

**GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors N Batchelor (Chair), M Rowley, P Berry, P Goode, A Gordon, D Watson, T Bailey, D Rushton, S Wenbourne, Cllr Padwick

**APOLOGIES:**

None.

**084/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**085/18 PUBLIC SESSION**

**a) Police Report / Crime figures**

Sergeant Robert Offord was present to introduce himself as the Neighbourhood Policing Team Sergeant for Kettering, Corby and the rural area. He said that the September figures were an anomaly. There were security issues around most of the crimes; all the vehicles concerned had been insecure.

He then ran through the October figures which were as follows:-

Vehicle Crime

7th Newton Road Entry to 2 insecure vehicles, nothing taken

Burglar Dwelling

6-7th Newton Road Entry to garage, stealing food and other items

22-29th Queen Street Entry to garage whilst on holiday, items taken

Theft Other

19<sup>th</sup> Mill Farm, Newton Rd, Van drove into driveway of farm, placed items to rear a of van, drove off

No recorded crimes for Newton or Little Oakley.

He added that the message needed to be reinforced that residents must lock doors and cars, possibly via a leaflet drop. He was informed that there are currently ten Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Geddington. Another measure would be the possibility of use of an ANPR camera. However there is a cost element – a one off fee for the contract.

As regards to extraction of crime details, he advised that anyone could go on to the Police website where they are available.

Cllr Batchelor informed him of the NHW meeting that the Council wished to facilitate. The aim was to try to get more NHW schemes up and running. October was a mini-crime wave for Geddington, and any information that could be given to residents may be helpful. Sergeant Offord said that the biggest deterrent was to make your house looked lived in.

Cllr Rowley said that the problem with off road bikes had re-commenced focusing in the stone pit, Grafton Road and Wood Street. Sergeant Offord said that five separate callers had rung in in a week, and it was something that Police do look at (the numbers of callers who had rung in). He said it was easy to use on-line reporting.

He concluded by saying that feedback would be welcomed for the local identified priorities.

Sergeant Offord was thanked for the information he had conveyed, and then left the meeting.

*Cllr Padwick entered the meeting at 7.52pm.*

### **b) Questions from the public**

Doug Hodkinson said that he was happy to help Cllr Wenbourne as regards to the street lighting responsibilities, or if a walkabout was needed. He was also happy to help Cllr Padwick as regards to Parish Plan work if it would help.

He brought some “original opinion” documents as supporting evidence if it was needed relating to the Parish Plan, and further information relating to 20mph roundels which he left for the Parish Council.

He also highlighted the poor state of road markings at the splitter island at the Poppies end of Rockingham Road. Re-marking and bar lines are needed to deflect traffic from going into incorrect lanes, with presently two lanes merging into one (Geddington to A14 area). It was acknowledged that this is a Highways matter.

Cllr Rushton asked at this point what is happening as to Newton Road corner and the area near to the school for their road markings. Signs have been put up, but the clerk agreed to check when the yellow line road markings will take place.

**ACTION 1: The Clerk to chase NCC for a date that the painting of the lines will be carried out.**

### **c) Reports from County and Borough Councillors**

#### County Council report.

Cllr Victoria Perry was present. She reminded councillors that the councillors' Empowerment fund could pay for notice boards for Geddington and Newton.

**ACTION 2: The clerk had carried out some initial obtaining of information from different companies and would now obtain some quotations.**

She then spoke about the NCC proposed budget cuts, highlighting that there was a consultation meeting in Corby on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017. She stated that spending cuts to roads are potentially the biggest cuts, not the libraries. Cuts to Trading Standards work, bus services, and the mobile libraries are being proposed, and winter maintenance may be cut by £500,000.

In answer to a question, she added that there had been a lack of scrutiny, and the council tax level had remained low for several years.

She added that she is currently involved with Scrutiny, making school visits as involved in the safer routes for schools team, and the decriminalisation of parking, by multi-use of wardens.

*Cllr Perry then left at 8.12pm.*

### Borough Council.

Cllr Rowley said that most of his report would focus on the NCC proposed cuts, so he would tie in his report with agenda item 8 (NCC budget and libraries consultation).

## **086/18 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

### **a) Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting Minutes – held 9th October 2017.**

One incorrect sentence was re-worded, the Minutes were then approved by Cllr Rowley, seconded by Cllr Gordon, agreed by all councillors present to be a true record.

### **b) Matters arising; outstanding actions.**

Potential training for planning applications. – Feedback and request has been made to KBC. - no dates have yet been received.

## **PLANNING**

### **a) KBC Decision notices**

*KET/2017/0746 - Corby Land and Development Ltd, Geddington Road (land South of), Corby, NN18 8ET (regarding the Corby Euro hub).*

*Development of land for employment uses (Use Classes B1/B2/B8) with ancillary parking, highway infrastructure, engineering works, landscaping and ancillary works - all matters reserved except for principal site accesses and landscaping (Geddington Road frontage only)(Corby Borough Council, reference 12/00259/OUT & 17/00388/RVC)*

*Consultation from another Council*

Councillors were informed that this is in the Stanion Parish. Kettering has approved the application subject to Geddington Parish being consulted.

There were no negative comments to the application.

### **b) Planning Applications**

Cllr Rowley abstained from this section of the meeting.

*KET/2017/0803 Mr A Foulke, 12 West Street, Geddington.*

*Single storey rear extension, loft conversion and replacement windows.*

It was commented that the application is in part retrospective as the work has already started, but this is allowed.

It was noted that the roof lights are at the rear, and they are of a conservation type. The extension is a small extension to the rear of the property.

The property is not listed.

Cllr Padwick proposed that there was no objection to the application, seconded by Cllr Gordon. Six councillors agreed with the proposal, two councillors objected, one councillor abstained

## CORRESPONDENCE

087/18: Notice of Decommissioning of two phone boxes completed ([payphones@BT.com](mailto:payphones@BT.com)) 10.10.17

088/18: Mobile library dates, 12.10.17

089/18: Email from S Chester – memorial bench in the recreation field (thanks) 11.10.17

090/18: Engagement Team, public health: Body Worn Video Cameras for Parking Enforcement Officers Consultation closes 22.11.17

091/18: New training courses from Ncalc, 19.10.17

092/18: Safety Matters newsletter – from Northants Police 19.10.17.

093/18: Autumn Road Show 9.11.17 – CPRE Northamptonshire.

094/18: Rural Wellbeing Service Autumn Newsletter – Northants ACRE 23.10.17

095/18: Meeting with Stephen Mold - PCC for Northamptonshire on 15.11.17

096/18: Budgeting and Precept Information 2018/19 from Ncalc, 1.11.17

097/18: CPRE campaign – “Two weeks to stop Green Belt release” 7.11.17

098/18: Newsletters.

Weekly Rural News Digest 9.10.17

“ “ 16.10.17

30.10.17

“ “ 6.11.17

Rural Services network – Rural Transport October 2017  
Rural broadband October 2017

Rural Opportunities bulletin 1.11.17

No comments were made relating to any of the correspondence items.

## 099/18: FINANCE

Community account statement as at 17.10.17 £22,507.06

Business Saver account as at 17.10.17- £10,726.76

### a) Accounts received

None

### b) Accounts for payment

|                          |          |   |
|--------------------------|----------|---|
| MAD Landscapes           | £954.00  | Repair of bridge in the meadow.                           |
| British Legion           | £35.00   | Remembrance Sunday – poppy wreath and voluntary donation. |
| Information Commissioner | £35.00   | Data protection registration to 1.12.18                   |
| CommuniCorp              | £75.00   | Local Councils Update – year’s subscription               |
| T James Electrical Ltd   | £3281.76 | Repair of Queen Eleanor cross lights                      |

Accounts for payment were agreed, proposed by Cllr Rowley, seconded by Cllr Gordon. Agreed by all councillors present.

**c) Draft PC budget for 2018-19 and**

**d) Precept 2018/19 discussion, to include Parish Plan capital projects commitments and potential commitments.**

It was agreed to have one discussion for c) and d) together.

Cllr Watson explained the draft budget figures for 2018-19, and said that it costs approximately £10,000.00 per year to run the Parish Council, with a further £10,000.00 to be put into the ring fenced fund for the Parish Plan projects..

Cllr Padwick commented that the draft budget looks fine, but queried if there are allowances made for further expenses for questionnaires (for the projects) work.

It was re-iterated that the three main projects are the car park extension (approximate cost is £30,000.00), the Newton entrance safety improvements (approx. £35,000.00) and the outdoor gym (approx. £20,000.00). It has to be decided what the priority is and should one of them be carried out reasonably quickly. It was commented that if one should be done quickly, the Newton entrance improvement proposed work is not dependent upon applying for a grant as there is no possibility at all of such a grant being available from any source.

Cllr Rowley added that as long as projects are identified, the reserves can be bigger than normal. The reserves in March 2018 will be approximately £21,000.00 with a further £20,000.00 precept to be allocated for April 2018 – Mar 2019, if that is the decision that is made.

Cllr Bachelor said that that decision needs to be made – is the precept going to be kept at £20,000.00 to enable work to commence for one of the projects.

He then said that he was looking for individual councillors to take ownership of the projects – three different councillors to lead with the three large projects, and to have a feasibility studies ready by February. Cllr Watson said that all the initial feasibility work for the Newton entrance is virtually done. The car park entrance has also had a feasibility study carried out. Cllr Batchelor commented that he has not seen it and Cllr Goode said that councillors were not aware that this had been done. Cllr Gordon explained that it has been costed, and there have been three meetings with Boughton Estates, the only factor holding it up is the ability to use the field.

It was noted that John Goodall has produced a very good report for the older youth/ adult outdoor facilities, which included three quotations.

The discussion was summarized by Cllr Watson who said that the draft budget proposed to keep the precept at its current level. Councillors can then have further discussions regarding ideas before March 2018. He added that as regards to the three big projects:-

- The outdoor gym will not be able to commence quickly as there is further consultation that needs to be carried out.
- The proposed new car park and entrance is dependent upon Boughton Estates. This project may not be able to commence for two years.

- The work to the Newton entrance could be carried out next Spring – if soil is spread out across the field at this time of the year there would be a big cost saving. Cllr Berry reiterated that this is the one project that councillors know they cannot get any funding for.

Cllr Batchelor said that the three papers need to be brought to the Parish Council before the projects are discussed in detail.

Cllr Rowley proposed that councillors accept the outline budget in its present format and finalize it in January at the final precept discussion. Seconded by Cllr Berry, all councillors present were in agreement

As a final comment, Cllr Batchelor added that this would also allow for any adjustments in the light of the results of the NCC consultation on budget cuts.

**e) Spend Approval Limits – discussion.**

Cllr Watson said that if an item or work costs less than £1000.00, the Parish Council should not try to get three quotes (which are often impossible to obtain from three companies) but get on and complete the work in hand. Cllr Goode reiterated this by say that the Financial Standing Orders state that three quotations need to be obtained for goods from a value of £1000.00 to £10,000.00, not for less than £1000.00.

**ACTION 3: The financial standing orders will need to be altered to reflect what is realistic or what was voted upon. This should be prepared in April 2018 in readiness for the AGM in May 2018**

**f) Finalisation of spend for improvement of PC transparency (I.T. spend).**

Cllr Gordon confirmed that the village hall was happy for the I.T. equipment to be provided, but would not pay for the equipment. It was stated that it will be provided to ensure that the Parish Council is complying with the aim to create more transparency with how the Parish Council works. Cllr Rowley will cost up the equipment needed. Proposed by Cllr Gordon, that the relevant equipment is purchased. Seconded by Cllr Rushton, all were in favour.

**ACTION 4: A projector, a router and repeaters to be costed up by Cllr Rowley, plus any additional items to ensure that usage is practical.**

Cllr Watson added that the notice board in the lounge may need to be moved.

**100/18: NCC BUDGET AND LIBRARIES CONSULTATION.**

**a) Northamptonshire County Council 2018-19 Budget Consultation: Phase 1**

*This agenda item was discussed whilst Cllr Victoria Perry was still present at the meeting.* Cllr Perry explained that the current consultation was for £9.6million of savings, part of the £37.3 million savings that has to be found by March 2019. The further £27.7 million of cuts will be announced in December.

It was noted that the budget summary has been sent to the Parish Council by Ncalc. It was felt that because NCC cannot afford to carry out some of its current services that are provided, even though they are legally the correct body to do so, that they are being pushed down to town and parish councils to fund them. However, borough councils cannot put their rates up by more than 2% per annum. Some of the services will therefore be pushed down in turn for parish councils to deliver if they are required. There may be a mandate to

raise local taxes. It was noted that any parish council that need to raise the precept to cover any services that they did not want to lose in their area, would not be able to do so until the following year, as the precept figure has to be sent to the borough councils by end of January. Cllr Padwick said the question had to be asked whether the Parish Council would want to take over additional responsibilities or not.

Cllr Perry added that the £4000.00 of community funds that each NCC councillor can allocate for local works or projects will go.

#### **b) Northamptonshire Libraries and Information Service Review 2017 Consultation**

This is the first consultation to be carried out by NCC. It was felt that this topic is raising real concerns, and it was hoped that NCC would respond to the consultation results. Cllr Rowley said that places like Desborough and Rothwell are community hubs, not just libraries. He will be arranging a meeting with all the Parish Council Chairs in his area. Geddington and Cranford will be most affected as regards to the proposed withdrawal of the mobile library service.

Cllr Goode asked what would be the impact if volunteers took over the running of a library. Cllr Rowley replied that if a community took on running of a library they would also have to buy the building (as NCC has to make a £3 million saving on capital). If the building was given to them and then the service was run by volunteers it is do-able, but not otherwise. Cllr Batchelor remarked that some services cannot be performed by volunteers, such as road markings.

Cllr Gordon said that NCC was the lowest funded council in the country. It was thought that the Council will not be bailed out by central government as if these happened, other councils would have to be bailed out as well.

Cllr Goode remarked that closing of libraries would have no or very little impact on this parish, but cuts to other services would cascade down

#### **101/18: FEEDBACK - meeting with Chief Constable and PCC 23.10.17.**

Cllr Wenbourne gave feedback of the meeting. The meeting had wished to focus discussions and questions on making the area safer, and to provide an efficient and high quality police service. Some of the information given was that officers would be based out of hubs; there would be more victim-focused services and more pro-active policing. Each community will now have a named contact and enhanced responsibilities for neighbourhood villages. Parish Councils can contribute to PCSO funding. The Chief Constable Steven Mold had said that the Police are there for the people first. He summarised by saying that the new model protects rural policing for rural areas.

#### **102/18. ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION**

##### **a) Flood Plan and Timeline**

The Flood Plan has been given to Cllr Buckseall to review.

##### **b) Notice boards/ costings for notice boards**

Information from three different sources had been obtained and was circulated, firm quotes are now needed.

**ACTION 5: The clerk to obtain some quotations.**

**103/18: SAMUEL LEE CHARITY – vacancy for a Parish Council-nominated trustee.**

Cllr Batchelor said that he is now a co-opted member. The other Parish Council nominated members are Cllr Buckseall and Keeley Tait. A trustee still needs to be nominated.

**NEWTON & LITTLE OAKLEY**

**No issues raised.**

**AOB**

**None**

**ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA.**

Potential pond works.

Cutbacks.

*There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.58pm.*