

**GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020.**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors N Batchelor (Chair), P Goode, D Watson, M Rowley, J Padwick, D Rushton,

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors C Buckseall, T Bailey.

**162/21: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Rowley – Agenda item 169/20b) The Skeffington Close verges. (Proximity to the area).

**163/21: RESIGNATIONS**

A Foulke has tendered his resignation for personal reasons, but has expressed a wish to stay active on certain issues relating to the Parish.

S Wenbourne has also had to resign for personal reasons. Both the former Parish Councillors were thanked for their contributions to the Parish Council, with Cllr Batchelor adding that they will both be very much missed.

**164/21: PUBLIC SESSION.**

One member of the public was virtually present at the meeting.

**a) Questions sent in by the public**

No questions had been received.

The member of the public had sent in an email expressing concern relating to vehicles parked on the footpaths, which is a regular occurrence now. He added that this forces older people and people with pushchairs as well as children, into the road. Cars park on the footpath up to the farm entrance. He reported that some of the cars are regulars, so possibly the owners live along Newton Road, and possibly visitors copy this way of parking, thinking that they should park like this as well.

Cllr Rowley informed the resident that this was a Police matter, but they will only act if a wheelchair or something of similar width cannot get past the vehicle. He advised the resident to telephone 101, and it will be enforced if there is an obstruction. He added that two or three residents reporting this will carry more weight than the Parish Council.

Cllr Padwick thought that the Parish Council may have a role to play, in that the practice of parking on the paths may have started because of speeding issues along Newton Road. It was suggested that a note be circulated to all residents of Newton Road asking them to ensure that cars are parked on the road. This was formally proposed by Cllr Batchelor, seconded by Cllr Watson, all councillors present were in favour.

**ACTION 1: The clerk to action the above flyer for the whole of Newton Road.**

**ACTION 2: Cllr Rowley will find out if blocked footpaths are part of the decriminalisation Act. If it is, a warden can be asked to carry out a patrol in Geddington.**

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

i) County Council report. There was no County Council report from Cllr Perry.

ii) Borough Council report.

Cllr Rowley reported that the number of meetings is slowing down but Planning and Licensing meetings are still taking place.

The new Chief Executive for the new unitary council was appointed and is currently on his second week, and some of the other main posts have also been appointed.

**165/21: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**a) Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting draft minutes – held 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**

It was proposed by Cllr Goode and seconded by Cllr Rowley that the October minutes be accepted subject to one amendment, and need not be re-circulated. Approved by all councillors present.

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

*12.10.20: action 3: The clerk will write to Highways again to ask about possible closing of the bridge on specific occasions.* This is an agenda item for the November meeting.

*12.10.20: action 4: Cllr Batchelor will contact the school to try to obtain more information as to possible help with playground equipment (for the community) costs.* This is an agenda item for the November meeting.

**166/21: FINANCE**

**a) Bank balances**

Community account statement	as at 17.10.20	£49,393.26
Business Saver account	as at 17.10.20	£10,778.18

**a) Accounts received - none**

**b) Accounts for payment: -**

Information Commissioners Office	35.00	Data Protection renewal fee Dec 20 – Nov 21 ( <i>Paid by direct debit</i> ).
Kensigns Ltd	105.60	Updated Chairman board
Royal British Legion	35.00	Poppy Wreath and voluntary contribution. <i>Waiting for invoice.</i>

Proposed by Cllr Batchelor that the above payments be authorised for payment, seconded by Cllr Watson, approved by all councillors present.

**c) Budgetary discussion for 2021-22 to include capital projects for the next financial year (including Village Hall car park extension).**

The draft budget for 2021 – 22 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Watson stated that the costs of running the Council varied very little from year to year, with the precept currently at £20,000.00. An allowance for election expenses in 2021 would be £2,300.00 for if an election was needed, which would leave a surplus of £7,000.00 for continuation of project monetary build. Although an election would be desirable, past history indicates that this may be unlikely. Capital projects - £60,000.00 has been built up now for the capital projects. The car park extension cost (estimate) was £37,000.00. The Newton entrance may return as a possible project in the future, and the School Parents' Association is exploring an indoor leisure facility for which a contribution

may be requested.. Cllr Watson stated that the decision for the precept does not have to be made until January, so further discussion as to capital project can take place in December and January. He is concerned as to other costs that may have to be taken up by the Parish Council, but this is not yet known. If there are any other costs that councillors are aware of that may affect the budget, they need to raise these at the next meeting.

Cllr Goode added that an email from Cllr Perry and Jason Smethers has stated that as far as they are aware there was no intention to change any funding directions for at least the next eighteen months.

The progress of the extension to the car park and therefore spend was a later agenda item for this meeting.

It was suggested that another option would be to put the precept up by £2,300.00 to cover possible election expenses, as there was no way of knowing what would be expected of the Parish Council for the following financial year.

It was highlighted that the Council's surplus is committed to capital projects, and there had been no inflation increase for several years.

The Rural Forum has now been cancelled so there is no route for parish councils to discuss general expenditure.

As a summary to the discussion Cllr Padwick believed there would at some stage be a levelling out of responsibilities of the parish councils, and Cllr Watson expressed his concern as to street lighting responsibilities. A final statement reiterated that £40,000.00 was allocated for the car park, £10,000.00 for expenditure, which leaves the Parish Council with £10,000.00 for further capital expenditure, and if a cap was introduced it would normally be capped at the rate of inflation or 2%.

#### **d) Geddington School - potential for contribution to new leisure facility.**

Cllr Batchelor explained that the School Parents Association are looking for match funding to bring finance for their project to £40,000.00. They would like to provide a muga/leisure facility in the grounds of the school, which would be open to other village groups, residents and organised sports. They have noted that such a provision is in the village plan.

It has come to the Parish Council for awareness only at this stage. They may now need floodlights, which may affect planning permission being given.

Questions raised were as follows: -

Is there a limitation on the school as to numbers of pupils and available places?

Is there an additional reason why there is no potential classroom expansion?

Although this would be funded by the Parents Association it would preclude any future building of a classroom.

Recreation activities have been subject to understandable concerns in the past.

Car parking for such a facility would be a big issue.

If the leisure facilities are also going to be for the use of the community, who will pay for a caretaker and other associated expenses, and

When can the community use it? Would this be weekends only?

Who would have the responsibility of running it?

Is it an indoors or outdoors facility?

The village hall parking problems need to be progressed first to support the Village Hall leisure facilities.

**167/21: RISK ASSESSMENT REGISTER - Insurer's answer to consequential loss question.**

The insurers to the Parish Council have been asked whether the Parish Council's public liability insurance covers consequential loss.

**ACTION 3: Cllr Batchelor will pursue this with the insurer as clarification is required to the email received from the insurers and what is the extent of what we are liable for.**

**PLANNING**

**a) KBC Decision notices**

*KET/2020/0601: Mr & Mrs R Norman, 17 Skeffington Close, Geddington.*

*Bay window and entrance canopy to front of dwelling. Rear balcony and glazed doors to second floor, Juliette balcony with glazed doors to first floor and bi-fold doors to ground floor*

*Full Application* Approved

*KET/2020/0614: Mr A Parker, 5 & 6, Newton.*

*Carport and works to driveway*

*Full Application* Approved

and

*KET/2020/0615: Mr A Parker, 5 & 6, Newton.*

*Timber framed carport and resin-bonded gravel finish driveway*

*Listed Building Consent Application.* Approved

KET/2019/0904

*Harkers Barkers*

*Cobley's Lodge, Stamford Road, Little Oakley.*

*Queen Eleanor & Buccleuch*

*Extension to temporary planning permission (KET/2014/0662) for siting of mobile home for an essential worker in relation to the operation of a 40-dog boarding kennel*

*Full Application* Granted

**b) Planning applications for consideration**

No planning applications for consideration had been received.

**168/21: REPORT OF THE LAST QUARTERLY RURAL FORUM, held 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**

Cllr Watson confirmed that the Rural Forum was now abolished, and there were no plans to reconstitute it. Members had tried to influence the agenda to include items that they felt needed to be discussed, but it was not allowed. The meeting was dominated by one officer, and no consultation was achieved. There is no formal rural forum for the villages now.

Cllr Batchelor said that if there was any value in what the Rural Forum had tried to achieve, would there be any value in another form of the Rural Forum being set up for and by the parish councils, with the minutes being sent to KBC. It was felt that for the people attending the Rural Forum a lot of the issues were big issues, but often to KBC they were small issues.

Cllr Watson said that there were private meetings taking place that may float this idea. Cllr Padwick said there needs to be a link between the Borough Council and its rural areas.

#### **169/21: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND CIRCULATED - to note or comment upon.**

a) A Social housing consultation has been received for the Parish Council to comment upon. It was noted that the opportunity was there to highlight that social housing in Geddington should be for Geddington people.

Proposal: Cllr Padwick will collect together comments from councillors so they are ready for the December meeting (the deadline date for submissions is 15<sup>th</sup> December). Proposed by Cllr Batchelor, seconded by Cllr Goode, all councillors present were in favour.

**ACTION 4: This item to be added to the December agenda.**

b) The Parish Council has been asked to comment on a proposal for double yellow lines in Bridge Street and Queen Street. The closure date for comments to be submitted was 27<sup>th</sup> November (or by 11<sup>th</sup> December if several people wish to submit comments). It was felt that the response was to former Cllr Foulke's request for parking suggestions in this area but the Parish Council needs to know whether it is the response to the request for parking suggestions or not. The suggested restrictions run from the Chapel to the Cross., with the area near the Post Office where there was a bottle neck being neglected.

**ACTION 5: The clerk to contact Kier to asked who raised the request for suggestions as to parking restrictions. The original correspondence to be forwarded to the Council if at all possible.**

Cllr Batchelor proposed that an extraordinary meeting be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November to discuss the current plan and decide on what the Parish Council what like to see in place. Seconded by Cllr Padwick, agreed by all councillors present.

c) An email had been received from Phil Berry stating he was happy to carry out the maintenance work on the pond in the Meadow. Proposed by Cllr Padwick, seconded by Cllr Goode that they were happy for Phil to carry out/ lead on the maintenance work.

**ACTION 6: The clerk to convey this to Phil and thank him for his offer.**

#### **170/21: ENVIRONMENT.**

a) **Concerns raised by resident - parked cars on pavement in Newton Road. For discussion.**

This was discussed within the public session (164/21).

**b) The Skeffington Close verges.**

Complaints were received two years ago about the safety aspect of the area and the general muddiness of it. Gigaclear did make good, by raking, levelling and seeding but the two grassed areas at the top of Skeffington Close were churned up again within a few days. Noted that it is difficult to enforce (non) parking for the verges, and would an enhancement to the surfaces be better? Although the parking would be close to the junction with Grange Road the practise is well established. However, the kerbs are the responsibility of Highways.

Cllr Padwick added that KBC have refused to fund any enhancements to the area, as it would set a precedent of creating private car parks.

There was a short discussion as to alternative surfaces and possible monetary outlay that would be needed.

**ACTION 7: The clerk to email Highways, outline the requirements, and ask if it was feasible for some form of hard standing to be laid for residents to park their cars on. to ask for guidance. Cllr Batchelor proposed for the above actions to be undertaken, seconded by Cllr Padwick, all councillors present were in favour except for one abstention.**

**c) Gigaclear update.**

Gigaclear are currently working in Queen Street. Unfortunately, no household information has been received by residents informing them of schedules, when the work will be finished etc.

**ACTION 8: Gigaclear to be contacted, to ask them to leave information on Facebook as to what is happening in Queen Street and informing them of residents' frustration with Gigaclear as to the lack of communication and the knock-on effect for potential future sales. The email to be sent to Liz Faulkner (communications). Proposed by Cllr Batchelor, seconded by Cllr Goode, agreed by all councillors present.**

**d) Village Hall Car Park.**

**i) The planning application process**

Cllr Goode brought councillors up to date as to the planning process. He advised that there are a number of legal consultees, two of which are Sports England and the England Cricket Board (ECB). After the request was received for a ball strike risk assessment to be carried out, £250 was authorised for the spend for a desk top survey in October. However, Sports England have objected to the planning application on the grounds of use of part/all of a playing field. The pitch, the square and the field were shown via screen sharing as per the planning application, showing nine pitches marked out. But a different Google Earth image has been sent by the England Cricket Board showing 14 pitches. The boundary required from the new pitches is inadequate to the car park (and the club house). The Village Hall Management Committee has had a site meeting with the Cricket Club who at first denied the additional pitches then conceded that they had been created. They believe there is no issue on the short boundaries from the new pitches. The Cricket Club state 35 yards is adequate; ECB say a minimum of 40 metres is required plus an extra three metres of run out. ECB have also shown that an outer circle as shown on their image is the ball strike area, which is 80 metres from the pitches. This area includes residential properties, the children's playground and the clubhouse (where there is already a ball hole in the fascia above the door). , Cllr Goode has spoken to the Planning Officer at KBC and informed him that the Cricket Club had not had permission for the new pitches from ECB, the resulting play could be dangerous and the survey would need the whole of the side of the cricket pitches to be included, not just the area in direct line to the potential new car park. The Planning Officer has put a hold on the application until 15.1.21 as the survey needs to be completed so the risk analysis is clear.

The problem was summarised in that the Cricket Club have extended their area of the cricket square which has brought a revised larger area into the risk area. The Cricket Club are requiring therefore a larger area of the recreation field as a result of creating an extra five pitches.

Sports England have informed KBC that if planning permission was granted, the application should be referred to the Secretary of State, which may mean that KBC will refuse the application.

It was also pointed out that as to risk assessment, it was now necessary to include dog walkers, the playground and the tennis courts, as they were all in the area of potential ball strike with the new pitches.

The Labosport UK ball strike area survey of £250 is not now adequate, they need to attend the site and take measurements for a full survey, which costs £400.00. They assess the risk and convey mitigation measures.

Cllr Watson said that the Cricket Club will lose their place in the league if they breach the guidance from the ECB and there may be insurance issues - they have previously said that their insurance does not cover them for damage to cars.

The Cricket Club have stated that if there is a problem, they will get rid of the new pitches, but now they have been created, they exist and they cannot be scrapped as per Sports England directives.

It was queried as to would nets still be needed, the answer was, yes, they would.

Cllr Rowley said that that KBC Planning were not averse to going to appeal. He also added that if the Cricket Club had not got public liability insurance for if somebody was hit with a cricket ball that was serious.

Cllr Batchelor proposed that the £400.00 Labo survey be authorised, seconded by Cllr Padwick, all those present were in favour.

***The following further agenda points plus the yellow lines' consultation for Bridge Street and Queen Street to be discussed at an extraordinary meeting to be convened on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 (caused by time constraints).***

#### **170/21: ENVIRONMENT.**

##### d ii) the tendering process

e) Repair of the fence at entrance to the recreation ground.

*Cllr Goode*

f) Stonepit Land – Land Registry update.

g) The potential for the Bridge to be pedestrianised.

h) To agree design for additional village signage.

*Cllr Batchelor.*

#### **11. Little Oakley**

#### **12. AOB**

10. Newton. This will not be included as Cllr Watson confirmed there were no issues that needed to be raised.

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