

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH APRIL 2013

Members present: Councillor M Rowley (Chairman)
Councillors T Bailey, K Barber, A Gordon, K Harden and
J Padwick

Apologies: Councillors C Buckseall, I Kelman and D Watson

Also present: Borough Councillor J Bullock
County Councillor J Harker
PCSO Donna Fenner, Northamptonshire Police

Five members of the public were present at the meeting.

PUBLIC MEETING

160/13

A member of the public expressed concerns regarding problems at the entrance to Clay Dick, which is land owned by Boughton Estates, caused by young people driving up there late at night and leaving rubbish lying around. She has also heard that there has been reference to potential raves in the area. In addition, it leaves the area open to travellers.

This has become a problem since GAME Construction have ceased using the yard and the security fencing has been taken down. Boughton Estates had put logs there to prevent vehicular access, but these have now been removed. There are several groups of people who need access, specifically to attend to the mast, but these users have a key to the padlock.

There was a suggestion that the gates could be moved to where the sign states 'Unsuitable for Vehicles' but it was questioned whether this area was a right of way. County Councillor Harker agreed to make enquiries.

Another member of the public thanked County Councillor Harker, Parish Councillor Barber and the County Council for their efforts with regard to the installation of double yellow lines and rumble strip in West Street, which makes drivers act more sensibly. She has also had notification from Ian Boyes of County Highways that the 20 mph speed limit has been approved.

It was reported that the 'Grafton Road' sign is still missing. Councillor Rowley is trying to get this sorted out.

POLICE REPORT

161/13

PCSO Lawson had informed the Parish Council by email that there were no reported crimes for March. PCSO Fenner confirmed these figures.

With regard to the reported problems at Clay Dick, PCSO Fenner agreed to let her team know of the problem so that they may try to patrol the area more frequently, specifically on Friday and Saturday nights.

Councillor Harden enquired whether there had been any further news regarding staffing of the police station in Desborough. PCSO Fenner reported that the police station is fully staffed both with PCSOs and Police Officers. She also informed the Parish Council that PCSOs will shortly be given the right to issue parking tickets as part of a trial scheme in the Kettering area.

In answer to a question, PCSO Fenner confirmed that she still uses the police hut in Geddington, mainly for storing her bike for use in the summer months.

Councillor Rowley informed PCSO Fenner of alleged reports of intimidation by people trying to force people in rural areas to sell their property. PCSO Fenner reminded members of the public to report any such incidents directly to the police.

PCSO Fenner was thanked for her attendance.

PLANNING

Approvals

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

Licensing Application from Boughton Estates

Councillors Gordon and Barber attended the meeting regarding Boughton Estates' license application. The application was approved subject to Section M, namely:

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Public Safety
- Prevention of Public Nuisance and Protection of Children from harm.
- The playing of music was restricted to 3.00 a.m.

In answer to a question raised by a member of the public, it was agreed that Boughton Estates **could a** right to Appeal but it is unlikely that this will be necessary. Borough Councillor Bullock will clarify this with Mr Chris Sparrow. The Borough Council's Licensing Committee did state however that if there were any problems, then there would be reason to go back to Committee to make a formal complaint. It is intended that a dedicated phone line will be set up for residents to report any problems which will link to Borough Council officers who will be on site during major events.

It was reported that the bar will close at 2.00 a.m to allow for drinking up time. There was a suggestion that the Porter's Lodge should be for entrance/exit but the police will allow this to be used for exit purposes only until the road has been de-trunked. A member of the public reported that Steve Porter, the Events Manager at Boughton House, will liaise with a group of residents so that they may have a look at the Traffic

Management Plans before a large event in case there are any concerns. It was agreed that the Parish Council should also be involved in this.

Applications

No applications were received this month.

www.geddington.net

162/13

The Parish Council had invited representatives from the website committee to inform the Parish Council of their aims and how the Parish Council might be of help to them. Mrs P Hopkins thanked Jack Harker for his efforts in creating the new website and Mrs Jane Rowley for her help with correspondence. Mrs Hopkins stated that it is a not-for-profit website for the whole village, although the Committee were aware that not everyone has access to the Internet. There is a small charge to advertise on the site at present, but maintenance costs are being kept to a minimum and if it is successful, then there should not be need for an annual subscription. Councillor Rowley reminded the Committee members of the importance of adhering to copyright legislation.

Councillor Barber reported that he had received an email asking whether the Parish Council would subscribe to the site for the sum of £15.00. It was agreed that this would be discussed under Finance.

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MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th March 2013 were read confirmed and signed

KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL ISSUES

163/13

With regard to Geddington and Weekley being earmarked as potential locations for traveller sites, Borough Councillor Bullock reported that neither site has scored very highly on the Borough Council's list so it is unlikely that they will be selected.

Borough Councillor Bullock voted for a 0% increase in Council tax at the Borough Council's Funding Committee. This has been agreed.

He attended the last meeting of the Rural Forum and the Local Government Rural Commission in London where one of the issues discussed was broadband.

He also helped to sort out the problems experienced by a local Council house resident who had had no heating for a number of days in the recent cold spell. As a result, he has asked for the process for looking at heating problems to be reviewed.

He also had a meeting with a local resident regarding rural crime issues.

Borough Councillor Bullock is looking forward to bringing his party leader into the village on Wednesday at 11.15 a.m. Councillor Rowley enquired whether the 'battle bus' would be driving into the centre of the village, particularly in view of the recent issues with large vehicles around the Cross.

NORTHANTS COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

164/13

County Councillor Harker reported that the County Council have done a deal with BT to deliver high speed broadband to 90% of the county within the next couple of years.

Work on the new bypass has been held up because of the weather. It should be completed by November. County Councillor Harker had a meeting with residents of Little Oakley to discuss issues raised by construction traffic.

The 20 mph speed limit has been approved in Geddington. This covers the whole of the old village and is accompanied by weight restrictions (except for access).

County Councillor Harker has arranged a site meeting to discuss the future of the wellingtonia tree in Queen Street, the roots of which are pushing up the highway. It has a tree preservation order but this may have to be reviewed.

The extension to the Village Hall to provide a new sports facility is progressing. Mr Sparrow of Boughton Estates has had a meeting with County Councillor Harker and other interested parties and the Duke has kindly offered to donate further land if it is required. Hopefully the new building will be ready for use by next Spring.

YOUTH CLUB

165/13

It was reported that the gate has now been put up at the entrance to the Youth Club.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT AND PLAN

166/13

Councillor Padwick felt that the Village Design Statement and Plan now need to be revisited since it is ten years since the last one was drawn up, in line with the previous census. The new census is at ward level now, so it may be a good time for a further questionnaire to be sent out to villagers. He suggested that the same questionnaire as before is used as a baseline and that it could be circulated when the figures are more easily digestible. Issues with parking and traffic link into the Village Plan.

Parking at the corner of Grange Road and Skeffington Close is still a huge problem, which is exacerbated by the opening of the day nursery. (*Councillor Rowley declared an interest as a nearby resident*). The problem was looked at several years ago when various suggestions were made to make improvements but these were not taken further because of the expense involved. Borough Councillor Bullock suggested that it may be sensible to speak to Mr Chris Sparrow to see if Boughton Estates could help in any way by allowing use of Loak's old yard. Councillor Barber agreed to follow this up.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

167/13

Councillor Harden reported that he will be distributing 'Neighbourhood Watch' signs at his meeting on Thursday. Hopefully the issue of who is the Neighbourhood Watch representative for Little Oakley will also be addressed then.

NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY

168/13

Councillor Bailey was concerned about alleged threats to rural landowners regarding selling their property.

He also asked about drainage problems that had been discussed in Little Oakley. Councillor Rowley reported that this had now been resolved. A dead badger had blocked an under-road drain.

Councillor Bailey also asked what had resulted from discussions about the use of hand held speed cameras operated by villagers. Councillor Harden stated that many villages had run into problems with using these.

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

169/13

Councillor Harden enquired whether there had been a response regarding the unreliability of the Centrebus service, specifically the 11.00 a.m. service. This will be followed up further with County Councillor Harker.

Poor drainage on to the Weekley-Warkton-Kettering bypass has now been attended to.

Since the Flood Warden was unable to attend this evening, it was agreed that the Job Description will be added to next month's Agenda.

Councillor Harden reported that the brook has not been cleared out for at least 10-15 years and is now badly in need of attention. He will speak to the Environment Agency about this.

VILLAGE HALL

170/13

At the last Parish Council meeting, Councillor Gordon brought up the question of the VAT to be paid on the new sports facility. The Village Hall Management Committee are going to take this up with the Borough and County Council's solicitors.

Councillor Gordon also reported that there is a loose paving slab just outside the Village Hall which needs fixing. He will obtain a quote for this.

Some work is required to the Village Hall roof and doors but this will be left until it is clear what is going to happen to the building. Part of the guttering also keeps on getting knocked off. Councillor Gordon will arrange for this to be taken down completely.

The bin liner has disappeared from the waste bin outside the Village Hall. Borough Councillor Bullock will ask for a new one.

Councillor Gordon reported that the 'No Ball Games' sign needs replacing, as does the 'Dogs Must Be Kept on Leads' sign. He will attend to these.

Councillor Rowley reported that the letter regarding an alleged incident involving a member of the public at the entrance to the Bowls Club has been passed to Zurich Municipal, with a copy to Boughton Estates, on the advice of the Borough Council's solicitors.

ROAD SAFETY

171/13

In response to an email from the Parish Council, Chris Sparrow informed the Parish Council that Pytchley Farm vehicles do not deliver grain to Camgrain and therefore must be delivering to local farms. He reassured the Parish Council that all lorries delivering to Camgrain are fully aware that they should not access the grain store via Newton Road and that this would result in infringement of the agreement made as part of their Contract.

Although the chains to The Star public house were reinstated for a very short time last week, they have now been removed again. The Star will be closed on Friday and is up for sale, so it is unlikely that any further action will be taken.

LIGHTING AND FOOTPATHS

172/13

Councillor Barber had received one or two complaints about lights out, so he drove round the village to find that eight lights were out. These have all been reported.

RURAL FORUM

173/13

Borough Councillor Bullock reported that the main topics of discussion were Police reports and budget and the new NHS number.

CORRESPONDENCE

174/13

The Parish Council were in receipt of the Borough Council's Standards Committee meeting of 25th March.

175/13

Licensing Notification was received for the Village Recreation Ground for the Village Fair on 7th July 2013 from 11.00 am-4.00 pm.

176/13

The Parish Council received an email confirming that the Dog Training Classes will start on Wednesday 10th April at 6.00 pm. Refreshments will be available.

177/13

Councillors Barber and Gordon will attend CPRE's Planning Meeting on 1st May.

Parish Council Vacancies

The Borough Council were in receipt of a request for an election from ten residents. However there was only one nominee, who will join the Parish Council. There are still three other vacancies which will be advertised in the near future. The Parish Council had considered reducing the number of Parish Councillors but this will be dealt with by Ian White of the Borough Council after the local elections have taken place.

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AGM

The next meeting of the Parish Council on 13th May 2013 will be the Annual General Meeting which will commence at 7.00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

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ACCOUNTS

178/13

Community Account Statement as at 15.3.13 £ 4,465.00

Business Premium Account Statement as at 15.3.13 7,705.46

Accounts received

Geddington Volunteer Fire Brigade Stonepit Land rent £150.00

Accounts for payment

Sharon Baker	Secretarial services	(1541) £	35.00
Boughton Estates	Field rent/Slade Footpath rent	(1542)	570.05
Geddington Community Website	Subscription	(1543)	15.00

Councillor Barber proposed and Councillor Gordon seconded that the Parish Council subscribe to the Village website for the sum of £15.00. All in favour.

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

In addition, the Parish Council were in receipt of an invoice from NCALC which included a figure for internal auditing, a service which the Parish Council do not use. It was agreed that the Clerk should query this with NCALC.