

**GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2020.**

*This was legally held as a virtual meeting – made necessary as a result of the coronavirus.*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors N Batchelor (Chair), C Buckseall, D Rushton, Sue Wenbourne, P Goode, A Foulke, D Watson, M Rowley, J Padwick.

**APOLOGIES:**

T Bailey

Cllr Batchelor thanks all those present for getting the virtual meeting up and running.

**97/20: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Goode – for 102/20c (re-imbusement of payment made) and Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Rowley – Agenda item - Planning applications (KBC)

**98/20: PUBLIC SESSION.**

*Three members of the public were present (virtually).*

**a) Questions from the public.**

No questions had been submitted, other than those dealt as part of an agenda item.

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

Cllr Perry had forwarded a Coronavirus update.

**ACTION 1: The Clerk to send the update out to all councillors.**

Cllr Rowley informed councillors that there was also a Coronavirus update on the KBC website (Kettering.gov.uk) which was updated daily at 4.00pm approximately. He added that bins were still being collected in Kettering Borough.

**99/20: PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS.**

*This was added to the agenda as an emergency item.*

Cllr Batchelor asked if there were any areas controlled or owned by the Parish Council for which there would be any responsibilities. The recreation field, the play area, the teenage shelter and the Facebook page were cited.

**The recreation field.** This is being used, mainly by walkers and dog walkers.

**The play area.** This is still being used, even if infrequently. The swings have been removed. It was queried whether the slide should be closed by taping it off or a similar action.

**The teenage shelter.** It was suggested that this should also be taped off.

One councillor asked if the Geddington Brickyard Garden should also still be open to the public. However, the Parish Council has no direct responsibility for this garden. It would probably also be classed as allotments, which people are still allowed to access.

A further councillor thought that people may be coming a little casual about social distancing, and it was important that the Parish Council gave a clear message. Possibly tape around the slides and teenage shelter may send a message to the people using the bike area in the recreation field. The general opinion was that the Parish Council should do more than it currently is concerning this matter. The options were as follows:

1. Do nothing
2. Put more signage up
3. Put more signage up plus a physical barrier around the item.

Cllr Goode proposed that option 2 be carried out. Seconded by Cllr Batchelor.

**ACTION 2: Cllr Rowley will ask for more signage from the Head of Service at KBC.**

**The Facebook page.** It was agreed to relax the rules somewhat approximately three weeks ago. The page is now being used for anything. The general consensus was again that the rules should be relaxed at the moment, to help with tasks such as getting food to the vulnerable. However, posts such as those selling non-essential items outside of houses should be taken down as it felt this would encourage unnecessary movement and potentially unsanitary practices. Any issues or information to help the well-being and needs of the village is fine, but anything else that encourages the ignoring of regulations is not.

One councillor felt there was a danger of clogging up and devaluing the Facebook page.

It was asked at this point of the meeting how the Post Office and shop are coping. Councillors were informed that they are open but with part time hours, and operating on a one in one out basis.

There was also concern raised over the “pop up” shops as there is no control over pricing or other standards. Planning requirements and breaching of mortgage arrangements may be happening but the Parish Council has no legislation concerning this. Cllr Rowley added that KBC have checked one village facility that is registered as a foodbank and the other food shops (the Café Oak and the Buttery) are covered with their existing certification.

It was concluded that the Facebook page is good for the village and when the Parish Council wishes to use the Facebook site for communication purposes, it needs to ensure that people are using it and not alternative Facebook sites that have been set up.

Offensive comments will be removed from Facebook and possibly in three month's time there can be a proper debate about it. It is however fulfilling a much-needed community spirit at present.

## **100/20: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

### **a) Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting Minutes – held 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

After a short discussion it was decided that the March draft minutes could not be approved as the Neighbourhood Watch agenda item had needed to be re-worded to give greater clarity and had not been sent out in advance of the meeting. These will therefore be added to the May agenda.

### **b) Matters arising; progress on agreed actions.**

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

The maps from Ordnance Survey are supplied as raw data, not recognisable maps. Cllr Rushton explained that they have supplied the maps in geo codes and they are XML files. Through speaking to various partner companies linked to Ordnance Survey, the clerk said she had now obtained the name of a person at Corby Borough Council who may be able to help with the translation of the maps to a normal map format.

### **ACTION 3: The clerk to contact the person as soon as possible and update Cllrs Batchelor and Goode as to any progress made.**

*9.3.20 - action 2: The clerk to escalate this to Cllr Perry if no reply is received (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.*

Sarah Barnwell from Kier (NCC) sent a response on the day of the PC meeting (15.4.20) which has therefore not yet been circulated.

### **ACTION 4: The clerk to circulate the response.**

*9.3.20 - action 8: The clerk to chase Rachael Gladstone -Brown for any further response as none has yet been received. Cutting back of trees/ branches/ other greenery by the Youth Club).*

A further chase has been sent for a further response, but no reply has been received. Councillors were reminded within the meeting that a previous response had been sent from Rachael G-B and the Youth Club concerning this issue. It was therefore decided that no further chase to Rachael G-B would be carried out.

*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.*

An electrician was booked to examine the light and determine what was needed and the cost. However, the coronavirus issues led to the electrician cancelling the appointment. It will be rearranged once the work is able to be carried out.

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

The relevant planning application has not yet been circulated.

**ACTION 5: Cllr Buckseall to circulate the planning application and elevations as above.**

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

The coronavirus has affected progress with this, as all site visits have had to be put on hold. The planning application has been submitted but KBC need some additional information.

*9.3.20 action 11: The clerk to reply to the letter (from a resident), 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.*

This has been sent, but a further letter from the resident now needs to be addressed.

**ACTION 6: A further letter to the resident to be written.**

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

Cllr Goode reported that the forms were taken in to Kettering Barclays and emailed on. The clerk has rung Barclays three times to enquire what is happening but the queues are normally over an hour.

**ACTION 7: Cllr Watson will speak to a person within Barclays Bank who may be able to move things along.**

*9.3.20 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.*

The letter was written, and a reply was received from Rachael -B. Cllr Batchelor proposes to ask for a Zoom or Skype meeting to explore possibilities for the Newton junction. Cllr Padwick added that this issue is a top priority for the Parish Plan. Cllr Watson said that the plans that were drawn up then scrapped because Boughton Estates stated that they did not agree to the plans would be needed, and the councillors who attended any meeting needed to see what the reply email from Rachael G-B had said.

Councillors were reminded that the proposal for reducing the bend in the road either side of the Newton turn had been put together by Cllr Rowley with the map drawn up by NCC. Rachael G-Brown had then informed Cllrs Batchelor and Goode in a meeting that Boughton Estates would not allow the work to happen. A meeting is now needed to move forward, and know what is and is not acceptable. Those to attend the meeting would be Cllrs Batchelor, Watson, Goode and Padwick, plus any other councillor who also wished to attend.

Cllr Rowley added that the original Newton plan was ready to progress, but the Parish Council had decided not to use the information. It was stated however in a point of order that there were written minutes from the meeting which Cllrs Batchelor and Goode attended and at which Rachael G-B and an Estate Manager from Scotland were present. Rachael had stated that Boughton Estates would not consider visibility splays at the junction.

**ACTION 8: the clerk to forward Rachael G-B's return email to those councillors who will attend the new meeting.**

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

Cllr Foulke reported that Jane Calcott for Neighbourhood Watch said that co-ordinators are in place. He has requested a meeting with Jane Calcott.

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

**The letter to be written to the Post Office has not been written and sent; the coronavirus altered priorities. Cllr Batchelor will draft the letter and sent it to councillors.**

## **PLANNING**

*Cllr Rowley did not take part in this agenda item.*

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

**KET/2019/0867:** *Mr & Mrs Ravenscroft, 20 Corby Road, Little Oakley.*

*Replacement gate in existing opening. Proposed store/workshop and repointing of all elevations. Full Application.* Approved

and

**KET/2019/0868:** *Mr & Mrs Ravenscroft, 20 Corby Road, Little Oakley.*

*Internal alterations - kitchen and bathroom. Replacement gate in existing opening. Proposed store/workshop outbuilding and repointing of all elevations. Listed Building Consent Application.* Approved

**KET/2020/0008:** *Mr N Freeman, 14 Chase View Road, Geddington.*

*Single storey rear extension. Full Application.* Approved

### **b) Planning Applications**

**KET/2020/0042:** *Mr J Riding-Felce*

*1 Little Oakley, Corby, NN18 8HA*

*Replacement of 9 no. windows and 1 no. door*

*Full Application*

Comments made were as follows: -

- The specification states PVC windows, but within the paperwork it states composite aluminium timber. This raised concerns if the windows would be PVC in a conservation area and with the building being Grade 2 listed.
- The Councillor for Little Oakley had agreed with the above concerns, but had no objection to the style of the windows.
- It was proposed by Cllr Buckseall that the Parish Council would object to the application if the windows were not going to be of a heritage material which is appropriate in a conservation area. Seconded by Cllr Batchelor. All councillors present agreed to the proposal except for one abstention.

**KET/2020/0187:** *Harkers Barkers, Cobley Lodge Farm, Corby Road, Little Oakley.*

*Single storey front extension to dog kennels building. Full Application*

Councillors were informed that the extension would be built on an area of an existing hard standing area, and that the extension is part of the business. The extension will be the same height as the adjoining dog kennels building.

Cllr Padwick proposed that there be no objections to the application. Seconded by Cllr Watson, agreed by all councillors present except for one abstention.

### **101/20: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND CIRCULATED – to note or comment on.**

A resident had suggested that an area to the rear of the school with access off Grafton Road may wish to be considered by councillors for using as a car park for additional spaces for the village. This was replied to, but a further email from the resident plus a misinterpretation of the results of the discussion by the clerk resulted in a further more detailed discussion at this meeting.

Points raised were as follows: -

The track on Grafton Road leads to a field, owned by Boughton Estates. This is dedicated pasture land.

The school has looked into use of this area as additional car parking to its own car park. They noted that the field is on arable land outside the village boundary.

Also noted that the grassed area has to be accessed by going through the school playing area and the playground.

The track is only wide enough for single track traffic.

It doesn't address the problem that councillors are trying to address – providing more car parking spaces in the Bridge Street and Queen Street areas.

Cllr Bachelor summarised the discussion by stating that it is Boughton Estates pasture land in open countryside and outside the village boundary. Additionally, children play in the nearby playing area, and the track is single access only. It could be brought to the school's attention however for future possible consideration. If this did happen in the future the Parish Council would ask them to consider allocating space for parent parking and turning circle.

The resident had also asked "how do you encourage staff working in the school to park their vehicles in the Village Hall Car Park?" Councillors agreed that this was difficult to do and had sympathy for school staff parking outside residential properties in nearby streets. However, realistically the only way this could be encouraged was for the school to encourage members of staff to park in the village hall car park.

**ACTION 9: The clerk to address the email received from the resident.**

### **102/20: FINANCE**

**a) Bank statements.**

Community account statement	as at 17.3.20	£34,804.44
Business Saver account	as at 17.3.20	£10,775.29

**b) Accounts received - none.**

**c) Accounts for payment:**

Geddington village hall	£78.75	Use of lounge Jan Feb Mar 2020
Mr John Litman	£250.00	Cut down and removal of tree in recreation field
T James Electrical Ltd	£107.26	Attend to lighting on the Cross
Northants CALC Ltd	£570.89	Membership subscription to yr. end 31.3.21
Cllr Peter Goode	£256.00	Payment made for planning application for car park extension.
Boughton Estates Ltd	£570.00	Rental of playing field 30.9.19 – 29.3.20
Boughton Estates Ltd	£0.05	Slade footpath, Geddington. Rental period 25.3.20 – 24.3.21

Authorisation of payments was proposed by Cllr Rowley, seconded by Cllr Padwick. All those present were in favour except for one abstention.

**d) Zoom subscription – is this needed as a safety net for meetings going forward?**

A Zoom subscription to enable virtual meetings to take place was briefly discussed. The cost per month is believed to be £11.99 plus VAT, but the legislation to enable virtual meetings to take place is only temporary. Meetings could therefore be undertaken in this way for the next 2 – 3 months. Cllr Rowley has paid the subscription to enable this meeting to take place (which allows the meeting to be over 40 minutes in length).

## **103/20. ENVIRONMENTAL & RECREATION**

**a) Replacement tree in the recreation field? Discussion and decision.**

It was discussed as to is the tree that has recently had to be cut down in the recreation field to be replaced.

The tree would have to be planted in a different place as it has been cut down to ground level but the roots are still in place. The commemorative plaque is still at the base of the cut down tree. It was suggested that the Gardening Club may wish to replace the tree.

**ACTION 10: The Clerk to write to the Gardening Club asking them if they wish to plant a replacement tree and to come back to the Parish Council if they do want to plant a tree elsewhere in the recreation field.**

## **NEWTON**

### **a) Newton broadband**

Cllr Watson stated that it was difficult working from home with such slow broadband speed, in particular when items have to be downloaded. He has tried to contact Gigaclear but has had no reply. Councillors were reminded that any installation for Newton was going to be looked at as a separate exercise as it can't be justified commercially.

Cllr Rowley commented that any responsibility to inform the Parish Council as to what is happening now lays with NCC, not Gigaclear. Newton is now on "other stage" basis.

Cllr Wenbourne reminded the meeting that Gigaclear had still not made good the verges that were reported as having deep divots.

The sales representative who is active in the village needs to be informed of what is happening with a Newton installation so it can be conveyed to residents enquiring within the Parish.

Free broadband was promised for the village hall but this has also not yet materialised. The Gigaclear broadband installation was not operational south of the river so it is unclear how that will happen.

**ACTION 11: The clerk to contact Liz Faulkner and NCC to find out what was happening.**

### **b) Refurbishment of Telephone box**

A Newton resident would like to renovate the BT telephone box in the village, using traditional colours including the gold crest.

Cllr Watson was informed that there are no other specific requirements, apart from having to be in post office red. The Parish Council was happy therefore for the renovation to be carried out.

Cllr Watson will thank the resident for his efforts.

## **LITTLE OAKLEY**

No issues were raised.

## **AOB**

The Clerk reminded councillors of both the Annual Parish Council meeting (sometimes referred to as the AGM) and the Parish (village) meeting that were due to be held in May. The Annual Parish Council meeting can be held as a virtual meeting, as per the legislation that has been passed, but the Parish (village) meetings were not included in the legislation.

Councillors decided to hold the Annual Parish Council meeting (the AGM) as a virtual meeting, in May, before the normal monthly meeting, as normally happens.

The Parish (village) meeting, where the Chair of the Parish Council chairs and councillors attend as residents of the village along with other residents, will be held later in the year.

Cllr Rushton mentioned using Facebook as a meeting medium for specific issues. Cllr Batchelor thought it would be a good way to carry out additional consultation on specific issues going forward.

*There being no further business, the meeting finished at 9.40pm.*