

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th DECEMBER 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors N Batchelor (Chair), M Rowley, C Buckseall, T Bailey, Sue Wenbourne, P Goode, D Watson. P Berry.

APOLOGIES:

Cllrs. J Padwick and D Rushton

60/20: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Rowley – for 66/20 (Youth Club) - Chair of Scouts group and trustee of GVFB.

Cllr P Goode – for 63/20 (Car park) - Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Batchelor- for 67/20 (Samuel Lee charity) - Chair of Samuel Lee charity.

61/20 PUBLIC SESSION.

Three members of the public were present.

a) Questions from the public.

Questions, queries and input from the public concerned agenda item 63/20 – village car park extension and the Community Speed Watch. The agenda item was therefore classed as being part of the public session, and an update was given as to the Community Speed Watch application.

b) Reports from County and Borough Councillors

NCC: ACTION 1: The email report from Cllr Perry to be circulated.

KBC: Cllr Rowley said that that the commencement of purdah meant that it was advisable to not pass comment on matters.

62/20: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

a) Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting Minutes – held 11th November 2019.

Cllr Buckseall proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Rowley, all councillors were in favour.

b) Matters arising, outstanding actions.

11.11.19 ACTION 2: Highways to be contacted to find out when the meeting will take place (Maintenance of Geddington village north entrance, Dangerous playground surface)

Cllr Rowley reported that the meeting with Environment had not yet happened, but they were looking into the playground surface. It has been added to a list of repairs, and Cllr Rowley has asked for a date for the repair.

11.11.19 ACTION 5: The clerk will carry out a search for the history of the stone pit land, compiled by a former councillor.

The clerk reported that she had not had any success in locating the above history. It was then noted that the Parish Council was the trustee of the charity, so the document may not be entitled that the lease was between the Parish Council and the Youth Club, but may state instead Stonepit land 2003. A member of the public said that a document had needed to be returned to the charity many years ago, but this was not done. Cllr Bailey said that it was desirable to know what had happened since 17.6.1976. Cllr Rowley explained that the Parish Council did not need to use the charity any more hence why it was dissolved. Cllr Bailey added that the charity had been wound up but the purpose of the charity remained, which was taken over by the Parish Council. However, the Youth Club is querying if the Parish Council has the legal status to do this.

11.11.19 ACTION 9: the clerk will request examination of the bridge again and attach the up to date photo(s) when they are received. Additionally, Cllr Watson will forward contact details of a resident of Geddington who works for Historic England which will be another option if no reply is received.

The clerk conveyed that at the last inspection (March 2019) the Parish Council was informed by Neil Rimmington that the bridge was not as bad as it looked, and that the relevant body were not overly concerned about the condition.

11.11.19 ACTION 12: Cllr Rowley will find out if there is a cut-off date for co-option.

Cllr Rowley has checked and there is no cut-off date.

PLANNING

Cllr Rowley did not take part in this section of the agenda.

a) KBC Decision notices

KET/2019/0669 - Mr J Mclean, 33A Queen Street, Geddington.

Single storey rear extension, Full Application

Approved.

b) Planning Applications

No planning applications had been received since the last meeting.

63/20. PARISH PLAN – Village Car Park Extension - further discussion and next steps.

A list has been circulated by the Village Hall Committee Chair, reiterating the answers to queries that were raised in the November Parish Council meeting. He added that a meeting has taken place between the Village Hall Committee and Boughton Estates, with Rachael Gladstone-Brown being supportive of the car park extension plan.

The KBC Planning Department would require a planning application, as the Parish Council does not own the land.

It was pointed out that the planning application would address two issues, although only one planning application was needed. The car park would solve the need for further parking, with the second issue being netting or realignment of the cricket pitch.

It was queried as to was there a fundamental issue why the cricket pitch cannot be realigned. It may be that there is a significant cost issue for the Cricket Club. However, another councillor asked if the cost issue is more than the cost of netting.

A further councillor said that no-one has come to the Parish Council informing of broken car windows. Commented however that accidents do happen; they are not always recorded.

Other comments:-

The Cricket Club should pay for the netting as their balls cause the need for netting.

There is a need for a parking solution, but to make it viable the area has to be safe. If the Parish Council say there is a need for a car park we have to address all the issues.

Any damage to people's vehicles would be covered by the Cricket Club's viability insurance. Any extension to the car park would need to be taken up with the insurers.

Parish Council should pay for the cost of the car park, but should not pay for the nets as that is for the benefit of the Cricket Club.

The Cricket Club have applied for a grant from Mick George. The conditions for the grant specify that it cannot be used for the car park.

Every issue appears to be looking at it from a Cricket Club point of view. A car park extension is primarily for the use of users of the village hall. It should therefore be the Cricket Club's responsibility to pay for the nets.

The Bowls Club will lose fixtures if car parking isn't sorted out.

The cricket nets - there could be a requirement to exclude the nets from the proposal, or to include them but specify that the Parish Council would not pay for them. Added by one councillor that the netting is a separate matter for the Cricket Club to resolve, not the Parish Council. The nets are a by-product of one of the clubs using cricket balls. One councillor thought that the Parish Council should pay for the netting, another councillor thought that a contribution could be made.

Grass cutting around the fence – all grass cuttings around the fence would be undertaken by the sports clubs. Linked to this, the tractor needs to be able to turn round to exit the car park.

ACTION 2: Cllr Rowley will obtain a map and any other information needed via a request to the Head of Service. He will then check that there is enough room for tractor turnaround and emergency vehicles.

Cllr Batchelor brought the discussion to a close by asking if all those present were satisfied that their questions had been answered by the Chair of the VHMC.

Cllr Goode then asked if the principle of a car park was acceptable, with netting either paid for by the Cricket Club or by the Parish Council. As regards to re-alignment of the existing cricket pitch – the Parish Council would have to contact them concerning that.

ACTION 3: The clerk to write to the Cricket Club, stating that serious consideration is being given to the proposal for a village hall car park extension, but the threat of cricket balls means that the Cricket Club would be liable for two solutions – to realign the existing cricket pitch by 90 degrees (which the Parish Council would be happy with), or to install netting, which the Parish Council would require the Cricket Club to pay for. If neither proposal goes through the proposal will fail.

64/20: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND CIRCULATED – to note or comment upon.
No correspondence issues were raised.

Cllr Berry added at this stage that there has been correspondence relating to the Wildlife Trust, the Police and himself to determine an outline plan for clearance of the pool in the meadow this winter. The plan currently is for a small group of about six people to carry out work, to be completed by the end of January. The main emphasis this year will be on clearance of grass in the pond. Any queries or enquiries relating to further information or if anybody wishes to join the small working group to go to Cllr Berry.

ACTION 4: Cllr Berry will add this information to Facebook.

ACTION 5: Cllr Berry will circulate the photographs and description he sent to the Wildlife Trust.

65/20: FINANCE

a) Bank statements.

Community account statement	as at 15.11.19	£37,815.46.
Business Saver account	as at 15.11.19	£10,766.14

b) Accounts received - None

c) Accounts for payment

Kettering Borough Council Inv.51245102	£648.28	Payment to KBC for memorial bench supply & installation, family are reimbursing the PC .
Nick Batchelor	£189.99	Reimbursement of purchase of heavy duty scanner for PC.

Cllr Rowley proposed that the above payments were authorised for payment. Seconded by Cllr Buckseall; all councillors present were in favour.

d) Budget for 2020 – 21: to discuss/clarify items and projects for 2020 – 21.

The precept for 2020 – 21 needs to be submitted to KBC by the end of January 2020. Cllr Watson asked if there are any more projects for consideration. It was confirmed that reserves have now built up enough for the existing projects to be able to commence.

ACTION 6: Cllr Watson will check the formula for the precept/ surplus/ figure per household per annum as it may not be correct.

66/20: Youth Club Stonepit land lease – letter from Youth Club dated 25.11.19

The contents of the letter were summarised, with the Youth Club believing that the Parish Council did not file a correct registration document with the Charity Commission, so the rights relating to the Parish Council lapsed. Additionally, the Youth Club believe that the rent they have paid for the lease of the Stonepit land since that date is null and void. It was stated by the Parish Council that the terms of the charity are unknown, run by individuals who may have died by now. In such a case the Charity Commission would ask what is the best way to proceed. The Parish Council should be the body running the charity as it is perpetual, not run by individuals.

ACTION 7: the clerk to contact the charity commission to try to determine the original terms of the trust. The Parish Council also needs to apply for the land to be registered in the name of the Parish Council, by applying to the Land Registry. This should have happened in 1976, and it would mean that the Parish Council would then be registered as title owners.

It was also noted that as the Parish Council was the sole trustee it was not seen as needing a charity commission

ACTION 8: Cllr Bailey will draft a reply to the Youth Club letter.

66/20 ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

a) Newton Junction mirrors – any comments or feedback

The mirrors have been erected and adjusted. An email from a Newton resident stated that he was dazzled by the sun in one direction, hence the adjustment needed. The mirrors have been installed according to traffic regulations guidelines.

It was reported that the right hand mirror does help with viewing oncoming traffic. The left hand mirror does not help as much. Comments have also been made that the image is very small.

Cllr Goode explained that the mirrors' installation took place as part of the trial to try to improve visibility at the junction. There has been a lot of discussion as to has the installation been a success. The mirrors were designed for sighting from nine metres. Larger mirrors would not have made the images larger. Other points conveyed:-

A risk assessment was carried out before the purchasing of the mirrors took place.

Electronically heated mirrors would have solved any frost problem, but they are more expensive.

They can engender a false sense of security. If a consensus of councillors feels that this is the case then there would have to be agreement to take them down. Cllr Watson felt that people who regularly use the road need to get used to them. The road widening is not now possible, and the mirrors have been installed in accordance with all the regulations. There is no other practical alternative.

ACTION 9: Cllr Goode will send an email to Cllr Watson, for circulation to all Newton residents, explaining issues around installation of the mirrors as per the above points raised.

A review will be carried out in three months, and Cllr Watson will monitor the sun dazzle issue.

b) Feedback from Gigaclear meeting 3/12/19

Cllrs Batchelor and Goode attended a meeting with Gigaclear; unfortunately a Highways agency representative was diverted elsewhere.

The Highways agency has agreed to arbitrate on the golden gravel issues. In summary, cover with golden gravel depends on how much ordinary path is remaining, as opposed to golden gravelled path. Highways do not have the power to inform Gigaclear that they have to replace all of the gravel on the grounds of looks alone. Gigaclear say that they didn't state that they would replace the whole pavement, although it was thought by councillors that this was said.

It was also noted that the Gigaclear service becomes available from 20.12.19.

ACTION 10: Cllr Batchelor will inform residents of the results of the meeting.

67/20; THE SAMUEL LEE CHARITY - Parish Council appointment to be discussed.

Cllr Batchelor is now a co-opted trustee, Cllr Buckseall is the Parish Council trustee, with Rachel Newall a further trustee. Paul Hopkins is Treasurer. The maximum number of nominees is four co-opted and three Parish Council nominated, for a four year span, with the next elections being held in May 2020.

Mrs Jane Charlton-Jones has applied as a nominee.

The current trustees need to discuss the potential appointment. Cllr Rowley proposed that the nominee be accepted. Seconded by Cllr Watson. All those present were in favour except for one abstention.

NEWTON

No issues raised.

LITTLE OAKLEY

A village meeting was held recently, with drains being discussed and barbed wire being

AOB.

Cllr Berry has tendered his resignation. He has stated that he is happy to carry on with the pond maintenance work, and also happy to help with any issues that arise concerning Anglian Water.

Thanks and appreciation were given to Cllr Berry by all the other councillors present.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA

1. Recreation field - the bank by the patio (below the Cricket Club terrace). The existing lease covers the room and patio only.
2. The lights are out on the Queen Eleanor cross.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.47pm.