

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th MAY 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors N Batchelor (Chair), M Rowley, C Buckseall, T Bailey, P Goode, J Padwick, D Rushton, M Holland, S Wenbourne.

APOLOGIES:

D Watson, P Berry.

07/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

For 13/20a) Cllr Rowley - concerning the Cricket Club.

08/20 PUBLIC SESSION

Six members of the public were present.

a) Police Report / Crime figures - latest available as 7.5.2019.

The February figures were the latest available and were as follows:-

Crime figures - February 2019 , for May PC meeting			
Geddington	location	Category	Current status
	Crime on or near Chapel Lane	Burglary	Investigation complete, no suspect identified
	Queen Eleanor Rd	Violence and sexual offences	Unable to prosecute suspect
Newton	Nil		
Little Oakley	Nil		

Cllr Bailey added that there had been two serious incidents in the last few days in Little Oakley. These will appear on the May crime figures.

b) Questions and comments from the public

- Re-iterated that the grassed hill on Church Hill is the village green, and has been so since 1968.
- A Village Hall committee member and Bowls Club member wished to comment on the proposed Cricket Club second pitch. From a parking point of view, additional parking provided outside the village would ease the pressure on Queen Street and West Street. It would therefore be advantageous if alternative parking sites were explored, with a view to ferrying people into the village from alternative parking sites.
- Cllr Batchelor commented that parking is one issue, with the Cricket Club's proposal for a second pitch being a separate issue. The Village Hall Committee is waiting on proposals for a parking solution.

- A further member of the public who was present and on the Village Hall Committee informed the meeting that Cllr Goode has been working with the Village Hall Committee, looking at a temporary proposal at the present time, and working towards a permanent solution. He was at the meeting to give support to Cllr Goode and his proposal.
- The President of the Bowls Club was also present. He thought it was best to move traffic out of the village centre. The old access to the recreation ground used to be via the main road. He hoped that West Street and Queen Street would be involved in any consultation. However, Boughton estates have recently indicated that they are not willing to give access via the old route.
- The meeting was informed that there will be 24 occasions this year when there will be both a bowls match and a cricket match.
- Cllr Batchelor informed the meeting that the Parish Council has no fixed plan at the present time as to infrastructure. The Parish Council needs to lead with the solution but it is not apparent at the present time. Dialogue is good between the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council however, and a proposal will be presented tonight which has the approval of the Village Hall Committee.
- A comment was made that resources are being provided to the Newton junction project. Could these resources be put to use to alleviate the car parking problem instead? Commented that the car park may be a capital project, but the land is required. If Boughton Estates say that it cannot happen then the Parish Council's hands are tied. Cllr Batchelor then added that councillors would go back to Boughton Estates and speak to them again.
- Also commented that unless the Parish Council does the Newton project it will not go ahead as no money is forthcoming from NCC. The project has not been approved yet as the next stage is to complete the tendering process.
- Parking in Queen Street. A survey was carried out in 2015 with the help of Robert Wootton: Queen Street residents said that they would not use another car park.
- Residents were also asked approximately five years ago (when the 20mph limit was introduced) how they felt about Queen Street becoming a one way street. Residents did not want this however.
- The public session ended by the Chair saying that a car parking proposal will be discussed as an agenda item a little later in the meeting.

c) Reports from County and Borough Councillors

There was no report from NCC because of the election purdah.

Cllr Rowley gave a local knowledge update concerning the fire in the bedding centre in Regent Street today. 22 families were affected, living in a block of flats and HMO.

Parish Council elections are still scheduled for May 2020.

09/20: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- a) Re-submitted approval of Parish Council monthly meeting Minutes – held 11th March 2019.

Proposed for approval by Cllr Goode, seconded by Cllr Bailey, subject to one minor correction being made. Cllr Rushton abstained (absent from the March meeting).
Agreed by all other councillors present.

- b) Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting Minutes – held 8th April 2019
Proposed for approval by Cllr Goode, seconded by Cllr Rushton, subject to one minor correction being made. Agreed by all other councillors present.

- c) Matters arising; progress on outstanding actions

Action 1: 8.4.19 - (relating to stile – potential change to gate) - the clerk to obtain one quotation and also check that the company has public liability insurance.

Action 4: 8.4.19 -The clerk to obtain a quotation for two notice boards, lockable, to hold four sheets of A4 (portrait), and to be fixed to a brick wall.

Quotes were obtained; however, this item will be carried forward to the June meeting agenda (currently within the purdah period).

Action 5: 8.4.19 – proposed Geddington pamphlet.

The resident will get back to Cllr Batchelor with an amended version of the leaflet.

As an additional update, the meeting was informed that the new Centre Bus timetable has not yet been signed off by NCC- it will possibly now be July. The delay has been caused by an administrative issue.

PLANNING

a) KBC Decision notices

KET/2019/0099 - Mr S R Thornton, 37 Newton Road, Geddington.

Demolition of garages, erection of dwelling and creation of hard paved driveway

Approved.

b) Planning Applications

None received since April's meeting.

10/20: CORRESPONDENCE - received and circulated - to note or comment upon.

No comments were made concerning previously circulated correspondence.

11/20. FINANCE

Community account statement as at 17.4.19

£23,922.83.

Business Saver account as at 17.4.19 £10,755.41

a) **Accounts received**

None

b) **Accounts for payment**

Northants CALC	£559.36	Membership subscription to 31.3.2020
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Payments were approved for payment by Cllr Padwick, seconded by Cllr Bailey, agreed by all councillors present.

c) **Progress on the Newton junction project**

It was reiterated again that the Newton junction project has not been finalised yet. Boughton Estates have said no to the project, as they thought the splay lines were for five metres in each direction. However, the NCC approved drawing shows longer splay lines of approximately 45 metres. Cllr Rowley reported that he had originally sent an email to Rachael Gladstone-Brown explaining the project and also included an enquiry concerning the mirrors and the plan. She had then relayed the plan to the relevant leaseholders, and an indication of approximate pricing had been given. There had been four leaseholders at the meeting where the information was given.

It was then reported that a system of mirrors would help to alleviate the problem. This was again dependant on Boughton Estates agreeing to mirrors being installed on their land: Highways have said that mirrors can be installed but they have to be on private land. Cllr Batchelor said that the Parish Council should commission an expert – traffic comes from three directions. An expert would know what sort of mirrors would alleviate the problem and a price could be obtained. The Highways agency could then be contacted, to ask them to visit the site to find out what installing the mirrors would entail.

It was decided that the Highway Agency (Kier WSP) would know what the specification should be.

ACTION 1: Cllr Goode will look for a suitable company to contact for mirrors if they are a possibility for installation.

12/20: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT BACK FROM MEETING WITH BOUGHTON ON 7TH MAY.

The following issues were raised at the meeting which was attended by Cllrs Batchelor and Goode.

a) **Selling of properties.**

Communication between Boughton Estates and residents had previously not been good.

Properties would be drip fed to the market.

Number of properties affected, believed to be:-

	Boughton Estate owned	In scope for disposal	In scope and presently occupied.
Geddington	19	7	6
Newton	8	5	4
Little Oakley	4	0	0

There will not be a public meeting. The tenants will have any conversations needed directly with Boughton Estate.

Parish Council representatives are welcome to attend a meeting in the estate office with Boughton Estate when needed.

Affected individuals have also been contacted by Boughton Estate.

This is stage 2 of the exercise, which is separate to their 2018 exercise.

ACTION 2 Cllr Goode will contact Racheal G-B and ask for clarification of figures as Cllr Bailey said that four Boughton Estate properties were for sale in Little Oakley.

It is not known whether there will be a third wave of properties put up for sale.

The following summary was made:-

Tenants have been given a warning, not a notice.

It should be a watching brief for the Parish Council

If it was any other private landlord than the Boughton Estate, the Parish Council would not be involved. The Council do not have a role in this.

The Parish Council needs to have a working relationship with Boughton Estate.

Notes of the meeting were taken by Cllr Batchelor; Cllr Goode confirmed the accuracy of them. Wherever possible two councillors at meetings with Boughton Estate is desirable, with notes being taken.

If Boughton Estates want an off the record chat the Parish Council will not agree to it.

ACTION 3: The clerk to invite Racheal G-B to the Parish Council meeting each month.

ACTION 4: Cllr Batchelor will address any queries received via social media if he is able to do so.

The summary of the feedback was that an article in the next newsletter would be beneficial if it could be managed, and in a few weeks two or three parish councillors would like to speak to Boughton Estates again as there will probably be questions raised.

b) Grafton Underwood wartime buildings.

These will be dismantled shortly.

c) Stile replacements

Present stile at Nancy Moore Steps is serviceable and in good repair. Boughton Estates would therefore not replace it.

ACTION 5: The clerk to pursue obtaining a quote for replacement of the stile with a gate for possible Parish Council replacement.

d) Newton farm buildings development.

On hold.

e) Newton entrance.

Boughton Estate's thoughts as to this were relayed earlier in the meeting (see agenda item 11/20c).

f) Grain lorries

Boughton Estate is not bringing grain lorries through the village, it is the tenant farmers. Racheal G-B will speak to them.

g) Stone walls in Little Oakley.

No feedback was discussed in the Parish Council meeting.

Boughton Estates had then shared copy of the letter that they had sent out to all tenants.

13/20: ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION.

a) Status & implications of the Cricket Club proposal, and nomination of sub-group of Councillors to work with CC and VHMC on this.

It was emphasised that this issue is to be treated separately to the current car parking issues. The Cricket Club were going to go back and refine their proposal which will then be re-presented to the Parish Council. The onus is on them to come back to the Parish Council with any issues having been addressed. If the Cricket Club is reminded of which points in the presentation need to be addressed, it will have to be approved by the Parish Council as a whole.

Cllr Goode reiterated that any information given needs to be made available to affected bodies, as does any final proposal.

ACTION 6: The Clerk to add to the May Minutes an appendix (of the presentation).

b) Feedback on Gigaclear project to date

Cllr Rushton highlighted that grass verges were being dug up to lay the cable. This however is because it is laid to the area of least resistance. A map of the location of all cables is held on a central map.

A meeting is taking place on 20th May concerning golden gravel issues.

c) Update on bus timetable/provision consultation

The new bus time table has not yet been released.

d) Any further update to the Stonepit land leases/plans (feedback to black and white copies).

The black and white copies of the two Stonepit land leases were previously given to Cllr Bailey for examination of the wording and he presented his interpretation.

ACTION 7: The Youth Club to be written to inform them that the lease has been interpreted. The Clerk to ask Cllr Batchelor for the correct wording for the letter for the Youth Club.

e) Current Village Hall parking situation/ parking plan/ VHMC plans.

The village hall parking plan had been circulated in advance to councillors. The proposal was a temporary car park, leading off from the gate at the end of the existing car park

Main issues covered were:-

Marshalling would be used for the temporary car park

Clear access would be left for emergency vehicles. Safety measures would include 1.3m high stakes, a twin run of hazard tape and a parking marshal whenever the overspill car park is used.

The ground may be churned up very quickly. However, it is unlikely that the clubs would play if the weather is bad.

The Parish Council is the decision maker as to is the proposal acceptable.

A "use at owner's risk" sign would need to be installed.

The Cricket Club and Bowls Club need to maintain dialogue concerning the parking.

The overspill car park would need to be primarily used by the Cricket Club.

If the proposal was accepted by the Parish Council, it would probably be needed for Saturday afternoons between 11.00am and 8.00pm.

The Parish Council would not be liable for any cost implication and access would be withdrawn if marshalling was not provided.

The lease would need to be checked to ensure that it would be allowed.

Boughton Estate would also need to be contacted for confirmation of the legality of it.

If it is a satisfactory measure, a grant could possibly be applied for, for interlocking grid and fencing. The sports clubs agreed that part funding could be looked at, with part funding from the precept as well.

Liaison would need to be carried out with KBC for the grass cutting.

Noted at this stage that an emergency vehicle access sign should be in Queen Street.

Cllr Batchelor said that the proposal had been well thought out and asked if councillors approved as long as there were no restrictions in the recreation ground lease and Boughton Estates were in agreement. He added that a ten minute review of how the car parking was working could be included for every monthly Parish Council meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Rushton that subject to the above points that the proposal be accepted.

Seconded by Cllr Padwick. All councillors present were in favour.

NEWTON

No issues reported, only ongoing concerns about the danger of the Newton entrance.

LITTLE OAKLEY

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA.

None raised

There being no other issues, the meeting closed at 10.00pm.