

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 13TH MAY
2013

Members present: Councillor M Rowley, Chairman
Councillors T Bailey, K Barber, A Gordon, P Hopkins,
I Kelman and D Watson

Apologies: Councillors C Buckseall, K Harden and J Padwick

No members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Hopkins was welcomed as a new Parish Councillor, having signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form in the presence of the relevant parties.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

01/014

Councillor Rowley proposed and Councillor Watson seconded that Councillor Barber should become Chairman for the forthcoming year. All in favour.

Councillor Barber accepted office and duly signed the relevant forms. He thanked the Parish Councillors and looked forward to an interesting and fulfilling year. He also thanked the outgoing Chairman, Councillor Rowley, for his help over the last four years and particularly for the assistance he has provided over the last twelve months. He pointed out that he should be particularly proud of all that the Parish Council has managed to achieve, particularly with reference to the footpath to the Youth Club and improvements to the children's play area.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

02/014

Councillor Barber proposed and Councillor Gordon seconded that Councillor Rowley should be Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year. All in favour.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

03/04

Finance

Councillor Barber proposed and Councillor Gordon seconded that Councillor Watson should head the Finance Committee along with The Parish Clerk (as Responsible Financial Officer). Councillor Rowley proposed and Councillor Gordon seconded that Councillor Barber and Councillor Padwick should be on this Committee. All in favour.

Planning

It was proposed by Councillor Barber and seconded by Councillor Watson that the following members should sit on the Planning Committee:

Councillor Gordon
Councillor Kelman

All in favour.

It was also proposed by Councillor Barber and seconded by Councillor Rowley that the following should be Committee members for the following year:

Road Safety

Councillor Harden

Recreation/Environment

Councillor Kelman

Lighting and footpaths (proposed by Councillor Rowley and seconded by Councillor Watson)

Councillor Barber

Village Design Statement and Plan

Councillor Padwick

With the support of

Councillors Hopkins and Barber

Parish Path Warden

It was proposed by Councillor Hopkins and seconded by Councillor Barber that this role should be advertised on the Parish website and social networking sites to be filled by a non-Parish Council member.

Tree Warden

Since there has not been a need for this role in the last year, it was proposed by Councillor Hopkins and seconded by Councillor Gordon that this role should be made redundant.

Rural Forum

Councillor Watson

Village Hall

Councillor Gordon

Neighbourhood Watch

Councillor Harden

Youth Club

It was proposed by Councillor Watson and seconded by Councillor Rowley that it should be clarified in the first instance with Councillor Buckseall as to whether she would like to continue this role. Councillor Rowley would be willing to take on this role should the need arise.

Whilst discussing this, Councillor Hopkins suggested that the whole issue of Parish Council income should be reviewed and that the terms of the Lease should be part be reviewed as part of this process. Councillor Rowley agreed to review the current Lease.

Newton

Councillor Watson

Little Oakley
Councillor Bailey

Samuel Lee Charity
Councillor Hopkins declared an interest as a Trustee of the Charity.

Councillors Barber and maybe Councillor Buckseall, but this will be reviewed further when she is present at the meeting. It was agreed that since Brian Smith is currently one of the representatives he should be approached as to whether he would like to continue this role.

Dallington Charity
Councillor Gordon

Responsible Financial Officer
The Parish Clerk

In addition it was proposed by Councillor Watson and seconded by Councillor Rowley that the **Internal Auditor** should continue to be HW (Kettering).

Signatories
Councillor Barber proposed and Councillor Gordon seconded that Councillors Rowley, Padwick and Watson, should remain as signatories.

All in favour.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Parish Councillors were reminded to report any changes to Declarations of Interest to the Parish Clerk and to the Borough Council as soon as possible.

STANDING ORDERS

04/014

Having been circulated copies of draft Standing Orders and Financial Standing Orders in 2009, Councillor Barber proposed and Councillor Rowley seconded that these should remain the same. All in favour.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th May 2012 were read confirmed and signed in June 2012.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

PUBLIC MEETING

No matters were raised by the members of the public.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

05/14

Councillor Rowley reported that the Parish Council had performed very well as a team over the last four years. He highlighted the Grafton Road and Newton Road footpath projects, as well as the playground improvements, for which he extended a specific thank you to Gary Doherty and Jane Rowley. New Standing Orders, Complaints Orders and Financial Procedures were all put in place. The Parish Council funding did not go as well as it could have but the Parish Council were proactive in raising the issue with the Rural Forum and the Borough Council. The grain store is progressing well and the Parish Council were instrumental in ensuring that grain store traffic did not pass through Newton Road. The Parish Council also received official confirmation from the Environment Agency that the berm could be opened when there was no risk of flood and the village now has a flood warden. Alongside this, work on the A43 link road is well underway and parking restrictions and 20 mph speed limits are almost in place in the centre of Geddington.

Councillor Rowley thanked everyone for their hard work over the last four years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

06/14

Councillor Watson reported that finance was reasonably well controlled this year but expressed concerns over the precept for this year which may have to be increased significantly because of the grant being cut and the fact that work will need to be carried out in the village. Accordingly, the Parish Council will have to think very carefully over the coming year what they will need to finance, with the ultimate decision being made by December. Councillor Hopkins reiterated that the Parish Council should consider income as well as expenditure, particularly in relation to the rent of Stonepit Land.

PLANNING

07/14

Councillor Gordon reported that the Parish Council received only 21 planning applications for consideration this year. He felt that this was a result of the fact that people cannot afford to move or extend their property. He pointed out that under the new Localism Act extensions between 4-8 m may be built without planning permission being sought. He was concerned that CPRE have commented that they find the new Bill difficult to understand so questioned how the Parish Council might be expected to understand its principles. He also felt that not being allowed to visit the site of planning applications was a hindrance. It was also felt that the Local Development Plan is an essential document which should be brought up to date. Without this, planning permission could be granted which does not fit in with the needs of the villages. Councillor Watson agreed with this and was of the opinion that grants are available to support the Local Development Plan process.

ROAD SAFETY

08/14

Councillor Barber reported that traffic calming measures have been introduced in the centre of Geddington, including the installation of bollards and 20 mph limits are soon to be finalised.

RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT

No report.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

No report.

SAMUEL LEE CHARITY

No report.

DALLINGTON CHARITY

No report.

VILLAGE HALL

09/14

Councillor Gordon reported that the Village Hall had had a good year with a lot of improvement work being undertaken including upgrade to the toilets and kitchen. He thanked Brian Leaton for his support.

YOUTH CLUB

No report.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT AND PLAN

No report.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35 p.m.