

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH APRIL 2014

Members present: Councillor M Rowley (in the Chair)
Councillors C Buckseall, T Locock, T Bailey, J Padwick (arrived late),
P Hopkins, D Hodgkinson, D Watson, K Harden and I Kelman

Apologies: Councillor A Gordon

Also present: Councillor J Bullock
PCSO Jayne Breeze, Northamptonshire Police

2 members of the public were present at the meeting.

PUBLIC MEETING

158/14

A member of the public requested:-

- (a) An update on the flooding of the main road – Councillor Rowley responded that the Clerk was currently out of the country, but his understanding was that a letter had been sent to NCC and that so far no response had been received.
- (b) An update on the road closure of Newton Road from the A6003 at Barford Bridge which had been closed for some two weeks now. Councillor Watson anticipated that the road would reopen on Wednesday, 16th April, although the road surfacing had reduced the road width. Councillor Rowley said that the bypass was due to be completed on 23rd May, although this date may change.

A member of the public indicated they were interested in the planning process as they had recently acquired some land outside the village.

POLICE REPORT

159/14

PCSO Jayne Breeze attended and reported that there had been four crimes reported in Geddington, namely two burglaries on the 16th and 29th March respectively, one at the Youth Club and the other where a garage had been broken into and a bicycle stolen (there was some doubt as to whether the garage had been properly secured). There had been a case of criminal damage at the sawmill as well as the theft of oil from St Mary's Church, Geddington. There were no crimes reported in Newton or Little Oakley.

Councillor Harden referred to the parking on the left hand side at the bottom of Newton Road with the junction with the A43, which had been discussed several meetings ago; the owners of the vehicles had been approached but there was no improvement. Councillor Watson confirmed that this created hazards to drivers trying to pull onto the A43. PCSO Breeze undertook to follow this up.

PUBLIC MEETING

160/14

For the month of March there were 5 reported crimes for Geddington:

- 2 burglary (other)
- 1 criminal damage
- 1 theft/handling
- 1 violence offence

There were no reported crimes in Newton or Little Oakley.

The Friends of the Church Garage Sale, Traffic Problems and Policing the event

161/14

Councillor Hopkins requested that item 8 of the Agenda be brought forward whilst PCSO Breeze was present; he wished to know if the police had been approached to attend this event on Saturday, 17th May. Councillor Rowley said that he had been in touch with the Chair of the Friends of the Church – it was not possible to provide a police presence; however the GVFB would be asked at their next meeting if they

saw any instances of bad parking to ask drivers to move their vehicles and a similar approach would be taken by the Friends of the Church.

Councillor Harden reported a problem with residents parking on the double yellow lines opposite the Star, which created a hazard for vehicles turning from Bridge Street. PCSO Breeze undertook to follow this up.

PCSO Breeze then left the meeting

PLANNING

Notices of Refusal:

KET/2013/0842 Full planning permission 1 new dwelling, 23 West Street, Geddington (land adj.) – Mr & Mrs Storey

Reasons:

1. Out of keeping with the surrounding dwellings in the locality; will present a poor façade approached from the south; main elevation visually weak. As a result, detrimental to the street scene and to the Conservation Area in general. Therefore contrary to both the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy and s.72 of the Planning and Listed Buildings Act 1990 – preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.
2. Lack of key details in the submission for judging impact on a Conservation Area.
3. Proposed use of dropped kerb for vehicular access is inappropriate and will conflict with bus lay-by.

Notice of Approval:

KET/2013/0787 Outline planning permission – 1 x dwelling, 39 Stamford Road, Geddington – R Morgan
Conditions: 11 of them, mostly routine in nature although No. 10 relates to the need for a programme of archaeological investigation of the site.

New Application

KET/2014/0148 Grange Farmhouse, Grange Road, Geddington – Mr & Mrs Sharman. External alterations: Re-open doorway to east elevation. Alter doorway and window arrangements to north courtyard elevation. Installation of 4 no. roof lights. Internal alterations: Ground floor – relocate WC, pantry and boot room. Remove internal walls to create family room, enlarge doorway to kitchen. First floor: remove internal partition to form bedroom 3 and install en-suite. Restore staircase balustrades. Second Floor: install bathroom.

Approved.

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MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th March 2014 were read, confirmed and signed subject to the following addition and correction which following discussion was agreed:-

Use of Facebook by the Parish Council 145/14 (Addition to minutes):

Councillor Locock proposed and it was agreed that the Clerk should check with the Borough Council on the appropriate use of social media by Parish Councils.

All in favour.

Matters Arising:

Councillor Hodkinson raised the matter of the event update from Mr C Sparrow; Councillor Rowley confirmed that he had been invited to this, which was to take place on the 22nd April.

Data Protection policies and responsibilities of Parish Councils

162/14

This matter had been raised by Councillor Hodkinson. Councillor Rowley said that the Parish Council were registered under the Data Protection Act and that the Clerk was the custodian of all parish data held by her. Councillor Rowley also sought to remind all present, of the rules around Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, that all councillor's personal emails were accountable, which meant that all emails sent/received by individual councillors should be saved.

Review of Parish Council Agenda and meetings

163/14

Councillor Hopkins proposed that: *'Following the favourable outcome of last month's discussion, and a recent meeting with Councillor Hodkinson with an agreeable exchange of thoughts, I would like to propose that a modified Agenda be adopted by this Council from May 2014'*. (This document being submitted to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting).

Councillor Hopkins proposed that the format previously circulated via Councillor Hodkinson should be adopted, with the addition of initials of responsible Councillors next to any agenda item that related to them. Councillor Hopkins further proposed that this format could be used in the Minutes with the addition of an Action List. Councillor Padwick expressed concerns on the specific inclusion of 'Matters Arising' as past experience had shown that often too much time could be spent on these items and hamper progress. Councillor Locock recalled that the inclusion of 'Matters Arising' was simply to provide an update of an action from the previous meeting. Councillor Rowley liked the format but would not necessarily like the Action List to be included on the noticeboard. Councillor Rowley proposed the new format should be used and Councillor Hodkinson seconded the proposal. *All in favour.*

The Friends of the Church Garage Sale, Traffic Problems and Policing the event

(Already discussed under Police Report).

Full report and reasons for the delay of not carrying out this Council's proposal for registering the "Stonepit Land" with HMRC

164/14

Councillor Rowley explained that the document had been submitted on the evening of the last meeting and no response had been received. Councillor Hopkins queried why any delay had been necessary at all. Councillor Rowley said that Councillor Barber had asked him to assist because he had felt the Clerk needed some assistance to complete the document.

Social media – Parish Councillor contributions

165/14

Councillor Rowley reported that he had circulated the information received from Kettering Borough Council; he reported that he had spoken to Ian White and Sue Lyons who had confirmed that as long as the proposed items were factual and correct, any member of the Parish Council could post onto the website. Councillor Rowley reported that there had been two entries for March: one from Councillor Buckseall congratulating Kettering Borough Council for prosecuting more people for dog mess and there was another item concerning a lost cat. Councillor Locock thanked Councillor Rowley for following this matter up.

KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL ISSUES

166/14

Councillor Bullock confirmed that at the last meeting of the Borough Council, the budget had been set including the Council Tax. He had been against the budget because of the reduction in parish council grants and had been the only one to vote against it.

Councillor Bullock had overturned a planning refusal by the Borough Council in relation to an application to build a house by Rachel Morgan.

Councillor Bullock referred to the issue of the wall at the property of Mrs Askew and problems around a 28 day Notice and that the property is in a conservation area; he was meeting with council officers the next day.

Councillor Bullock would be attending the East Kettering Liaison Forum which was meeting the following week. He had no news as yet on the East Kettering development.

Councillor Watson raised the issue of responsibility of street lighting particularly in view of the fact that some of the street lights were now some 40 years old and this led to the matter of funding replacements. *Councillor Bullock undertook to follow this up.*

Councillor Bullock said that the Council would be ensuring the Nursery in Grange Road was fulfilling its obligations, as there had been reports of extra traffic particularly at weekends for children's parties.

NORTHANTS COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

167/14

Councillor Hopkins raised the matters of updates on the flooding of the main road as well as the imposition of double yellow lines at the bottom of Grange Road and wished the Clerk to send Councillor Harker a letter on these matters as there had been no update for some two months. Councillor Rowley said that he understood that the Clerk had sent reminders.

Action: Councillor Rowley undertook to follow these matters up.

A discussion then took place about the administration of the meeting which was curtailed by Councillor Rowley as it needed to be in closed session.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT AND PLAN

168/14

Councillor Padwick referred to the need to update the Parish Plan which was now ten years old, including play facilities, parking, traffic, bus transport and queried whether a questionnaire could be distributed, both online and hard copy for those not able to access computers, at a total cost of approximately £100. Councillor Rowley suggested September and October as realistic timescales.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

169/14

Councillor Harden had had a meeting two weeks ago with five attendees, including himself and the Police representative and there was to be an AGM on the 15th May at the Police Social Club.

NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY

There was nothing to report.

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

Clarification of the Role of the Flood Warden/County Council's proposals for flooding signage at the Ford.

170/14

Councillor Rowley undertook to circulate an email received on this issue and also undertook to speak to Sarah Pask regarding locking the gates. Councillor Padwick said that there was some pressure from the County Council for the village to have a specific Flood Warden. Councillor Watson urged caution on making any commitment on this.

Councillor Hodkinson highlighted a problem with the safety surface and lifting with the adhesive, in the children's play area.

Discussion about the repair of the fence down from the main road with the concrete steps. It was resolved that Councillor Kelman would obtain quotes to establish the cost effectiveness of repair/replacement.

Action: Councillor Kelman.

VILLAGE HALL

Councillor Locock – Village Hall Management Committee proposal: *‘That this Parish Council requires the Village Hall Management Committee to bring forward proposals for the letting of the new extension in line with its charitable objectives for consideration at the May 2014 meeting of the Parish Council’*

171/14

Councillor Rowley reported that he had seen Brian Leaton that evening who reported that the Village Hall Management Committee were working on collating the information requested. Councillor Locock requested that this be discussed at the May AGM and Councillor Rowley confirmed this. Councillor Watson said that the Village Hall Management Committee were under no obligation to provide information and the imposition of specific dates might be counter productive.

Councillor Locock proposed that a message be sent to Councillor Gordon sending the Council’s best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Action: Councillor Rowley undertook to send an email.

Councillor Locock left the meeting

ROAD SAFETY

172/14

Councillor Harden raised the issue of speeding in Newton Road and referred to Councillor Harker’s proposal several meetings ago, for putting in a chicane near Mill Farm area, but when he had challenged Councillor Harker on this proposal, Councillor Harker had said that this would not be possible. Councillor Rowley said he did not think Councillor Harker had ever made this proposal. Councillor Watson said the point was to try to slow the traffic down before it reached Newton Road.

LIGHTING AND FOOTPATHS

173/14

Councillor Hodgkinson reported ten street lights appeared to be in working order and he had reported those with problems.

RURAL FORUM

174/14

Nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

175/14

Councillor Rowley indicated that all matters pertaining to correspondence had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Suggested Agenda Items for the next meeting

176/14

Annual Meeting in May Timetable

Councillor Rowley suggested keeping the two meetings together on the same date, namely AGM for the first half an hour and then follow on with the normal monthly meeting on Monday 12th May provided there was quoracy. Following discussions Councillor Rowley agreed to check on timings/availability and report back shortly.

Action: Councillor Rowley

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

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ACCOUNTS

177/14

Community Account Statement as at 17.3.14	£5,936.66
Business Premium Account Statement as at 17.3.14	£10,711.93

Accounts received

No accounts were received

Accounts for payment

Vivienne Allport Secretarial services (1578)	£ 35.00
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Councillor proposed and Councillor seconded that the above payments should be made. All in favour.

Decision as to whether to insure the Play Equipment only for Insurance Purposes

Since the Parish Council were not in possession of full details of the potential costs to insure the play equipment fully, it was agreed that this item should be discussed at a future meeting when this was to hand.

Assets, Income and Expenditure

Councillor Locock's full proposal was as follows: *That this Parish Council concerned with the overall burden of local taxation agrees to thoroughly review Council assets, income and expenditure in advance of the April 2014 Parish Council meeting. In this respect the Finance Committee is instructed to*

- *Bring forward a complete list of assets with options as to how these might be exploited to increase Council income.*
- *Critically review both income and expenditure and report to the Council the main and regular items, again with options for savings.*
- *A preliminary report to be published to Parish Councillors by 31st March 2014 with a full debate, conclusions and decision to be taken at the April 2014 Council meeting.*

Update on Finance & Asset Review

Councillor Locock proposed and Councillor Kelman seconded that Councillors Watson, Locock, Rowley, Hodgkinson and Hopkins meet over the course of the next month to draft proposals. Councillors Rowley and Watson stated they would be unable to find time over the next month and it was therefore agreed that Councillor Locock consider a way forward and involve Councillors Hodgkinson and Hopkins in initial work. It was also agreed that the wording of the original proposal should be changed to state