

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th FEBRUARY 2018.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors N Batchelor (Chair), P Goode, S Wenbourne, C Buckseall, A Gordon

APOLOGIES:

M Rowley, T Bailey, D Watson, J Padwick, D Rushton

127/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

128/18 CO-OPTION

The co-option item to be carried forward to the March 2018 meeting.

129/18 PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr Victoria Perry was present, no other members of the public were in attendance.

a) Police Report / Crime figures

Cllr Goode explained how to access the crime figures from the Police.uk website. The latest figures on the website are for December 2017. He also queried who he should speak to as to the information that is available on the site. It was decided that it is more appropriate for the query to come from the Parish Council, via the clerk, but that Cllr Goode will send the details of the relevant text to the clerk.

ACTION 1: Cllr Goode to send the text to the clerk and the appropriate email to be sent to Inspector Mead.

b) Questions from the public

Cllr Perry gave her report within agenda item 129/18 c).

c) Reports from County and Borough Councillors

County Council report.

Cllr Perry said that the government inspection was under way at NCC to carry out a best value inspection. She noted that this process had only happened at Rotherham, Tower Hamlets and Doncaster. She added that there has been a lot of speculation as to why the County Council was in its present financial state. The team of three inspectors will be examining what has previously happened, and they have spoken to various people including the previous Chief Finance Officer and Cllr Watson. There were concerns as to balancing the budget - Cllr Perry has written an article for the newsletter which concentrates heavily on the NCC budget. Cllr Batchelor added that he will be writing an article for the May newsletter, stating in more local detail how the various cuts will impact at Borough and hence Parish Council level. He stated that as well as the three projects encompassing health and safety issues, recreational provision and a further facility, it looked likely that other issues that needed to be considered for funding may well be gritting, highways issues and street lighting. Bus subsidy cuts will not affect the Parish as the bus service is already privatised, and more money is being allocated for schools transport.

Cllr Perry summarised the information that had been given by saying that if it is not a statutory service, cuts may very likely be expected. She will update the Chairs of the rural parishes within her constituency, or arrange a meeting with them, or will send an update.

In answer to a question, she confirmed that the scheduled work to cut back the growth and grass on the footpath from the old bridge to the roundabout will still take place. This will increase the footpath from three feet to seven feet in width.

Borough Council report.

There was no Borough Council report.

130/18 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- a) **Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting Minutes – held 8th January 2018.** 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/ updates.-

Action 1-January 2018: Sarah Barnwell to be contacted end March/ early April concerning re-painting of the roundabout at the end of Rockingham Road in Kettering.

- To be contacted within the stated time frame.

Potential training for planning applications. – Feedback and request has been made to KBC. - no dates have yet been received. - The clerk to forward the original email to Cllr Rowley, for him to contact the relevant person when it is convenient.

ACTION 2: Councillors requested that the email from Cllr Rowley stating why planning training could not be provided, be forwarded to all councillors.

Cllr Gordon said there was some good literature concerning Planning that may be beneficial.

ACTION 3: Cllr Gordon will source some literature that may be beneficial for councillors to read.

ACTION 4; The Clerk to contact KBC Planning to source further information.

Cllr Goode asked if Ncalc ran any suitable courses. Both Cllr Batchelor and Gordon said that the planning courses they have attended have not been very good; the main focus has been more on strategy.

It was felt by all councillors that knowledge is needed for this field. Cllr Gordon reminded the councillors that it is important to visit the relevant property and talk to the people concerned. KBC say this is not appropriate, but Cllr Gordon reiterated that it is important.

PLANNING

a) KBC Decision notices

KET/2017/0949 – Mr D Bailey, Mayfield, 4 Corby Road, Little Oakley. Re-paint front south facing and side east facing timber windows in the gable elevation in white, and retrospective consent for the retention of the enlarged side ground floor elevation kitchen window with replacement timber double casement window (painted white) and retention of existing internal part-glazed partition window in place of a door opening

Approved.

a) Planning Applications

No applications had been received.

131/18: PARISH PLAN – update

a) Lighting walkabout

Cllrs Padwick, Goode and Wenbourne attended the walkabout, which had been advertised on Facebook and on Parish Plan publicity, for any resident to attend, but there were no other residents present. Cllr Goode reported that the whole village was covered. There have been concerns on both Facebook and in the Parish Plan as to the darkness at the main road end of West Street. Cllr Padwick felt the concern was justified, but Cllrs Wenbourne and Goode thought the level of light was acceptable. All three councillors thought that the gitty between Skeffington Close and New Road was darker than ideal, with only one light situated half way along the walk-through.

The bridge was another area where the level of light had been questioned, but it was felt that there was sufficient light. It had been generally felt that the level of lighting in a rural village would not be at the same level as in a built up area. Cllr Wenbourne added that two lights had been been out in the village but they have since been repaired.

Other comments made - residents could be encouraged to put solar lights in their front gardens, and porch lights are sited on a lot of houses which helps with the general level of light.

Cllr Batchelor added that the Parish Council also need to consider financial constraints, but no decisions need to be made at the present time. Cllr Goode added that irrespective of financial constraints he would not like to see more lights than are required over and above making the village adequate and safe. He had also plotted the darker areas against crime figures and there is no impact at all.

Cllr Gordon commented that the Eleanor Cross lights look good, and ensures that the heart of the village is well lit.

132/18: FEEDBACK FROM QUARTERLY RURAL FORUM MEETING.

Cllr Watson had sent an email report to the Chair, advising as to items discussed at the Rural Forum meeting held 1st February 2018. The meeting had concentrated on the proposed County Council budgetary changes and the consultation that had taken place. Proposals regarding budget amendments to include libraries, bus subsidies, Winter Road Service and Highways maintenance work (grass cutting, sign cleaning and bus subsidies were raised, and the Government Inspectors that were on site at the County Council for the Best Value inspection were spoken of.

CORRESPONDENCE

133/18: Last call for Transparency Fund applications 5.2.18. Anne Kirkland (Ncalc) 8.1.18

134/18; New Community Connect scheme - Sgt Scott Little, 0.1.18

135/18: Rural Forum Minutes from last meeting 30.11.18 - David Pope (KBC)

136/18: Locally Identified Priorities survey - Sgt Robert Offord, 15.1.18

137/18: Reminder of meeting with Stephen Mold, PCC for Northamptonshire 5.1.18

138/18: Latest pay update and news of vacancies - Danny Moody (Ncalc), 22.1.18

139/18: Car Kraft events - Neighbourhood Alert, 18.3.18

140/18: Notification of dates of community surgeries run by PCSO Barrie Dodd.

141/18: E-update for Jan/ Feb 2018 - Danny Moody (Ncalc).

142/18: Locally identified priorities up until 31.3.18 (Police)

143/18: Newsletters.

Weekly Rural News Digest 8.2.18

“ “ “ 15.01.18

“ “ “ 22.1.18

“ “ “ 5.2.18

Rural Opportunities bulletin 10.1.18

Rural Vulnerability Services – Fuel Poverty – 17.1.18

“ “ - Transport – 31.1.18

No issues were raised relating to any correspondence issues, apart from - .

ACTION 5: The Clerk to resend the Rural Opportunities bulletin (grant opportunities are included)

144/18: FINANCE

Community account statement	as at	17.1.18	£16,984.11
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Business Saver account	as at	17.1.18-	£10,728.64
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a) **Accounts received**

£1385.00 Grant from Cllr Victoria Perry – Cllr Community Fund (for notice boards, Geddington and Newton)

£567.90 – from Peter Coles and family – for memorial bench in the recreation field near children’s play area.

£250.00 Stone Pit land rental 2018 (from Youth Club)

b) **Accounts for payment**

The Community Heartbeat Trust	£42.00	Contribution towards defibrillator maintenance costs.
Kettering Borough Council	£1,944.84	Supply and installation of 3 benches. 1. PC to pay – to replace damaged bench on Stamford Road. £484.90 2. GVFB – contribution rec’d for £376.00, PC balance to pay is £191.90. 3. Memorial bench near the children’s play area - £567.90 cheque rec’d from family. Total £1620.70 + £324.14 VAT
The Parish notice board company	£1,686.00	Confirmed 9.2.18 that £1,405.00 + £281.00 VAT needs authorising for delivery and installation of the two notice boards. Exact siting of new place of the Geddington board and a possible new site for Newton board to be confirmed. <i>£1,405.00 + VAT to be confirmed 8.2.18. This is the figure as per the quotation for supply, less delivery, plus installation. Payment is 50% on order being confirmed or in total on day of delivery and installation. I therefore opted for the latter which will be before the March PC meeting, hence cheque needs to be authorized at February meeting.</i>

Councillors held a discussion concerning the invoice for KBC. The Clerk explained that it had been agreed that the Parish Council would replace the broken bench on the main road, which was cheaper than the other two benches as it did not need the provision of a concrete base (it was installed where the broken bench had been). The bench in the Meadows had been ordered for delivery and installation as it was going to be funded by GVFB. There was some concern that their contribution fell short of the finished supply and installation price by £191.00. It was felt that it is not fair for Geddington tax payers to have to pay the £191.00 shortfall.

ACTION 6: The Clerk to write to the GVFB to ask them if it is possible for the shortfall to be provided.

There was also a short discussion concerning the notice boards. Cllr Watson was going to speak to Newton residents to find out how they felt about an alternative site for the notice board, and the exact site of the Geddington board is also needed.

ACTION 7: The Clerk to ask Cllr Watson if he had been able to determine the site for the Newton notice board.

Cllr Goode said that he should be able to be present when the Geddington notice board is installed. Authorisation for the payments as above was proposed by Cllr Buckseall and seconded by Cllr Goode. All councillors present were in agreement.

c) **Equipment for Village Hall- update from Cllr Gordon as to Village Hall Committee’s decision – provision/ purchase of items.**

Cllr Gordon reported that the Village Hall Committee was happy for Parish Council to provide the equipment that had been discussed at the January meeting. He had asked the Cricket Club if they wanted another connection, but they did not. Cllr Gordon added that he has the access connection/ code for when the equipment is installed. Cllr Buckseall thought this was very positive for the Village Hall, as it may encourage people or groups to hire out the hall for different activities.

ACTION 8: The Clerk to order the I.T. for the Village Hall as per the list provided at the January meeting.

d) Path by the tennis court – maintenance discussion and decision.

The path had been inspected by some of the councillors. They had felt that it was in a reasonable state of repair, and maintenance was not needed at the present time. Two more requests for quotations had been sent to two companies, one of which had sent an estimate for the stated maintenance work that may be requested.

Other comments made:-

Cllr Gordon said that the Parish Council had tried to get the Village Hall to take on responsibility for the triangle of land, but the Village Hall would not do so. He added that a third of the Bowling Club green also belongs to the Parish Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Goode that the Parish Council would not carry out maintenance work to the path at the present time as it was seen as being of an acceptable standard and of no risk to the public. Seconded by Cllr Gordon.

ACTION 9: The Clerk to communicate with the Bowls Club, stating that although that triangle of land is the responsibility of the Parish Council, it is the Parish Council's belief that the Bowls Club laid the slabs. Councillors have spent some time looking at the path, obtained some quotes to find out how much remedial work (if required) would cost, and the quotations have come in at over £1,000.00. The Parish Council will forward the contact details of the two quotations to the Bowls Club if they would like to carry out any maintenance work themselves, but the Parish Council is of the opinion that it is at an acceptable level at the present time.

As an aside, Cllr Gordon added here that he does not feel that the soil needs to be taken out in Newton Road.

145/18: ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

a) Update on maintenance work in/ around the pool in the meadow.

The maintenance work to the pool in the Meadow that had been carried out recently had gone well and there were no complaints. Cllr Buckseall felt that the Parish Council has taken ownership of the work now.

NEWTON

No Issues raised.

LITTLE OAKLEY

No issues raised.

AOB

The double yellow lines that have recently been painted in two areas in Geddington have been badly done – leaves were not swept up as per viewed by a councillor hence the yellow paint went over the top of them and there are now gaps in the yellow lines. The lines appear to be very thin as well; they do not look like the “proper” yellow lines.

ACTION 10: The Clerk to write a letter of complaint to NCC who will forward it to Kier.

The Headmaster at the school has said that he will name and shame people who park on the yellow lines.

ITEMS FOR next month's Agenda / AOB

Cllr Batchelor wants feasibility studies submitted for all the big projects. Car parking - Cllr Gordon said that this project could proceed relatively quickly – access could be via the Bowls Club area.

ACTION 11: Cllr Rowley to bring the Newton entrance improvements documentation to the next meeting.

Cllr Perry may be able to attend or send in a report to inform if it was any clearer as to potential future costs for the Parish Council over the next year.

ACTION 12: Cllr Batchelor to provide a template for the next meeting costings/ feasibility study).

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.