

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 6th JULY 2017.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors N Batchelor (Chair), D Watson, M Rowley.

APOLOGIES:

No apologies were received.

039/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

The Clerk was informed that by default, Cllr Batchelor, as Chair for the Parish Council, is also Chair for the Finance Committee.

040/18 Ring fencing of 50% of the precept for capital projects.

The discussion centred on the fact that a dedicated fund is needed for the specific projects that the Parish Plan in particular has highlighted as needing to be addressed. It had been agreed at the monthly meeting when the precept was discussed, that with a proposed increase to £20,000.00 for 2017-18, that £10,000.00 would be side aside for Parish Plan and specific projects.

Clarification was given for funding (for any of the projects).

£10,000.00 could potentially be used from the reserves, leaving £4,000.00 for any emergencies, and £1500.00 for any rising costs.

£10,000.00 to be ring fenced for 2017-18.

£10,000.00 potentially to be further ring fenced for 2018 – 19.

Those present then decided that the meeting would take the form of an open discussion to capture potential capital projects that have been brought to the attention of the Parish Council via the Parish Plan, plus one or two other issues that are continually being brought to the parish councillors by residents.

041/18 A summary of the Parish Plan priorities is as follows:-

Traffic calming,
Youth facilities,
Village shop and vending (for encouragement only),
Lighting, and
Environmental.

Noted that the river is the Environmental Agency's responsibility

Other issues that are continually being raised by residents are:-

The Newton Road / entrance to Newton junction

The car park for the recreation field / village hall and its facilities

The lights for the Eleanor Cross.

Cllr Batchelor added that it was important for an individual councillor to take ownership of a particular project.

a) Traffic calming measures

Cllr Watson confirmed that if required, tools to help with traffic calming could be funded by the Parish Council. Noted that NCC recognise that traffic calming is desirable, but will not fund it. (Noted also that other bodies need to get involved where suitable, such as the County Councillor for work to the entrance to Newton junction)

Speeding - The police need to say what can be done.

Additional traffic calming measure to be considered:-

- i) Chicanes and humps.
- ii) Speedwatch.
- iii) Steven Mould (PCC) is keen to get more cameras in place to tackle rural speeding.
- iv) Rural to pay the overtime for a policeman (operation of speed camera).

b) Youth facilities - Additional facilities for the older youths.

The Youth Club are leading on this, and would like to see any additional facilities to be on the recreational ground. There is no need for the Parish Council to be involved with this project at the present time.

c) Street lighting

Cllr Watson asked what was happening about the poor lighting in West Street. Cllr Rowley said that the street lighting issue was on hold at Borough levels as there were other priorities.

Most of the street lights in the village are over 40 years old. Most should be replaced and with an LED specification but this is very costly. However, NCC is the lighting authority. The Parish Council could install the West Street light – “without prejudice

d) Environmental issues –

It was agreed that some form of landscaping for the ford area to clean up both the north and south bank (West side) would be beneficial, but this has to be a low priority. There may be a possibility that the GVFB would consider cutting back the brambles in this area. It was suggested that a local gardener could be asked to trim these back for the Parish Council four times a year.

ACTION 1:- this recommendation to be taken to the next monthly PC meeting.

e) The Newton Road / entrance to Newton junction

There are three elements to this project:-

- i) The fence and hedge – heavy machinery is needed to pull these out.
- ii) The undergrowth.
- iii) The soil. Large quantities to be moved to bring the eye level down.

ACTION 1:- the map of proposed lines of improvement drawn by Highways to be circulated again.

Those present were reminded that the proposed changes will start four metres from the Newton village corner and extend 90 metres along the Newton Road.

Boughton Estates have spoken to both leaseholders (of the affected fields) and have obtained their agreements for the changes, but neither Boughton Estates nor the leaseholders will pay for them. Cllr Rowley has explored the possibility of a grant funding but there does not seem to be any opportunity to apply for this type of work.

f) Additional car park for the recreation field / village hall and its facilities

Short term, a possibility is to purchase some hard core to create a temporary road. Ian Boyle from Kier may be able to give an approximate price, based on what Kier would charge the NCC for a similar job.

There is the potential for help to be available from Boughton Estates. They may consider assisting with the entrance road for a second car park (approximate cost of £35,000.00), but the Parish Council would have to pay for laying of tarmac or grass mats. The cost of this would likely be about £20,000.00. But any potential help would depend on the final decision by KBC as to the development plan and designated areas of development.

Another possibility is the area at the back of the church where there are some garages. It is unclear whether any of these are in use by nearby residents.

ACTION 2: Cllr Rowley will speak to John Conway at KBC, to enquire how many are in use, whether the number of garages could be decreased, and how high are the maintenance costs for the number of garages that are present at the moment.

Additionally, the industrial unit in Grange Road is not used from 5.00pm to 6.00am.

The Youth Club car park can also be opened for members of the public for specific events, but it tends to have low usage as it is a little too far out of the village.

It was commented that the Bowls Club who are particularly concerned about the lack of car parking spaces for the recreation ground area would appreciate and use more car parking space in the recreation field, but the area by the church would be good for school traffic, and would potentially alleviate parking problems in Chase View and the Woodlands.

Lastly, parking permits for residents could be considered.

g) The lights for the Eleanor Cross.

English Heritage is responsible for the Cross but the Parish and Borough Council have to maintain it. Although English Heritage had advised that lighting should be installed, the Parish Council had changed the type of lights and it is therefore the Parish Council's responsibility to maintain them.

h) The path from the tennis courts to the Bowls Club has been classed as a trip hazard.

Work needed is to make good/ replace. Consideration needs to be given to taking the slabs up and tarmacing the path. It is Parish Council land, and another option is to take the slabs up completely unless the Bowls Club wishes to leave them in place and then maintain them. The Parish Council would make it clear that they would not be responsible for the path (and that area of land). It would be a capital project, and needs one councillor to take ownership of it.

AOB

None

There being no further business. The meeting closed at 9.20pm.