

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors M Rowley (Chair), C Buckseall, D Rushton, D Hodgkinson, N Batchelor, D Watson, T Bailey, P Berry.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor J Padwick.

056/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

057/17 PUBLIC SESSION

One member of the public was present.

a) Questions from the public

Weight restriction on A4300.

The member of the public asked what was happening with the weight restrictions for the A4300. Cllr Rowley informed her that NCC was still assessing how the changes to the road markings at the Euro Hub roundabout had affected the A4300 and its effect on traffic flow. He reminded the meeting that if it was determined that a weight restriction was still needed, that it would take over a year to action because of the process that has to be followed, including consultation.

Additionally, the Police would need to monitor any resulting weight restriction. The member of the public asked if anyone was recording number plate details of lorries using the A4300. Cllr Rowley informed her of the action that had been taken in the past, the companies that had been contacted, and their replies. He added that at the present time, lorries were within their rights to use the road.

As an aside, he reminded the meeting of the stretch of A6003 that had recently been upgraded from 50 to 60 mph and said that that may also encourage lorries to use the A6003.

Deer warning signs.

The deer do not belong to anyone. They tend to be found in an area for a week and then they are moved on. They are presently in the Holiday Inn area.

Unadopted road.

It was confirmed that Thomas Rippon Close was an unadopted road, and therefore the responsibility of its residents.

b) Reports from County and Borough Councillors

i) County Councillor.

There was no report from Cllr Harker.

ii) Borough Councillor

Cllr Rowley has conducted a site meeting with Brendan Cole (Head of Environment at KBC) focusing on the entrances to the village, as the verges look quite messy. As regards to signage, at present, there is the "welcome to Geddington" sign, then the 30mph sign. This results in a stretch of verge way not being maintained by either the Borough Council or the County Council.

Other relative information:-

- NCC pay for two cuts a year, KBC do not fund any additional cuts.

The residents on the dwellings side of the approach from Kettering are responsible for the grass verges in this area.

- Ollie Pearson presently cuts up to the transformer.

- Other entrances into the village could be dangerous because of lack of maintenance.

It was felt that the appearance and presentation of the grass verges and entrances to the village could be greatly improved. A way forward could be to spend some Precept money. If the Parish Council wishes to pay for additional cuts, the costing for an extra cut needs to be determined. This could be via KBC or a village company. Alternatively, the Parish could take over managing the money that would have been spent.

Cllr Hodkinson asked if the parish could take over responsibility for the cuts now. Cllr Rowley said that it is at present too dangerous – the A4300 presently has staff operating from a lorry, not on the ground. If Geddington cuts the area from the welcome sign to the 30mph sign they would have to use traffic lights. KBC has confirmed that the 30mph is in the wrong place: it should be by the Welcome to Geddington sign, and then no protective traffic lights would be needed.

It was added as an aside that the grass triangle on the southern entrance to the village where the village sign is, really needs a volunteer to maintain the area, as that area sometimes looks quite neglected. The member of the public added at this point that she would raise volunteering for this work with the Gardening Club. It was noted that such volunteering would be commendable, but a commitment has to be there, as the Millennium Garden was supposed to be maintained by volunteers, but that did not now happen. The member of the public added at this stage that she would like to put herself forward as a parish councillor.

ACTION 1: The clerk to send the relevant paperwork to her before the next monthly Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Rowley continued with his report, adding that at this stage discussions were still ongoing over energy standards for the East Kettering development of 5000 homes.

There is a six week consultation for the Public Spaces Protection Order which starts in August This will replace the current regulations concerning dog fouling, dogs on lead at all times etc. The areas concerned in Geddington for consideration would include the recreation ground, for when the consultation takes place.

Cllr Rowley said he had also attended an information evening concerning policing levels. There are now four police and six PCSOs for the rural areas, and five police, six PCSOs for the urban areas.

Cllr Berry attended the meeting from 7.45pm.

Cllr Batchelor attended the meeting from 8.00pm.

c) Police Report / Crime figures

No crime report for June had been received from the Police. The clerk will circulate it if it is sent through later.

058/17 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

a) Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting Minutes – held 13th June 2016.

The Minutes were agreed by all councillors present to be a true record, pending one typo error – action 6 to be altered to action 7.

b) Matters arising; progress on agreed actions.

An email had been sent by Rachael G-B on 11th July. It was an update for issues reported by Cllr Hodkinson concerning Boughton Estates issues.

ACTION 2 – The clerk to circulate the email to all councillors.

Replacement floor coverage for play area.

No reply has been received from Brendan Coleman concerning replacement floor covering in the play area. It was noted that there should not be any charges for work as the natural shrinkage has to be allowed for. There should not be any charge for the Parish Council as the maintenance costs are paid by KBC, as agreed

ACTION 3 – The clerk to chase this again.

a) Removal of graffiti in the village.

This had been raised in the Parish Plan Volunteers' meeting, on Facebook and word of mouth reports. Brendan Coleman from KBC has been informed of the areas that need cleaning; some areas have been cleaned, but others are waiting to be actioned. Cllrs were asked to continue to report it, even if on private land. Cllr Hodkinson said that any that he had reported to Street Doctor are sent as a list and an accompanying photo for each one. A discussion took place about the merits or otherwise of employing a proper graffiti artist for a blank canvas such as the newly painted bus shelter walls.

A discussion then took place relating to a letter that had been sent by Geddington.net concerning no contribution received for the web site from the Parish Council, and the explanation that had been sent. Letters sent by Geddington.net had been circulated to the Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllr Watson informed the meeting that he and his son had started the process (of formation of the website), and it benefited the community.

It was stated that Geddington.net had asked the Cricket Club if they needed money to put in broadband, plus the Parish Council has to have control of its own website to meet the new regulations for councils with a turnover of less than £25,000.00.

Cllr Rowley informed the meeting that the previous decision can be over ruled within the next five months, if 75% of Members make that decision.

One Cllr then added that it was strange that money was being requested when they are able to offer a contribution to another village organisation.

ACTION 4: The clerk to write to Geddington.net, and explain the reason for the decision.

PLANNING.

a) **KBC Decision notices**

The Lavender Blue nursesey decision has been extended.

3 Newton Road has been approved.

3A Chase Hill has been approved.

35 Stamford Road has been refused. Planners have again concentrated on vehicular access – a fire engine would not be able to gain access.

Cllr Batchelor said that the transition from village to open countryside appears to be an area where Planning are not keen on infill.

b) **Planning Applications for consideration**

There were no planning applications for consideration

059/17 PARISH PLAN –

Issues raised:-

Gully cleansing

It was noted that some of the gullies are owned 50% by Highways, and 50% by the landowner.

Gullies that go from the road to a ditch are typical of this split of ownership. If no gully extends to the road, it is solely the landowners' responsibility. Cllr Hodkinson added that more notice needed to be paid to the flood plans map as an indicator of areas with constant problems.

ACTION 5: Cllr Rowley will revisit the flood plans map.

Cllr Rushton added that the iron grids are covered with silt, Noted that the grids uphill of Queen Eleanor Road have grass growing out of them. They do not get cleaned automatically and need to be reported by individuals to Street Doctor when this is observed. Cllr Buckseall said that if people reported them on Facebook, they could be sent in batches to Street Doctor. Cllr Berry said there had been a problem in Skeffington Close, but he thought it was now resolved – he will check this though.

Cllr Hodkinson said he had been asked to find out if the disposable sandbags had been replaced, as a supply needed to be kept in the village.

ACTION 6: The clerk to find out where to get the sandbag replacements.

In answer to a question – what is left of the flood prevention kit, Cllr Rowley said that there are some emergency packs, the emergency sand bags have now been used, brooms, two walkie talkies, an wheelbarrow, drain locks, electric pumps, hard hats and first aid kits.

Everything else had been stolen.

Cllr Hodkinson concluded by saying there were still two more volunteers’ meetings scheduled to be held.

CORRESPONDENCE - since last meeting.

060/17 North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy – notification of independent examination 23.6.16

061/17 Local authorities consultation – music licences 25.6.16

062/17 KDPS Kettfest Exhibition – advertising of exhibition 25.6.16

063/17 CPRE – campaign update 2.6.16

064/17 NCC charity campaign – 20 million steps walk

065/17 Northants Police – request for firework displays knowledge 2.6.16

066/17 NCC – application submitted for Energy Recovery Facility at Shelton Rd, Corby 30.6.16

067/17 Ncalc – New course available – Data Protection & FOI training 20.9.16. 30.6.16

068/17 Email News Digest – 27.6.16 and 4.7.16

069/17 FINANCE

Community account statement as at 17.06.16 £12,131.22

Business Saver account as at 17.06.16 £10,722.74

b) Accounts received

None

c) Accounts for payment

KBC - Printing services	£27.00	Printing of flyers for Parish Plan meeting 31.5.16
Haines Watts Northamptonshire LLP	£432.00	Internal auditor for the annual accounts 2015-16
Northants CALC	£34.00	“Finance for councilors” course 16.5.16 David Watson
Weldon Forestry	£480.00	(Authorized up to £500.00 at June PC meeting, but cheque has not yet needed to be written).
CPRE	£36.00	Membership June 2016 – May 2017
Parish Clerk – Apr to Jun back pay.	£41.04	Payment made for the 1st qtr (in June) was pre-national 1% pay increase and incremental rise.
PAYE – paid by Parish Clerk on own debit card.	£10.25	Further PAYE to be paid as a result of above entry.

070/17 ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

a) Tree maintenance needed (within Village Hall car park) - update.

The initial work has been carried out by Weldon Forestry (as per discussed at the June monthly meeting). A decision needs to be taken as to a 20% crown reduction – whether this is needed and if so, authorisation up to a certain level. The clerk added that a planning application needs to be submitted, but the application for this would be at no cost to the Parish Council. It was agreed that a £900.00 plus VAT maximum cost level was realistic.

Cllr Rowley proposed that the work be carried out, as the problem is only going to get worse if left. Cllr Rushton seconded the proposal; all Cllrs present were in favour.

ACTION 7: The clerk to contact Planning for the application form and Weldon forestry to book the work in.

Footpaths.

Cllr Rushton commented that he had come across a public footpath that appears to go into a hedgerow, on Stamford Road. Cllr Rowley believes that it is the one that links Newton to Cobley Lodge.

NEWTON

Costings are still being determined for the proposed work at the entrance to Newton. The grass on the corner has been cut though, which helps as regards to visibility. Cllr Rushton asked if a warning sign could be considered as well as the potential work that is being proposed – a flashing warning sign for both sides of the road. However, these cost in the region of £20,000. Cllr Rowley reminded the meeting that a 50mph limit could not even be brought in – the proposed speed limit change went to Scrutiny but was not passed.

LITTLE OAKLEY

No report

Items for next month's Agenda / AOB

Cllrs decided that there would not be a meeting in August unless any incoming issues dictated that one was needed.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.27pm.

