

**GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors N Batchelor (Chair), M Rowley, P Berry, P Goode, S Wenbourne, C Buckseall, D Rushton.

**APOLOGIES:**

T Bailey, D Watson, A Gordon, J Padwick,

**117/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**118/18 CO-OPTION**

This co-option item to be taken to the February 2018 meeting.

**119/18 PUBLIC SESSION**

**a) Police Report / Crime figures**

There are no crime figures available for December 2017, as per the long and detailed email that had been received from Sergeant Robert Offord.

Cllr Goode acknowledged that it was a very detailed email with cross references to the two sets of crimes for one month, with the majority of errors being relevant to the Police.uk site, not Sergeant Offord's own crime map. He had referred to a triplication of reporting, which was also acknowledged by Cllr Goode.

It was agreed that accuracy of the crime reports can then show any trends for the crimes or areas prone to incidents. Cllr Goode used the example of vehicle crimes being shown on the conflicting reports for Chase Hill and the Closes. However, the crimes took place on the main road in a well-lit area. The incorrect information is on the Police.uk site that the Parish Council is being recommended to access.

The discussion ended with the statement that if clear reporting was required for the three villages then it must be carried out internally.

Thanks were then conveyed from Sergeant Offord via the email he had sent, to thank Newton residents when a search had been carried out for a young girl who had gone missing, but was subsequently found.

It was commented that it will be interesting to see if there is any response to the re-invigorated Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, following an article being submitted for the next village newsletter. Cllr Wenbourne asked if there had been any update as to a village co-ordinator. Cllr Batchelor said that the next Newsletter will contain a two or three page article asking for a street co-ordinator to step up to the role of village co-ordinator.

**b) Questions from the public**

Four members of the public were present; all of them wished to make comments concerning the planning application that was due to be discussed (KET 2017/0998, 26 Queen Street, the old print works). It was therefore decided to discuss the planning application within the public session (see Agenda item "Planning b").

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

**County Council report.**

Cllr Victoria Perry had sent her apologies and had sent an email update which Cllr Rowley conveyed. The County Council is currently focussed very much on budget concerns, which is all consuming at the present time. The libraries consultation is nearly finished. Cllr Perry had spoken in

her email that items such as grit/ grit bins may become a Parish Council responsibility if it was decided that they were still needed. Cllr Perry expressed that she was concerned as to the potential extra expenditure when the precept had to be decided this month. Cllr Rowley added at this stage that he advises that the precept does not need to be increased for any extra items of expenditure including grit and grit bin provision at the present time.

It was also noted that gritting on the main roads is also being reduced, but gritting of one road in and out of villages will be carried out.

#### Borough Council.

Cllr Rowley spoke of the KBC budget. All the efficiencies had been met to balance the books. He added that KBC is looking to use the crematorium for wedding as well as funerals.

He publicised the budget consultation meeting, to be held by KBC on 25.1.18.

#### **120/18 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

##### **a) Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting Minutes – held 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017.**

The Minutes were approved by Cllr Goode, seconded by Cllr Batchelor, agreed by all councillors present to be a true record.

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

Outstanding issues:-

*Splitter roundabout at end of Rockingham Road, Kettering.* Re-painting of lines cannot be carried out until the temperature is warmer.

**ACTION 1: the Clerk to diary date to contact Sarah Barnwell end of March/ early April regarding re-painting of lines which is normally carried out when the temperature is a little higher.**

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

**ACTION 2: The clerk to forward the original email to Cllr Rowley, for him to contact the relevant person when it is convenient.**

*Work on the Pool in the Meadow:* Cllr Berry said that he will send an email round to the pool group asking for help to carry out the required maintenance work.

*Cllr Padwick will speak to Pat (regarding the Post Office)* – he will speak to Pat shortly.

*Lease for the Bowling Club:* The clerk to find the lease for the Bowling Club and send to Cllr Bailey.

*Lighting issues:* Cllr Padwick is currently organizing an evening walkabout, to now take place in February.

*Defibrillator for Little Oakley BT phone kiosk:* Contact details were sent to Cllr Bailey; the clerk to also forward the information that grants are currently available for defibrillators from the Lottery Heritage fund.

#### **PLANNING**

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

*KET/2017/0518 - Mr K Richardson, The Manor Barn, Access Road To Manor House, Newton.*

*Replacement windows and doors to Manor Barn, convert part of stable building to studio/workshop, block up window to east gable and create door opening, replacement garage doors. (Full Application).* Approved

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

*Single storey rear extension, loft conversion and replacement windows (Full Application).*

Approved

### **b) Planning Applications**

Note: Cllr Rowley abstained from this agenda item.

*This application was discussed within the public session.*

*KET/2017/0998 - Barton Lodge Developments Ltd, 26 Queen Street, Geddington. Change of use and extension of former offices to provide 2 no. dwellings, demolition of commercial building and construction of 2 no. semi-detached dwellings, associated parking and amenity space. Full Application – consultation expiry date 10.1.18*

The discussions and resulting comments sent to the Borough Council were summarised as follows:-

"That the Parish Council objects to the application on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site, and the constant ongoing impact it will have on both the immediate area and the conservation area within which it sits. It will radically increase the accessing and egressing of the one entrance to the site.

As stated above, the proposed overdevelopment of the site will sharply increase vehicular access and egress, make the use of the planned fire hydrant impractical and force additional cars onto an already congested Queen Street. The Heritage Statement does not properly evaluate what the parking situation would be as a result of the development, especially as nearby residents use the property for parking.

The Parish Council is further concerned that contrary to the marked boundary in the application, the land just inside the entrance way and stretching towards the far existing cottage is reportedly not owned by the applicant, but rather one of the existing cottage owners, who would assert his right to maintain vehicle access for himself and the residents of the other two cottages. It necessarily follows that the vehicle entrance would serve seven dwellings and therefore be unacceptable.

The Parish Council also notes that at least one resident has parked on this land for over 17 years, and whilst admittedly this is not strictly a planning consideration, should this right be separately enforceable, this will immediately diminish the planned parking spaces to less than the prescribed two per property."

It also was noted that parking will take place in the turning bays as the planning application shows over development with not enough room for parking for the residential properties.

The Objection to the planning application was proposed and seconded and agreed by all councillors present except for one abstention by a councillor who was unable to take part in the discussion.

### **121/18: PARISH PLAN – update**

- a) **Lighting walkabout** : Cllr Padwick has proposed an evening walkabout, but it is proving difficult to decide a date because of individual commitments. The 9th of February looks like a possible date. Cllrs Wenbourne and Berry said that they will sort a date out.

**ACTION 3: the clerk to let Cllr Padwick know that the 9th February is a possible date that is do-able.**

### **b) Flood Plan, Flooding & Drainage issues.**

In answer to a question, Cllr Rowley reminded councillors that officially, the Borough Council does not now give out sand bags. The Parish Council has therefore purchased two boxes of inflatable sandbags itself. Cllr Buckseall is currently working on the draft flood plan. Cllr Padwick reiterated that he is happy to be the link between the Parish Plan and the Parish Council. The draft report concerning flooding has been circulated, and Cllr Padwick will correct it pending any comments made. It was noted that the berm is surveyed every six months. Also noted that the

drains are blocked under the playing fields; they have not been cleared for years. Although this affects drainage of the field, it has no effect on flooding overall.

The drain by the speed camera appears to be an on-going issue.

Potential flooding upstream of the River Ise will probably have no impact on Geddington: rainwater containment will be part of the Ise Valley development, for which only outline permission has been given at the moment.

Drainage ditches on the main road are the responsibility of the land owner (Boughton Estates), not Highways.

Cllr Batchelor felt that the issue of Little Oakley flooding is the biggest priority, with the water pooling on the road then flooding into the houses. He will speak to Cllr Bailey further as to the surface water flooding.

**ACTION 4: Cllr Batcher to action the above.**

Councillors were informed that a complex web of piping has passed from the Environment Agency to NCC responsibility.

Cllr Wenbourne was concerned with health risks from sewage overflow.

Cllr Buckseall added that a lot of the actions specified on the draft flood report are already happening. Cllr Rowley said that the NCC Pathfinder project states what needs to be carried out urgently; Does the draft report reflect this?

**ACTION 5: Cllr Batchelor to speak to Cllr Padwick and give him feedback, to include that the priorities need to be defined as opposed to the business as usual work.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

122/18: Letter from Cllr Heather Smith (NCC) 18.12.17– County Council budget 2018/19.

123/18: Thank you letter from Peter Coles regarding bench near the children’s play area.

124/18 Newsletters.

Weekly Rural News Digest 11.12.17

“ “ 18.12.17  
“ “ 2. 01.18

Rural Vulnerability Services – Rural Poverty. December 2017

Rural Transport December 2017

Rural Economy spotlight – December 2017

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

**125/18: FINANCE**

Community account statement as at 15.12.17 £17,816.58

Business Saver account as at 15.12.17- £10,728.64

a) **Accounts received**

£1127.72 direct payment from HMRC – VAT reclaimed up to 31.3.17.

b) **Accounts for payment**

None.

c) **I.T. equipment for village hall – Councillors’ approval needed for purchase of equipment.**

Cllr Rowley listed the I.T. equipment that was needed for the Village Hall plus the broadband requirements. It was queried as to could the Village Hall committee buy the broadband circuit? It was felt that the Village Hall needs to talk to the Cricket Club as to, are two broadband connections needed? The cost at present will be approximately £745.00.

**d) Final precept/PC budget discussion and formal approval.**

It was noted that following the precept increase in April 2017, Parish Council needs to progress as soon as possible with one of the big projects. The feasibility studies have not yet been completed for all of the projects however. It was also noted that funding still needs to be built up to have the capital to carry the projects out. Cllr Goode added that he thought it was unjustified to increase the precept, but he could also see that there may very well be extra financial commitments needed with extra responsibilities coming down from NCC.

Cllr Rowley proposed that the precept stays at £20,000.00. Seconded by Cllr Batchelor. Six councillors agreed with the proposal, one councillor abstained.

**NCC BUDGET PROPOSALS**

**a) Parish Council / general feedback request - for Phase 2 of the County Council's budget proposals, the proposed level of Council Tax for 2018/19 and the draft Council Plan.**

Cllr Rowley said that Phase Two of NCC's budget proposals did not look as if there was anything that would directly affect the Parish Council. Adult Social Care will have its funding drastically reduced. £24 million of cuts, but parish councils were more affected in phase 1. Individual feedback can be given, but no Parish Council comments need to be made.

Cllr Rowley added here that KBC has balanced its budget for next year.

**b). Potential budget cuts and which items may affect the Parish Council. The option of funding a PCSO to also be discussed as to costings.**

It was stated that at the moment the Parish Council has no way of knowing just how the Parish Council will be affected.

Funding a PCSO – This would cost £37,500.00. It may have to be considered in the future but it was felt that it was impractical at the present time.

**126/18 ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION**

**a) Relaying of the slabs in the recreation field near the tennis courts.**

The quotation has come in from NJ Services but it is over £1000.00. Two more quotations will now have to be obtained.

**ACTION 6: The clerk to action the above. Noted that weed suppressant or gravel need to be laid under the slabs.**

The discussion included a statement that the lease agreement needs to be looked at. However, Cllr Rowley stated that the path is on the Parish Council's land. The Bowling Club put down the existing path, but that will not be in the lease as it was laid a long time after the lease agreement was signed.

As the path is predominantly for Bowls Club and Tennis Club members. Cllr Buckseall suggested that the cost should be split three ways. Alternatively, the Bowls Club should be asked that if it needs to be repaired, what they can contribute when the path is mainly for the Bowls Club. Cllr Wenbourne asked if the GVFB could take the slabs up. It was thought that they may take them up but would not replace the slabs to make good.

**ACTION 7: Draft letter to be written by the clerk and sent to Cllr Batchelor, to be sent to the Bowls and Tennis clubs. To be stated that it is a health and safety issue, and the Parish Council has no obligation to make it look good, but the two groups may wish to contribute for this reason.**

All councillors agreed to this action.

**NEWTON & LITTLE OAKLEY**

No issues raised.

## **AOB**

The following was agreed to be classed as an urgent item as a decision was needed before the next meeting.

### **Nomination of Samuel Lee trustee.**

There is a meeting this coming Thursday hence the urgency of the vote needed. The group needs an extra member to help with fund raising. Rachel Newell has offered to be the trustee, and councillors thought she would be good in the role which includes fund raising. Proposed by Cllr Buckseall, seconded by Cllr Rowley. Six councillors were in agreement, one councillor abstained stating that the applicant was not known to them.

### **Items for next month's Agenda / AOB**

*There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm.*