

**GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th MARCH 2020.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors N Batchelor (Chair), C Buckseall, D Rushton, T Bailey, Sue Wenbourne, P Goode, A Foulke, D Watson

**APOLOGIES:**

Cllrs M Rowley, J Padwick.

**89/20: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Goode – for 92/20 (car park extension) - Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Batchelor – for 93/20 (Beaver Group involvement)

**90/20: PUBLIC SESSION.**

**a) Questions from the public.**

Three members of the public were present. It was decided therefore that the issue that two people had come to hear updates of or to speak about would be part of the public session (agenda item 95/20a) – Newton entrance – mirrors, and one person was concerned with agenda item 91/20b) - Fallen tree in the recreation field.

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

Cllr Perry reported by email that she was out with the portfolio holder this week to look at road issues. Cllr Rowley would also be present. She asked if there was anything that residents wished to raise. She was also happy to give a unitary report as and when needed although she appreciated that Cllr Rowley would be keeping the Parish Council informed as well.

Cllr Rowley had sent his apologies for his absence from the meeting.

**91/20: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**a) Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting Minutes – held 10th February 2020.**

Cllr Foulke proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Goode; all councillors were in favour except for one abstention.

**b) Matters arising, progress on agreed actions.**

*10.2.20: -The Land Registry form has been returned as a request has now been received for the map to be a different scale to that submitted (Stone pit land and the gitty between Skeffington Close and New Road).*

**ACTION 1: The new scale map to be obtained and the form to be re-submitted.**

*10.2.20 - action 5: Other actions to be carried out relating to the gitty between Skeffington Close and New Road -*

1. *NCC footpaths and bridleways to be contacted, not Fix My Street. – This has been done; a chase needs to be carried out if there is no reply.*
2. *Who is responsible for the gittys? The Clerk asked this question within the email sent*

**ACTION 2: The clerk to escalate this to Cllr Perry if no reply is received.**

*10.2.20 “Completion of website”. There is a reference to “Danbury” on the FOI page, this needs changing.*

**ACTION 3: The clerk to send an email to get this corrected.**

*10.2.20 action3: Fallen tree in the recreation field. The Clerk to write to Rachael G-B and ask if one of the Boughton Estates tree workers could look at it. Orange tape has been put around the tree area as a safety precaution.*

Rachel Gladstone-Brown has not yet replied to the clerk.

**ACTION 4: The clerk to chase and ask if Boughton Estates can carry out the work on the tree, and if so, how long will it take. A member of the public said that the oak tree is dangerous and the whole oak tree needs to be cut down. One councillor commented that this needed to be moved along quickly as the tree is dangerous.**

Cllr Bailey added that a six week notice has to be in force if the tree is in a conservation area. Noted that the tree does not have a Tree Preservation Order.

**ACTION 5: The clerk to notify KBC Planning that it appears to be in a dangerous condition, that the six week notification will commence from notification. If no reply is received in six weeks the Parish Council will have to proceed with the cutting of the tree, but they would prefer KBC to inspect it to confirm that it needs cutting down.**

**ACTION 6: The clerk to submit a planning application for the cutting of the tree.**

**ACTION 7: The Gardening Club also needs to be notified.**

It was agreed that pre-authorisation be given for cut down for £250 if Boughton Estates are not prepared to do it at no charge to the Parish Council or there is still no reply.

10.2.20 action 6: (cutting back of trees/ branches/ other greenery by the Youth Club). The Clerk to contact Rachael Gladstone-Brown to clarify between the Parish Council and Boughton Estates what permission was given and by whom.

Councillors were reminded within the meeting that a previous response has come from Rachael G-B and the Youth Club concerning this issue.

**ACTION 8: The clerk to chase Rachael Gladstone -Brown for any further response as none has yet been received.**

10.2.20 action 11: Quotation is needed for a light that is out on the far side of the Village Hall car park. It is fixed to a wall, but it is a Parish Council responsibility as the electricity supply cable goes to the village hall.

The camera and the car park both come under the village hall management committee. Cllr Goode will raise this issue at the next VHMC meeting. The cost of the replacement light will be relayed to Cllr Batchelor and circulated to all councillors once it is known.

## **PLANNING**

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

*KET/2019/0914: 8 Chase Farm, Geddington. Single storey rear extension*

*(Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed Operations)*

Approved

*KET/2019/0858: 1 Chase Hill, Geddington, Two storey side extension, front boundary wall with railings and 1.8m rear fencing  
Full Application*

refused

### **b) Planning Applications**

No planning applications had been received.

An application to extend the business units in the Business Parkway was noted. There are at least eight large units but they are not within this parish, they adjoin it. Tenants have been told not to come through Geddington.

One councillor commented that the application for storage at the stables needs to be checked, as the construction that has been or is being built looks more like a house.

**ACTION 9: Cllr Buckseall will circulate the planning application and elevations to all councillors.**

**92/20: PARISH PLAN – VILLAGE CAR PARK EXTENSION: UPDATE (QUOTATIONS).**

*This agenda item was classed as part of the public session.*

Cllr Goode said he was happy to do the technical supervision and on-site visits but the Parish Council directives must decide at the April meeting regarding the quotes.

*Cllr Watson had to leave the meeting at 9.02pm.*

**ACTION 10: The clerk to circulate any quotations received for the car park extension.**

**93/20: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND CIRCULATED – to note or comment on.**

1. A letter had been received suggesting that an area of land off Grafton Road at the back of the school could be considered for parking to ease the pressure in the village. It was noted however that this would block access, and it was not feasible at the present time.

**ACTION 11: The clerk to reply to the letter, explaining the above problem and that an extra 24 spaces would be added to the village hall car park to alleviate the car parking problem.**

2. An email had been sent relating to deer on the main road and the appropriate possible signage. Boughton Estates has already replied to the sender, advising that they will consider this, and that the email has been forwarded to NCC whose responsibility this is (for any signage).
3. The leader of the Beavers group has asked if the Beavers can have a look at the pond in the meadow, and try to catch some of the pond life that is present. There was no objection to this.

**ACTION 12: Cllr Batchelor will convey this to the Leader.**

**There will be a road closure as per the Church Parochial Council on 5-7-20. The closure will be from the Cross to the far side of the bridge.**

**94/20: FINANCE**

**a) Bank statements.**

|                             |               |            |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Community account statement | as at 17.2.20 | £35,631.73 |
| Business Saver account      | as at 17.2.20 | £10,771.51 |

**b) Accounts received - £250.00 GVFB (rent of Stonepit land)**

**c) Accounts for payment:**

|                             |          |  |
|-----------------------------|----------|--|
| Parish Clerk – Anita Curtis | £1077.29 | Salary Jan – Mar 2020                          |
| Parish Clerk – Anita Curtis | £60.00   | Depreciation for equipment Jan - Mar 2020      |
| Parish Clerk – Anita Curtis | £269.20  | PAYE paid via AC's card to HMRC Jan - Mar 2020 |

Cllr Watson proposed that the above payments were authorized for payment. Seconded by Cllr Bailey; all councillors present were in favour.

**ACTION 13: The clerk to contact Barclays Bank as the additional signatory for the bank cheques has still not been added.**

The Youth Club accounts were examined and will now be filed.

## **95/20. ENVIRONMENTAL & RECREATION**

**a) Newton entrance mirrors – discussion of recent correspondence feedback**

*This agenda item was classed as part of the public session.*

A Newton resident stated that since the mirrors had been installed at the end of 2019, he had paced out how far away you could be before you could see an approaching car. Depending on the colour of the car, you can normally not see anything in the mirrors until the vehicle is 40 metres away.

Cllr Watson had sent an email to all Newton residents, asking them for their views now the mirrors were installed. Eight responses out of a possible ten had been received from Newton residents, with mixed views. Four responses asked for the mirrors to be removed, four responses were fine with the mirror remaining.

Cllr Batchelor said that the Parish Council had believed that authority was given for removing soil and taking the bend out at the Newton turn. But Boughton Estates have said that it was not given. Residents have said that they would like to see chicanes, and one councillor would like to see road priorities changed. Cllr Watson added that slowing the cars down would be a better solution.

Several residents believe that the mirrors add a danger to the Newton turn. One councillor stated how only a few days previous he could not see a car coming in the mirrors but there was one. It was stated that the size of the mirrors makes no difference to what is shown. There were fog and frost resistant mirrors, but they were five times as costly.

Cllr Goode said that the mirrors were tried because there was no other option. He added that the Parish Council had to work with what was allowed, and where the mirrors could be placed. It was agreed that they were installed on a trial basis and for the trial to be reassessed after three months.

Cllr Goode put forward a proposal to take the mirrors down, seconded by Cllr Watson. Six councillors agreed to the proposal, one councillor was against and one councillor abstained.

**ACTION 14: The clerk to write to Boughton Estates, explaining that the trial with traffic mirrors was not successful and created overwhelming safety issues. That the Parish Council would like to start discussions regarding splays, and also for the usefulness or otherwise of flashing signs.**

Cllr Watson would also like to see consultation on site specific plans – possibly for building five houses in the yard and sheep area at the end of Newton. This could be incorporated with access into the village via a proper access road at Dovecote farm. Feedback to these thoughts from Boughton Estates would be appreciated and representation at a Parish Council meeting, welcomed.

#### **b) Neighbourhood Watch – activeness/circulation of information.**

Cllr Foulke has enquired as to the current situation of Neighbourhood Watch in regard to such schemes being fully utilised to their best potential, could the Parish perhaps learn from other villages whose schemes are truly bringing tangible benefit to the parish?

Through conversations with Jane Calcott it has been advised that there are two main village coordinators tasked with bringing together the other street coordinators.

Cllr Foulke similarly enquired as to the possible commencement of a further scheme for West Street, and was advised that there are currently two small schemes in place, one at the church end and one at the main road end. Cllr Foulke will progress canvassing locally regarding thoughts to a West Street central scheme.

All councillors expressed concern that there seems very little publicised or "known" activity as to anything that has been carried out by the village co-ordinators and enquired whether (given data protection) a list of the street co-ordinators could be given – this was originally relayed by Jane Calcott at a meeting she attended in the village hall a while ago. It was felt that the it would be beneficial for the names of all coordinators to be known.

**ACTION 15: Cllr Foulke will follow up the queries with Jane Calcott.**

#### **c) Woodlands Garages – lighting.**

Cllr Wenbourne reported that she had spoken to the KBC officer responsible for street lighting. He confirmed that two lights had been turned off in The Woodlands - garages area. She had asked him to turn the lights back on: he is contacting Eon to do so. He has assured Cllr Wenbourne that he will not turn lights off again without first checking with the Parish Council.

**96/20. THE POST OFFICE – discussion as per residents' requests.**

Residents have approached the Parish Council with a number of concerns centring around the importance of having a Post Office facility, and concerns that the Post Office sometimes has irregularity with its opening hours. They do not wish to criticize, but are concerned that the Post Office facility may at some stage be withdrawn.

**ACTION 16: Cllr Batchelor will draft a letter and circulate it to all councillors.**

## **NEWTON**

No other issues, other than noting the Boughton Estate houses that are up for sale.

## **LITTLE OAKLEY**

Concerning the bridleways and footpaths: work is going to be carried out on signage.

## **AOB**

The April meeting will have to move to Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April as Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April is Easter Monday. Notices will be put on the notice boards and on the Village Hall door.

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