

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th MARCH 2017.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Councillors S Wenbourne, P Berry, D Rushton.

186/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

187/17 PUBLIC SESSION

Two members of the public were present, plus Cllr Jim Harker.

a) Police report, crime figures

The crime figures for February had been previously circulated to councillors. There were no reported crimes for Newton or Little Oakley. Crimes reported for Geddington were 1 x burglary non-dwelling, 1 x theft, and 1 x vehicle crime.

b) Questions from the public

One member of the public had no specific issues to raise: he wished to listen and observe only.

The second member of the public said he had two issues to raise.

i) The flood bund in Wood Street.

He circulated two pictures showing the extent of the water in the field at the top of Wood Street, as at 9th March 2016. He stated that the bund had come close to being breached. A neighbour phoned KBC who came out and place sandbags in the two lowest areas of the bund. The annual survey was then carried out in May 2016. Michael Chester met with the member of the public and said that the measurements were acceptable, but the report for 2016 has still not been published. Michael Chester was emailed in January and again chased a few days ago, as part of the agreement for maintenance of the bund is that the annual survey results are published and sent to the Parish Council. The bund has now been checked and monitored for nineteen years.

ACTION 1: The clerk to send a letter to Michael Chester asking for the results of the 2016 survey. Y

ACTION 2: Michael Chester to be asked for a time and date for the maintenance check for 2017 so that the member of the public and Cllr Buckseall can be present. Y

ACTION 3: Cllr Rowley said that he would also send an email to Michael Chester, and chase him via his manager.

Cllr Padwick commented that he did not realise how much water accumulates in the field by the bund. He asked how often this occurs, and was informed that it has happened four times in the last nineteen years. There was 33mm of rain in March 2016. When the water breached the bund in 1998 there was 49mm. Cllr Rowley said that pathfinder had identified that some of the ditches higher up the drainage area were blocked, and the ditches were in need of some digging out. Cllr Watson asked if the drain was clear. It was also noted that the pipe (on the wasteland) that goes out to the river needs checking.

- ii) The state of the trees on the two approaches to Geddington on the A4300. The member of the public circulated a picture of a tree plus a concealed road sign taken at the Corby end of Geddington.

Cllr Rowley explained that with the Kettering end of the village, the trees are the wrong side of the 30mph limit, and he was working with KBC to get the 30mph sign pushed back to the “Welcome to Geddington” sign, as presently, KBC cannot work on the trees without using traffic lights. He added that the GVFB had carried out some cut-back last autumn.

Cllr Padwick asked why the work could not be carried out. Cllr Rowley said that there was a specific reason which he was unable to recall. Cllr Watson added that all were in agreement that the work needs to be carried out.

ACTION 4: Cllr Rowley needs to find out the name of the work gang who carry out this sort of work.

ACTION 5: Cllr Padwick asked Cllr Rowley to check the reason for no road works being carried out.

Cllr Watson asked why traffic lights could not be used to enable the work to be carried out.

ACTION 6: Cllr Rowley will ask this of the Borough Council.

A welcome was then given to Cllr Harker who wished to update as follows:-

- Parking outside the school.

The documents that have been circulated relating to the proposed restrictions are incorrect. The times for the restrictions were stated as 9.00 – 9.30am, but should have read 8.00 – 9.30pm.

Cllr Watson said that the proposed double yellow lines were badly needed at Newton Road/ Stamford Road junction.

- Illegal bikes/ Clay Dick

Cllr Harker met with the police last week concerning Clay Dick.

He said that the Police were just starting a three week task force regarding the illegal bikes being used in the village, and if anyone sees the bikes or a large van being used, to let the Police know. Cllr Gordon added that the same problem with illegal bikes is now occurring in Brigstock.

Cllr Rowley added that Boughton Estates have not given any permission for the motorbikes to be ridden on their land.

Cllr Harker added that the Police have said not to take photos, as two of the bikers may have guns. However, registration numbers and description of bikes would be helpful.

Cllr Hodkinson asked if the entrance to Newton Road junction improvement drawing has been circulated. Cllr Rowley added that the plan was to remove the soil or the grass will have to be cut every week.

ACTION 7: The clerk to check whether the improvement drawing has been sent out to all councillors.

c) Reports from County and Borough Councillors

- i) County Council.

Cllr Harker had not sent a report through, but he was present at the meeting to give updates.

ii) Borough Council report.

Cllr Rowley reported that there was no Borough Council increase for the council tax rates from April 2017, but there was an NCC increase as well as the Parish Council precept increase. There will be no cuts in front line services this year, but officers have already started to look at what to do for the next financial year, which may include a capital projects cut.

188/17 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

a) i) Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting Minutes – held 13th February 2016

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

ii) Approval of Parish Council special meeting held 6th March 2017

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

b) Matters arising; progress on agreed actions.

The following actions either needed an update given or were still outstanding:-

13.2.17 - ACTION 3:- Cllr Gordon to raise the broadband issue for the Village Hall to the Village Hall committee. Cllr Gordon updated that this had been raised at the Village Hall committee meeting, and would result in informal talks to determine what was needed for the Village Hall. This would be taken to the next Village Hall Committee meeting, and an update would be given to the Parish Council at the next monthly meeting.

13.2.17 - ACTION 5: Cllr Rushton to sort out three to four training session dates which can then be circulated. Training session dates had not yet been circulated.

ACTION 8: The clerk to remind Cllr Rushton that the training session dates had not yet been circulated.

13.2.17 – ACTION 6: The clerk to enquire as to the date of the AGM.

ACTION 9: the clerk will check that this was sent and send again if necessary.

13.2.17 – ACTION 7 – clarification regarding memorial plaque to the bench by Church Hill.

It was clarified that the family concerned had been given permission to add a memorial plaque, but that no commitment was given by the Parish Council to fund this.

Cllr Gordon added at this point that the bench needed some maintenance work (re-varnishing) and he would look at possibly doing this.

3.2.17 - ACTION 8 - Cllr Bailey to report the whereabouts of the potholes to Street Doctor. It was unclear whether the pot holes had been reported as Cllr Bailey was not at the meeting.

Although it was not a formal action to be undertaken, Cllr Gordon has checked with T James Electrical relating to Eleanor Cross lights (not coming on). They have checked the lights and cannot see anything wrong with them.

189/17 AGM in May 2017

a) Positions to be discussed.

b) Aspects of Parish Council work for the forthcoming year – item for monthly agenda discussion (**OR** statement for the AGM). *Cllr Batchelor*

The meeting was informed that item b) would be covered within the discussion at item a). Cllr Batchelor circulated a list with existing and new posts listed, colour coded for discussion as to whether each post should be kept, added, or if they were not statutory were they still needed.

The main decisions made were as follows:-

1. Appointment of members for committees -

- Capital projects – a lead is needed as per the Parish Plan and the need to raise the precept. A councillor is needed to lead on this and give periodic updates. It was also decided that capital projects should sit within Finance as a fixed agenda item. It will then come within the Finance Committee remit whose meetings would be minuted and published.
- The Village Design Statement and Parish Plan do not include highway matters as they sit outside the Parish Council’s responsibility. Councillors were reminded that the roads within the villages are also the responsibility of NCC. Parish Plan should be included within the Village Design Statement, but road safety should be moved to the Parish Plan only.
- Lighting and footpaths – to separate the functions
- Finance and Planning have to have a member appointed for committees.
- Recreation and Environment – to remain.

2. Appointment of parish representatives (Parish Council representatives for other committees or groups)

All currently listed to remain, except for a tree warden.

Committee and representative reports - these were not discussed.

Other queries were:-

- Flooding and drainage – is a lead needed?
- Bowls Club/parking – should this come under capital projects or the lead for the recreation ground?
- The Samuel Lee charity – the representative does not have to be a parish councillor, but the Parish Council has a duty to nominate a representative. Councillors were informed that the charity does the Christmas hampers and gives out grants via the hardship fund.

ACTION 10: The clerk to add “third representative for the charity” to the April agenda.

ACTION 11: The clerk to inquire of Geddington.net if a representative from the Parish Council is able to attend the AGM.

PLANNING

a) KBC Decision notices

KET/2016/046 – 5/6 Newton – Boughton Estates. – *approved*.

KET/2016/0900 and 0899. Ms Longhurst, 14 Corby Road – *withdrawn*.

KET/2017/0150. Mr P Eyre, 6 Chase Rad.

Cllr Batchelor informed the meeting that this was a simple rear extension that appears to be under permitted householder development. It therefore would not come to the Parish Council for comments.

b) Planning Applications.

KET/2017/0799: Mr & Mrs C & M Dixon 39 Stamford Road.

Cllr Batchelor reminded councillors that they were not in agreement previously and the application had been withdrawn. However, the re-submission shows that the footprint has reduced. Additionally, a dormer bungalow (the new build intention for the plot) is situated in the adjoining plot to the south so the development would not be out of character. It was therefore agreed by all the councillors present that the footprint as per the current application has now reduced. As long as the application is within the village boundary there is now no reason to object to the application.

KET/2017/0128: Mrs K Smithyman – 20 Bright Trees Road.

The application is for a single floor rear extension. A planning application had been successfully submitted six months ago, to build a supplementary extension to the front of the house. Councillors wished to query whether the footprint had been exceeded. Is this based on the original footprint? The first extension is now built and part of the building, so is this now classed as the footprint?

The planning application was supported however, on the assumption that the 50% rule applies to the current footprint and not the original build, as it appears that it would exceed the original build.

ACTION 12: Cllr Rowley will check what the 50% rule applies to.

**190/17 PARISH PLAN DROP-IN SESSION - Verbal report-back Cllrs Padwick /
Hodkinson/ Rushton**

Cllr Padwick said that it had been very successful. They had marked on a map of the Parish where attendants lived, which was and would be useful. He remarked how helpful KBC Planning Department had been, and Cllr Rowley said he would convey this to the Planners.

ACTION 13: Cllr Rowley to convey the Parish Council's thanks for their help to the relevant officers.

Cllr Padwick added that it had been an extremely useful exercise to emphasise the priorities and other relating activities. Approximately 50 households had been represented. He felt that it may be beneficial to do such an exercise on an annual basis, possibly linking in with the Parish meeting. This could then monitor and report back on Parish Plan activities. Some more volunteers had come forward to help with the Parish Plan. He added that it was a robust endorsement of the Parish Plan.

Cllr Hodkinson observed that inviting the village organisations meant that some of the opinions that were formed would be likely to be positively spread via word of mouth by some of the organisations.

Cllr Rowley congratulated all those involved in making the drop-in session so successful. The discussion then diverted somewhat to note that the Parish meeting this year will be held before the annual AGM, as last year.

Cllr Hodkinson said that the next step was to get the Parish Plan Committee together, report back to the meeting and start to action the agreed priorities.

CORRESPONDENCE ((see list on page 2)

191/17: Email from Nathan Turner concerning use of football facilities – 21.2.17

192/17: NCC public consultations - 30 Hours Free Childcare -Parental Demand Survey - 24.2.17

193/17: Police Commissioner – meet up with councillors, sent 24.2.17

194/17 Email from Katie Chown (English Heritage) – Eleanor Cross padlock and flood lights,
1.3.17

195/17: Peter Williams (CBC) – Decision regarding the application for designation of a Neighbourhood Area for Weldon Parish Council., 1.3.17)

196/17: Gary Thorpe (Kierwsp) – road closure notification by 1 Queen Street, 3.3.17

197/17: Michael Chester (KBC) – 2017 street lighting evening surveys, 2.3.17

198/17: *Newsletters.*

Weekly Email News Digest – 13.2.17, 20.2.17, Rural Services network – 1.3.17

Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural transport, January 2017

Rural broadband, February 2017.

A letter had been received from Mrs West relating to her hedge which had suffered damage when the pond in the meadow had been cleared. This has been replied to.

199/17 FINANCE

The two account balances are:-

Community account statement	as at 17.02.17	£6,425.33
Business Saver account	as at 17.10.17	£10,722.74

Accounts received

None

Accounts for payment

Parish Clerk – quarterly salary	£925.60	Parish Clerk quarterly salary Oct – Dec 2016
PAYE	£231.20	PAYE due Jan – Mar 2017
Depreciation	£60.00	Agreed quarterly depreciation.
Expenses	£0.00	

An invoice was expected to be received in the next day or so from the Newton Field Centre for Hire of their room for one meeting in early March, for £25.00.

Payment of the above accounts was proposed by Cllr Padwick, seconded by Cllr Batchelor. The invoice from the Newton Field Centre was also approved for payment as long as it was for the £25.00 stated.

200/17: WEBSITE -Training requirements and training dates to be determined.

Cllr Rush on

Cllr Rushton was unable to attend the meeting, so no update as to training was able to be given.

201/17: ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

- a) Funding Fair attendance - at East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston, on
Thursday April 27, 2017

There were no councillors who could commit to attending the Funding Fair on this date.

NEWTON

There were no issues raised relating to Newton.

LITTLE OAKLEY

Cllr Padwick pointed out that the row of cottages by the A6003 now suffered from environmental issues (noise pollution).

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA / AOB

No items were raised.

There being no further business. The meeting closed at 9.04pm