

**GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2013**

**Members present:** Councillor M Rowley (Chairman)  
Councillors K Barber, A Gordon, K Harden and I Kelman

**Apologies:** Councillors C Buckseall, J Padwick and D Watson

**Also present:** Borough Councillor J Bullock  
Chief Inspector C Hillery, Northants Police

Four members of the public were present at the meeting.

Councillor Rowley reported that unfortunately Councillor Doherty will be tendering his resignation from the Parish Council shortly.

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**137/13**

A member of the Newsletter Committee requested an update of the responsibilities of individual Parish Councillors. The Clerk will supply these in due course.

It was reported that the HGV signs have been erected and the bollards in West Street were progressing well but a member of the public enquired as to when the double yellow lines and red hatching would be in place. Councillor Rowley stated that the road markings will all be done at the same time once due process has been completed. Another member of the public queried whether the Parish Council were aware that double yellow lines allowed parking for loading/unloading and that this could include people, as well as goods. Since this can take up to forty minutes, it would appear that double yellow lines are not as effective as first thought. However, Councillor Rowley pointed out that one of the main reasons for having double yellow lines on the corners was to emphasise the fact that it is illegal to park within 15 metres of a junction and the police can enforce this more easily.

To summarise the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January to discuss ideas to help traffic through the village, Councillor Barber highlighted the key suggestions as follows:

Weight restrictions Weight restrictions put on West Street and Grafton Road.

There was some discussion about putting weight restrictions at the Grafton Underwood end of Grafton Road. This would not allow lorries to enter the village, except for deliveries. It was felt that this may not be taken up by the County Council since it would shift the problem elsewhere. However a member of the public reminded those present that other villages do not have an ancient monument. Councillor Rowley did point out that lorries do need access to Acrelands or Boughton Estates but if weight restriction signs were placed at the village signs then this would stop vehicles going through the village.

Members of the public pointed out an application from Boughton Estates for extended licensing. It was intended to discuss this further in Planning. However concerns were

raised regarding the possible impact of traffic through Geddington and felt that the application was inappropriate unless it was supported by strict traffic control. This could undo the work done so far to control traffic through the village. Councillor Rowley tried to reassure those present that Boughton Estates had considered this and had in place a Traffic Management Plan for each event. He read out a letter from the Estate about the plans for the Tough Mudder event later in the year.

In answer to a query from a member of the public, Councillor Rowley confirmed that the role of the Flood Warden would be discussed at the March meeting of the Parish Council.

### **POLICE REPORT**

**138/13**

Reported crimes for the month of January were as follows:

Geddington – 3 crimes: Theft from a motor vehicle (catalytic converter)  
Theft of a vehicle in Wood Street  
Theft from the nursery in Grange Road

Newton – 1 crime: Burglary dwelling

Little Oakley – 1 crime: Theft of a quad bike

Chief Inspector Chris Hillery was welcomed to the Parish Council. He has been in post for seven months and is responsible for policing in Corby and Kettering. He invited questions from those present.

Councillor Kelman enquired what the police priorities are for the area. CI Hillery listed parking, particularly around schools, anti-social behaviour and traffic particularly HGVs through villages, as being priority. The main issue surrounding parking is that of decriminalisation so that Police have no powers to act on dangerous parking.

Councillor Kelman also asked what CI Hillery felt might be the consequences of turning off speed cameras in the county. CI Hillery stated that fatalities and serious injuries related to road traffic accidents had gone up in the county recently but there is no data to support a link between the lack of operational speed cameras and the increase in figures. Most of the killed and seriously injured RTAs are not particularly related to camera locations. Local drivers will be aware that the speed cameras are off and may not slow down but drivers from further afield will still slow down as they are not aware that they are not operational. CI Hillery was of the opinion that over time the speed cameras will have no impact at all and there are no plans to switch them back on again. The Police are trying to promote Community Speed Watch which involves training local residents, supplying the equipment and resources. Councillor Rowley was of the opinion that Little Oakley would be very interested in taking part in this and that Geddington would be interested in knowing a little more about it. CI Hillery agreed to send details to the Parish Council.

Councillor Harden enquired whether wires could be put across the road to monitor the speed of traffic. CI Hillery stated that the Police can make a particular case for these to be put in place by the County Council. Data from these wires can determine speed and times that vehicles pass through the village, which can then prompt the Police to carry out further surveillance activity.

Councillor Gordon asked about rural crime, specifically stealing livestock, poaching, stealing red diesel etc. CI Hillery stated that this type of rural crime forms part of the PCC's manifesto. Fuel crime is a problem nationwide.

Following concerns, CI Hillery has written to Mr Martin Hammond of the Borough Council stating that there is no intention to reduce the number of rural officers, although there will be a move around within the force. The intention is to have better representation over 24 hours since generally crime happens later at night.

CI Hillery stated that greater enforcement powers for PCSOs also formed part of the PCC's manifesto. CI Hillery was in full support of this.

Councillor Gordon also gave details to CI Hillery of a 30 tonne vehicle which contravenes the stipulations laid down by Camgrain by regularly carrying grain along Newton Road. Councillor Gordon was advised to inform Mr Chris Sparrow of Boughton Estates of this.

Borough Councillor Bullock introduced himself to CI Hillery and informed him of his role on the Rural Forum.

*CI Hillery was thanked for his attendance*

## **PLANNING**

### **Approvals**

KET/2012/0775 Change of use from highway land to amenity land, 2 Queen Eleanor Road, Geddington – Mr Briggs. Councillor Rowley will inform Mr Brigg of this decision since it would appear that he is unaware of the outcome.

### **Applications**

KET/2013/0011 Single storey rear extension, 45 Skeffington Close, Geddington Mrs A Tarleton

*The Parish Council were in support of this application since it provided a sensible extension to a family home*

KET/2012/0807 Extension to farm shop and new link between farm shop and buttery, Dovecote Farm, Newton – W M Elliot & Son

*Councillor Watson had emailed all residents of Newton regarding this application and had received no responses. He stated that he was in support of the application.*

*The Parish Council were in support of this application as it is a sensible business development.*

KET/2013/0021 Non-material amendment to planning permission CO/06/0427 & KE/06/1127 to re-align an accommodation track between the proposed Newton Road and the property owned by Boughton Estates and Camgrain – Northants County Council

*The Parish Council were in support of this application provided that vehicles cannot turn right into Newton Road toward Geddington.*

Extended licensing – Boughton Estates

Councillor Rowley read out a letter from Mr Chris Sparrow of Boughton Estates highlighting their safety management plans for the Tough Mudder event due to be held at Boughton House on 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> May this year. He pointed out that all events traffic will be encouraged to go through the south gate apart from visitors to the Ferrari and Aston Martin events which will pass through the Grafton Road entrance. The intention of the extended license application is so that the Estate has greater control. Concerns have however been raised by some residents in West Street and Grafton Road (as highlighted in the Public Meeting). However some residents are in support of the events and others are keen to gain employment from them.

Councillors were of the opinion that the Estate are applying for an extended licence for the right reasons and that overall the Parish Council would be happy with the extended licence provided it has minimal impact on traffic through the village, although it would be difficult to prevent this completely.

In answer to a question regarding curfews for fireworks it was believed that the deadline is 11.00 pm apart from New Year's Day.

*The meeting was temporarily re-opened to the public to allow them to take part in the discussions on this application.*

There were concerns that during previous events huge lorries were allowed to pass through West Street and Grafton Road. There were also concerns about live music until 4.00 a.m. However Councillor Rowley did state that decibel tests were carried out prior to the proposed Vintage Festival last year and they proved to be acceptable.

Councillor Rowley reminded residents that they are entitled to make their own views known to the Borough Council. The Parish Council were merely given information about this application for information only but if it was felt appropriate, the Parish Council could arrange a special meeting to discuss it. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr Chris Sparrow thanking him for his information and asking him for reassurance that traffic management plans ensure as far as possible that traffic is kept out of the villages.

*The meeting was again closed to the public*

### **Speed restrictions etc on the A6003**

The Parish Council were in receipt of Orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act in relation to the A6003. It was noted that these were already in place.

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**Apologies:** Councillors C Buckseall, J Padwick and D Watson

**Also present:** Borough Councillor J Bullock

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013 were read and signed subject to the following amendment:

126/13 ...for non-urgent calls it was necessary to ring 03000 which was free.

**TRAFFIC ISSUES MEETING SUMMARY**

**139/13**

On 21<sup>st</sup> January Councillor Barber chaired a meeting to discuss ideas to resolve traffic problems in Geddington. Several things were agreed at the meeting:

- a) A 20 mph limit
- b) A weight limit – this does not prevent deliveries but will not allow lorries to pass through directly. Weight restriction signs will be erected at the entrances to Queen Street, West Street, Grafton Road and Queen Eleanor Road.
- c) Bollards in West Street
- d) Red hatched surface in West Street as agreed and double yellow lines as discussed in previous meetings.

Mr Chris Sparrow was present at the above meeting. He does not want lorries to pass through the villages. He is considering putting in a new road through the Estate which would be financed partly by housing. However this is very much in the aspirational phase at this moment in time.

It was also suggested that there should be white markings like those outside the school in Chapel Lane and also in Grafton Road outside the Hopkins' driveway, at their request.

At the meeting it was also agreed that a further meeting re parking would be valuable.

A one way system was also suggested but it would pose problems for lorries trying to turn into Grafton Road so County Highways were not particularly happy about this solution. Councillor Barber was under the impression that the suggestion of a change of priority in Grafton Road was dependent on a one way system being introduced, but Councillor Rowley stated that this was a separate issue. It was agreed that Councillor Barber could write to Ian Boyle of County Highways with this suggestion.

With regard to double yellow lines at the corner of Grafton Road and Wood Street, the suggestion is to put double yellow lines up as far Number 3 Wood Street and also on the other side of the road. As from March last year, zigzag lines are not enforceable. It was agreed by the Parish Council, since it would need 75% of the Parish Council to change their decision that the original agreement from the January Parish Council meeting regarding double yellow signs should remain. Councillor Rowley will write to the County Council to confirm this.

## **KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL ISSUES**

### **140/13**

Borough Councillor Bullock reported that he attended as the Council's executive meeting to discuss precepts and spoke against grant being abolished on the grounds of double taxation for rural areas. It was referred for review by a Sub-committee but they voted along party lines so that it has been agreed that grants will be abolished from 2014. Councillor Bullock also raised this in a written question in Full Council pointing out it was not in any manifesto but no changes were made. He will continue to monitor the position.

At the Rural Forum the main discussion was regarding policing issues and the fact that there would be no major changes to police numbers. He will also monitor this.

The Borough Council will be setting their budget for the coming year shortly. He will vote to keep a 0% increase in Council tax.

With regard to the precept issue, Councillor Barber pointed out that many Councils parish their towns but that Kettering Borough Council refuse to do so. However he was under the impression that if there is a big enough group in favour of this, then they can be forced to do so. Councillor Rowley was of the opinion that not many townspeople would be interested in supporting this action since it would result in their precept going up to match rural areas. However Borough Councillor Bullock felt that there is a moral argument for this.

Councillor Barber attended the Borough Council's budget consultation meeting. He witnessed a lot of anger amongst parishes. Council tax may not be increasing but it is only affecting the town and forcing precepts up. Councillor Rowley noted that the whole idea of a precept is to gain money for special projects in the parish. It would not therefore be feasible to put a cap on precepts but this does not mean that there may not be problems in future years.

Councillor Harden was concerned about run off of water from the fields alongside the road to Weekley-Warkton from Rockingham Road due to a drainage problem. It is a particular problem during icy weather. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to County Highways about this.

## **NORTHANTS COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

No report.

## **YOUTH CLUB**

No report.

## **VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT AND PLAN**

No report.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**141/13**

Councillor Harden has approached County Councillor Harker asking for financial support toward Neighbourhood Watch signs for the village

## **NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY**

No report.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION**

**142/13**

Councillor Kelman will take over responsibility for Environment and Recreation. Councillor Rowley reminded him that there needs to be a maintenance schedule in place for the drains in the village. In addition, a drain at the far end of the playing field is blocked with gravel. The Volunteer Fire Brigade could be contacted to form a working party to help with this. Councillor Kelman will speak to CO Andrew Hammond.

A new light for the end of West Street is also work in progress.

## **VILLAGE HALL**

**143/13**

Councillor Gordon reported that the Village Hall Management Committee have just had their AGM. Village Hall charges have remained the same for the last two years. Officers remain the same. He provided the Parish Council with a copy of the Village Hall's accounts. There are a couple of projects in the pipeline including plans for the sports club facilities. Plans have been drawn up.

## **ROAD SAFETY**

No report.

## **LIGHTING AND FOOTPATHS**

**144/13**

Councillor Barber stated that various lights have been reported to be out.

## **RURAL FORUM**

**145/13**

Councillor Watson reported by email that NHS Direct is changing to 111.

Playing area insurance is not covered by the Borough Council. Councillor Rowley reported that the Parish Council's insurance will be reviewed during the year. This will be added to the April Agenda.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**146/13**

The Parish Council were in receipt of 'The Clerk' magazine.

**147/13**

A further letter was read out from a resident of West Street regarding the Boughton Estates extended licensing application. This echoed the views of the member of the public who spoke during the Public Meeting.

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm*

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**ACCOUNTS**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Community Account Statement as at 17.1.13        | £ 5,039.66 |
| Business Premium Account Statement as at 17.1.13 | 7,704.21   |

**Accounts received**

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd – Overpayment of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party contribution for<br>Play equipment) | £220.00 |
|---|---------|

**Accounts for payment**

|                         |                          |          |        |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|
| Sharon Baker            | Secretarial services     | (1535) £ | 35.00  |
| Zurich Municipal        | Annual insurance premium | (1536)   | 726.43 |
| Geddington Village Hall | Room hire                | (1537)   | 33.00  |
| Northants ACRE          | Annual subs              | (1538)   | 35.00  |

Councillor Kelman proposed and Councillor Gordon seconded that the above payments be made. All in favour.