

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12^h DECEMBER 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors M Rowley (Chair), C Buckseall, D Hodgkinson, S Wenbourne, T Bailey, A Gordon, J Padwick, N Batchelor, P Berry.

APOLOGIES:

Cllr D Watson, Cllr D Rushton.

139/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

140/17 PUBLIC SESSION

Five members of the public were present.

a) Questions from the public

Four members of the public wished to have input to agenda item 10b) "Update for the pond in the meadow". This was therefore discussed within the public session (see Minutes 152/17b). One member of the public wished to have input into and listen to the discussion on the precept. The precept discussion was therefore also carried out within the public session (see Minutes 151/17c).

b) Reports from County and Borough Councillors.

i) County Council.

There was no County Council report.

ii) Borough Council report.

Cllr Rowley reported that there was a Borough Council meeting on 14.12.2016 following an executive meeting concerning council tax rebate. The recommendation will be that the rebate stays at 45%. This is being determined by the overall social care budget and money being withheld by the NCC. Support for a new site for the Football Club will also be discussed, as well as possible funding for a new swimming pool and burial cost charges.

c) Police Report / Crime figures

Two PCSOs were present at the meeting. As per the previously circulated Police crime report, there were two incidents for Geddington – one assault, and broken window at the Post Office.

Cllr Rowley then added that motor bikes were racing in Grange Road, going up the road full throttle and doing wheelies. Half of them have no number plates, half have no helmets. The PCSOs are aware of it, and advise residents to call the police on telephone number 101 (the non-emergency telephone number) on the off chance that the motorbike riders could be identified. PCSOs are not allowed to chase motor bikes. Cllr Gordon added that Boughton Estates has said that no-one has permission to ride motorbikes on their land (the quarry). There are about 8 – 12 riders, with some of the bikes not having silencers, which affects horses. The Police do not suggest or discourage the taking of photos, but they do urge anyone to be aware of personal safety. The best way of identifying riders is by the clothes worn, as well as the fact that some riders do not wear helmets.

A further comment was that there are two motorcross circuits on the A14 between here and the M1. The Police added that there had been an incident in the Village Hall car park with three cars colliding with each other. The owners were not from the village. The Police said that the only way to prevent this was to put a lockable barrier on the entrance to the car park.

The PCSOs asked whether in future, police business could be heard first or very close to the start of the meeting, because of police time constraints.

ACTION 1: The Police report to be the first item on the agenda (before the public session) in future.

141/17 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

a) Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting Minutes – held 14.11.16.

The Minutes were agreed by all councillors present to be a true record.

b) Matters arising; progress on agreed actions.

All action points had been carried out. The following were noted:-

The owners of the nursery are allowed to go ahead with their proposals for the former nursery site, but the planning application submitted will have to be amended.

Action 3 - 14.11.16. Any questions for the Police and Crime Commissioner based on policies and strategies to be sent to Cllr Watson as soon as possible.

Action 6 – 14.11.16. The Flood Wardens meeting had not yet taken place – Cllr Buckseall will contact Cllr Rushton.

Action 7 – 14.11.16. The process has started as to no waiting on the main road/clearway procedure. It was confirmed that yellow lines for Newton Road/Stamford Road are on the actioning list. However, there is a new barrier for dropped kerbs – NCC does not know who owns the piece of land between the property and the road.

PLANNING

a) KBC Decision notices

KET/2016/0653 – Mr G Brudenhall, 29 Newton Rd, Geddington. – *Approved.*

b) Planning Applications.

i) KET/2016/0799 – Mr & Mrs C & M Dixon, 39 Stamford Road (land south of)

The original application was discussed, which was for a very large bungalow, leading to an intensely developed site with limited vehicle access. The amended plan shows a smaller footprint – now a dormer bungalow but it is fairly big still. There is enough room now to turn on the driveway.

Main points discussed:-

1. The plot is outside the village boundary – the outline planning permission that had previously been obtained was given before the boundary changes were introduced by the Borough Council.
2. The footprint of the proposed building has reduced from the original application, but it is still over development of the site that as previously stated is outside of the village envelope. Cllr Gordon then proposed that the application be accepted, seconded by Cllr Padwick. Five councillors supported the proposal, two councillors were against the proposal, and two councillors abstained from voting.

ii) KET/2016/0846 - Boughton Estates, 5 - 6 Newton.

This is a thatched cottage in very poor decorative state. The proposal is for it to be restored sympathetically. Cllr Batchelor proposed that the application was supported, seconded by Cllr Padwick. Councillors present were in agreement to the proposal.

Cllr Bailey added that the withdrawal of the Little Oakley church application was as a result of an objection by the Church and English Heritage concerning the internal alterations. The application will be re-submitted at a later stage.

142/17 PARISH PLAN UPDATES.

a) Parish Plan Committee meeting 29.11.16

An update to this meeting had been previously circulated to all councillors. Cllr Padwick then distributed a colour coded list showing six initial priorities as per the Parish Plan Committee and the data that has been produced.

They include Newton Road access issues, flooding (development of a proper flood plan), the need for a teenagers and young adult group to feed in issues concerning that age range, and the future of the Post Office, with Pat's agreement. Cllr Padwick suggested an open meeting or drop-in session in February,

so that members of the public will understand what is trying to be achieved, as well as encouraging more residents to come forward to help. Cllr Wenboun asked if the Pathway project could be explored for the flooding issues, Cllr Rowley informed her that it had been used and items obtained with the grant had been stolen. However, the ideas of a flood plan could be utilised. The priorities will be further discussed at the next meeting.

b) Lighting update - Walkabout for dark areas 6.12.16

The walkabout covered Geddington's two or three areas that were known to be poorly lit. It appears that four lights are needed.

c) Other updates

A village resident has asked if the 20mph signs can be lowered. It was remarked that many residents are not aware of the 20mph limits, as highlighted on the walkabout.

ACTION 2: Cllr Rowley to chase Ian Boyle at KBC as to why they are sited on such high poles.

Cllr Padwick added that items will find their way onto the Parish Council agenda over the next two years. Cllr Hodgkinson said that the Newton turn is a priority.

It was noted that the top five priorities can be monitored by the Parish Council. It has however highlighted that there is a gap in that no councillor leads on highway matters including drains. This may need to be addressed in the future.

143/17 RURAL FORUM - quarterly meeting held 1.12.16

The Police carried out a presentation with Inspector Julie Mead present.

Truck stops have been raised and a letter has been submitted by the Rural Forum to NCC. A Borough Council manager will be meeting the landowner to find out why the designated lorry park has not been built. It needs to be built before no overnight parking in laybys is introduced and enforced. The meeting was informed that NCC is responsible for the strategy, with the Borough Council responsible for enforcement. Sufficient overnight parking is now in the NCC plans, but this consists of one centrally based park which has not yet been built.

CORRESPONDENCE – since the last meeting.

144/17 KBC Site Specific part 2 Local Plan – Housing land allocation – 16.11.16

145/17 Nalco – Superfast Broadband latest – 18.11.16.

146/17 Letter from MP regarding truck stops - David Pope, KBC

147/17 Ncalc – e-Update Nov/Dec 2016

148/17 Letter from Paul Hopkins concerning Precept items 30.11.16

149/17 *Newsletters.*

Spotlight on Rural Health – Rural Health Network 16.11.16

Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Transport, November 2016

“ “ - Rural broadband, Nov 2016

Weekly Email News Digest – 21.11.16, 28.11.16, 5.12.16,

Cllr Rowley commented that item 145/17 had some programme slippage – this will affect Little Oakley, Newton, Grafton Underwood and Weekley.

There were no other comments.

150/17 WEBSITE UPDATE

Cllr Rushton had given his apologies for tonight's meeting. Cllr Rowley updated the meeting on his behalf.

Cllr Rushden has given the core design of the website to Jack Harker, who is loading it on to the production system. Cllr Wenbourne asked why the Parish Council had not paid to get the website up and running: she was informed that Cllr Rushton is a website designer* and he had kindly agreed to do the work instead of a company being commissioned. Councillors were sympathetic to the work involved in the project, but realised that it did need to be completed imminently. Cllr Rowley assured the meeting that if the website was not live in three weeks that he would commit to do it himself. (*correction as per Parish Council meeting 9.1.17. This should read website developer).

151/17 FINANCE

Community account statement as at 17.11.16 £7,666.36
 Business Saver account as at 17.10.16 £10,722.74

a) Accounts received

None

b) Accounts for payment

Hi-Way Services Ltd	£86.50	Quick Dam sand less sandbags
SLCC membership	£78.00	Year's membership 1.1.17 – 31.12.17.
Geddington Village Hall	£20.00	Hire of room 29.11.16 – Parish Plan
Parish Clerk – quarterly salary	£925.60	Parish Clerk quarterly salary Oct – Dec 2016
PAYE	£231.20	PAYE due Oct – Dec 2016
Depreciation	£60.00	Agreed quarterly depreciation.
Expenses	£14.28	12 x 1 st cl £7.68 & 12 2 nd cl £6.60

Proposed by Cllr Padwick and seconded by Cllr Bailey that the above payments be made, agreed by all councillors present.

c) Precept issues/ projects for consideration, to include:-

- i) Parking for the Village Hall area.
- ii) Foot path by the Village Hall.
- iii) Cost of elections
- iv) Proposed work to entrance to Newton village junction

(Agenda item 151/17c) was discussed within the public session).

Any feedback or comments made by residents had been circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting, including an email from Mr Peter Goode (which was sent too late to be included in agenda item “Correspondence”). The member of the public present was concerned about the time scales, with only two months being available for discussion of a precept increase. He was concerned that two of the current projects for consideration were unnecessary and the third had implied that Boughton Estates help would be given as previously reported. He also wished to know if there was any proposed ribbon development along the A4300. He was informed that as regards to the last question, the Boughton Estates proposed road to run from the A4300 (Kettering end) to Grafton Road would have possibly resulted in new build on both sides of the road as infill, the road not being built within 150 feet of the sewerage works. Comments on the Facebook page had at the time stated “why is this by-pass being proposed?”

Cllr Rowley explained that the above four options for consideration had been put forward last month, and the Parish Council needed to build a pool of money before any costings could be undertaken or work committed. He added that Newton Road junction had been raised again over a year ago, by Cllr Watson approximately 14 years ago, and by Cllr Gordon 35 years ago. He explained that the Boughton Estates

fence lines need to be pulled back and soil moved from the high banks by the road side. Unfortunately, Boughton Estates have said now that they will not pay for the work to be carried out. At the present time, the lease regarding the repositioning of the fencing is with Lloyds as it needs to be altered.

Cllr Berry commented that accumulating funds in the way suggested would result in the lowest impact for residents in order to deliver the bigger projects that have been put forward.

Cllr Rowley said that there were two options. The second option was that funding could be raised to a very high level to meet firm projects, or the precept could stay the same until a project was costed and ready to start. A larger precept would again have to be introduced all in one year. Additionally, there were rumours at national government level of a proposed cap of 2% for precepts. If an increase is voted in now, the Parish Council is covered as to this.

None of the projects have been put forward for quotes, so no firm costings can be given at this stage. However, over the course of two or three years with an increased precept, the pot of money will have increased to approximately £35,000 and the projects could be explored further.

The member of the public was informed that the three suggested projects have been put forward by residents. However, recent comments received have suggested that the two organisations (Bowls Club and Tennis Club) should pay for the footpath by the Village Hall to be repaired. The meeting was reminded that a claim had been made against the Parish Council approximately three years ago, which is why it is seen as a priority for maintenance spending.

Cllr Hodkinson informed the member of the public that external grant aid can sometimes be sought for larger projects, but 100% funding is never given. Cllr Rowley added that approximately £3000 of Parish Council funds is, strictly speaking, not the Parish Council's, but was a grant given by NCC for a specific purpose.

He added that all comments relating to the precept discussion were being considered, including the letter received from Paul Hopkins and the email sent in by Peter Goode. Day to day running of the Parish Council amounts to approximately £9,000 a year. The member of the public believed that £31,000 of reserves were in place after the precept money was last received.

ACTION 3: the audited accounts for 2015-16 will be brought to the next meeting so that the member of the public can be clearer as to the finances.

Cllr Hodkinson thought that cash flow reserves need to be identified.

Clarification was given to Cllr Bailey that the precept applies to the parish; it is not a ward precept.

Specific comments for each of the projects were:-

i) Parking for the Village Hall area.

Highlighted by residents using the Village Hall facilities as well as the Village Hall committee. Two organisations using the car park had also said that a bigger car park was needed, as the Village Hall was now losing on business and bookings as people knew how difficult it was to park there. Cllr Wenbourne asked if redesigning the parking bays has been considered, but again, what are the needs? Cllr Rowley said that with any project, the problem needs to be identified, options considered, and costs then taken into account.

ii) Foot path by the Village Hall.

Cllr Hodkinson said that this is a maintenance job – it needs taking up and relaying. He added that there was a clear case for funding to be increased, with the top three jobs all needing a lot more funds than were available. He also added that the possibility of having to spend money on street lighting was still something that the Parish Council may have to consider, although the Parish Council has said that nothing will progress as to street lighting at the present time.

It was highlighted that the footpath is the Parish Council's responsibility, and had resulted in an insurance claim three years ago. Cllr Padwick added that it needs to be subject to the normal process, which includes an assessment of needs.

iii) Cost of elections

No further comment was made as to the provisions for allowing for this.

iv) Proposed work to entrance to Newton village.

Cllr Padwick suggested that NCC needs to be informed again that it is a highways issue. However, it is classed as a low priority so the only realistic choice is for the Parish Council to fund it themselves. Councillors were asked if they were happy to leave it and keep pressing NCC. Cllr Batchelor said that if it was not going to be carried out by NCC anytime soon, that the Parish Council should continue to support the work being carried out by NCC if possible, but it should be stated that the Parish Council commits to the work being carried out, unless something definitive is given by the County Council. He added that the work was needed on health and safety grounds. He added that an increase in precept should be voted for now, and that it was more irresponsible if the Parish Council did not raise it. In reply to a query, there is no county councillor funding left for this year.

Cllr Gordon left the meeting at 9.30pm.

Cllr Rowley added that if councillors decided that an increase was needed, that they would need to define where money was going to, whether it is for grounds maintenance or carrying out work as per the Parish Plan. He added that logically, £35,000 should be committed this year for the new projects.

Cllr Berry again added that it made sense for this to be built up in incremental stages.

Cllr Rowley asked if councillors were happy with that approach for the current time. Councillors expressed agreement with that approach for now (there was no vote).

The discussion ended with the member of the public saying that he supports the action of the Parish Council as to funding requirements, and knows that the current precept for Geddington is not high compared to other similar sized parish councils.

152/17 ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION.

a) Current programme of intended public payphone removal

i) Purchase of Newton pay phone?

Cllr Watson had sent an email stating that Newton wishes to keep it – it is card payment only but has no reader in it. Cllr Bailey thought that BT had already disposed of ownership of the Little Oakley phone box. Cllr Berry proposed that Cllr Watson's statement that Newton wished to keep its BT telephone box be acted upon, and the Little Oakley box to be bought if it has not already been disposed of. Seconded by Cllr Bailey, agreed by all those present.

ACTION 4: The clerk to contact John Marriott to confirm ownership of the Little Oakley phone box and to the correct person to organise the sale of the Newton BT telephone box (if it has not changed ownership already, as per Cllr Watson's thoughts).

b) Update for the pond in the meadow (*discussed within the public session*).

The main points of discussion were as follows:-

1. The Parish Council seemed quite happy to support what has happened – why is this?
2. The work to the pond has not followed the Wildlife Trust's recommendations and guidance. This includes tree cut down when no permission has been given.
3. The Parish Council has done nothing to support the person(s) who highlighted the work that had been carried out to the Parish Council and the Wildlife Trust.
4. The pond was a paddling pool in the 1970's, but since then it has become a nature pond, including a habitat for Great Crested Newts. A whole habitat has been destroyed.
5. How can we have trust again that work carried out will meet the prescribed conditions – we need reassurance that this will not happen again.
6. Who will pay for the remedial work to be carried out?
7. Why has the Parish Council not contacted the Wildlife Trust?

Confirmation was given that the Parish Council gave the GVFB permission to carry out work, as per the Wildlife Trust email received. There was no permission given for tree cut back. Cllr Bailey added that there was concern at the Parish Council (November) meeting as to only the work as authorised in the email could be carried out. Cllr Padwick added that the Parish Council did not want to contravene what

the Wildlife Trust had agreed. The work that had been carried out went against the advice of the Wildlife Trust and the Parish Council. The GVFB representative at the November meeting had given the assurance that only the authorised work would be carried out.

Confirmation was given that the GVFB members did not vote at the November Parish Council meeting as to approval of work being carried out to the Wildlife Trust conditions.

Photographs have been put on the Geddington.net website today. Geddington.net did not have permission to use the photographs. A second article will be submitted to clarify the Council's position. The Parish Council's concerns need to be recorded regarding GVFB.

Noted that this was an example as to why the Parish Council needs its own website as well as Facebook page. A response had been put on to Facebook, but it was in response to a comment, which had subsequently had to be deleted (and hence the response as well). A separate thread was needed to prevent any deletion of responses.

Other comments:-

- A meeting will be held on Thursday with the Wildlife Trust, at which Cllrs Buckseall and Batchelor will be present. Cllr Rowley said that the GVFB have been told not to do anything else until the meeting with the Wildlife Trust has taken place.

- The issue was raised by residents before the Chair had seen the damage.

- Cllr Berry said that some members had said it was a paddling pool, but this was not going to happen. The work that had been carried out may have been wrong, but GVFB members had thought that they had followed the advice given.

- Care needs to be taken as to public discussions on Facebook.

- Cllr Batchelor added that there had been a breakdown in communication between what was happening and what was agreed. The Wildlife Trust message was somewhat ambiguous, and we as a Parish Council need to check in such a case. We need to find out what happens next and for the message to be documented.

- Cllr Rowley added that with hindsight, the person in charge of the project within GVFB should have been on site.

- Cllr Rowley closed the discussion by saying that everybody needed to wait for the outcome of the meeting on Thursday, the results of which would be communicated to all councillors.

Four members of the public then left the meeting.

c) Bench issues – request to include this in November monthly meeting.

The bench on the main road (Kettering end) is in disrepair. A decision was made a year ago not to replace it. However, since then several residents who live opposite have asked if it could be repaired. It is used in the summer by residents and other people walking to and from Kettering.

Cllr Rowley proposed that the original decision be over-ruled, and the current bench replaced with a vandal proof bench, similar to the new benches in the recreation field. The plaque on the current bench can then be moved to the new bench. Seconded by Cllr Hodkinson. Agreed by all councillors present.

ACTION 5: The clerk to order one new bench.

d) Update by Flood Wardens – meeting regarding purchasing of sandbags.

The meeting had not yet taking place.

ACTION 6: Cllr Buckseall will try to contact Cllr Rushton to arrange the meeting.

e) Bridge in the dog walking field

The bridge in the dog walking area needs repairing; a plank is missing.

The clerk reminded the meeting of the quotation that had also been received and circulated to all councillors, from KBC Grounds Maintenance, for cutting the hedge back by the tennis courts, bordering the path, to a height of five to six feet. This quote was perceived to be expensive.

In view of two maintenance jobs that need actioning (the hedge cutting and repair to the bridge in the dog walking field), it was decided to ask for three quotations.

ACTION 7: The clerk to ask for three quotations for the maintenance work.

It was also noted that the fencing by the cycle track needs checking.

ACTION 8: Cllr Buckseall to check the fencing in this area.

f) Fishing and fishing rights – update

This was not discussed because of time limits.

ACTION 9: clerk to add this item to the next agenda.

153/17 HIGHWAYS /LIGHTING /FOOTPATHS /ROAD SAFETY.

There were no urgent matters to be discussed that could not be held over to the next meeting.

NEWTON & LITTLE OAKLEY

No further issues raised.

Items for next month's Agenda / AOB

Precept discussion, and bench issues.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.51pm.