auditor arrangements that will come into force in 2017. The clerk had contacted BDO (the current external auditors) and HW (the current internal auditors used by the PC).

A summary of the main points conveyed by Louise Caplan from BDO are as follows:-

- If turnover of the PC is under £25,000, an external audit is not needed from 2017.
- An external auditor would however still have to be appointed.
- An internal auditor is separate to the new arrangements and is still required to be individually appointed by parish councils.

Opting in - the default option.

- The cost is likely to be very similar to the present fee paid.
- A small amount is payable up front when the opting in option is taken up.
- The minimum opting in period is for five years.

Opting out:-

The Parish Council will have to follow the formal procurement process.

Outside bodies (external to the parish council) have to carry out the process itself.

You will not benefit from any cost savings that occur as a result of a (presumably) large amount of parishes taking up the opt-in option.

Once you have opted out, you can opt in again, but it will cost more to do so.

BDO will be submitting their tender for the external auditor, but there will be other companies as well, so there is no guarantee as to which company is assigned to which area.

HW had been asked whether they would be tendering for the external auditor work; they stated that they will not be doing so.

Cllr Watson felt that on balance the opting in is the best option, even though the Parish Council will not need to have an external audit from 2017 at its present level of turnover. This course of action was then proposed. Cllr Rowley seconded the proposal, saying that on balance it is probably better to opt in and then see which company is successful regarding winning the contract for Northamptonshire. The consensus from all Cllrs present was agreement to this course of action.

147/16 ENVIRONMENTAL & RECREATION

a) Maintenance work to trees on the A4300 – start date?

Cllr Rowley reported that the GVFB would be starting on the maintenance work to the trees within the next two weeks.

148/16 HIGHWAY STREET/ LIGHTING/ FOOTPATHS/ ROAD SAFETY.

a) NCC questionnaire concerning ongoing programme to modernise the street lighting for which it has responsibility. *Discussion and response needed to the questions asked of the Parish Council.*

After a short discussion reiterating facts relating to street lighting responsibility, it was agreed that the clerk should reply giving the following information:-

“Thank you for the email concerning a street lighting questionnaire. Our understanding is that Northamptonshire County Council is the lighting authority for Northamptonshire”. No more details are needed.

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

Cllr Hodkinson

- The light out in Wood Street has now been repaired.
- Two repairs are needed: to the west side of the A4300, Kettering side, by the temporary 30mph sign, and at the junction of Queen Street and New Road by the Geddington sign.

- Noted that the replacement column (topped with the original Victorian head) by 10 West Street is a very high column. It does not throw any light sideways, and the height of the column may be intrusive for the property closest to it. No complaint has been received however.

NEWTON

A copy of the email regarding speed limits had been circulated to all cllrs – a thank you needs to be conveyed to the sender.

ACTION 2: The clerk to send thanks to Ian Boyes (Asst. Community Liaison Officer, Northamptonshire Highways).

A permanent advisory sign will be installed – noted that the previous warning sign said “*concealed entrance to the left*”.

LITTLE OAKLEY

There was nothing to report from Little Oakley.

A.O.B.

Cllr Hodkinson said it would be helpful if the actions could be extracted from the minutes if the draft minutes are not circulated within a short space of time. It was commented that each Cllr needs to note any actions that they are tasked with, but the Clerk will try to send out a reminder of any actions outstanding if the draft minutes are not circulated within a short space of time.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH’S AGENDA

No items for next month’s agenda were suggested.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm