

**GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

**Members present:** Councillor M Rowley (Chair)  
Councillors D Hodkinson, I Kelman, T Bailey, K Harden, C Buckseall,  
D.Rushton, A Gordon, P Hopkins, T Locock, J Padwick, N Batchelor.

**Apologies:** Councillor Watson.

**Also present:** Mr C Sparrow [CS] - Agent - Boughton Estates Ltd and four members of the public.

**028/15 Declarations of interest:** Cllr Rowley - Stone Pit land (trustee for Fire Brigade and the Scout group).

**029/15 PUBLIC SESSION**

Two members of the public commented on the speed, additional noise and increase in the traffic in Newton Road. A general traffic discussion raised the following issues:-

- The increase in traffic levels appears to be caused by vehicles using the new roundabout at the end of Newton Road. Drivers realise that it is quicker to access the A6003/ Corby via this route now.
- Problems with heavy goods vehicles – a weight limit applies, but Newton Road is only classified as “unsuitable for heavy goods”. Morrisons and Knights of Old heavy goods vehicles are coming through Geddington.
- The A43 is difficult to get across - previous discussions have included considering asking C.Cllr Harker if a vehicle count can be carried out.
- Traffic levels have not dramatically changed, even though the bypass should result in less traffic.
- Satellite navigation systems are not yet showing the A43 new bypass.
- There is a definite increase in speed on several of Geddington’s roads.
- Grafton Road and West Street also have traffic issues.

A discussion ensued concerning speed cameras. Cllr Hopkins said that the Police will not put speed cameras in Geddington. Cllr Rowley corrected this by stating that we are on the list for mobile speed cameras but low priority, as 85% of the traffic is within the speed limit. A member of the public added that any monitoring of the traffic needs to be carried out at peak time (8.30 – 8.45am). A further comment was made that Rodgers’ small buses are driving down the A43 into the village at some speed. Two actions were agreed:

**Action 1: Clerk to write to Rodgers’ buses regarding drivers speeding and to remind them of the 30mph limit.**

**Action 2: Clerk to write to Cllr J Harker (NCC) as to any practical suggestions, if there is anything he proposes to do, and to consider the possibility of chicane(s) for traffic calming measures on the corner of Newton Road (note: Cllr Rowley said that traffic calming measures were asked for some time ago).**

Cllr Rowley had emailed CS regarding the many comments on Facebook concerning heavy goods vehicles in West Street. CS said that the production traffic for Boughton Estates’ events should go through the Warkton Lane entrance. Additionally:-

- Boughton Estates vehicles will have trackers on them in the future.
- Those organising the bus accessing the village for pick-ups for the Green Belt event were unaware that it would be a double decker bus.

- Grain store lorries should not be going through the village.

All agreed the following action:-

**Action 3 - Cllr Padwick to put comment on Facebook asking witnesses to note the names and addresses of lorries that incorrectly are accessing West Street and Grafton Road.**

CS added that as regards to Planning, work is currently taking place on the application for the sewage road and North Geddington. Cllr Hodkinson enquired as to the consultation process, CS said there were a number of levels starting at the Core Spatial Strategy. The pre- application process is through the Borough Council. The Parish Council is an informative process.

Thanks were given to CS and his efforts as he will be leaving Boughton Estates shortly.

**030/15 It was agreed to move agenda item 10b (Additional street light in West Street) for discussion within the public session.**

Cllr Hodkinson said that it is proposed that the replacement light will be sited on the public highway by the corner of West End House, as per suggestion by Kettering Borough Council. No responses to the consultation letter had been received prior to tonight.

A member of the public (the owner of West End House) commented that there was potential intrusion of light into their living space, and added that the house is a Grade 2 listed building. Cllr Hodkinson said that the light was fixed on the wall of 44 West Street previously. He commented that modern lanterns shade out some but not all of the light. He added that the lamp had been requested, the Parish Council is the lighting authority and the gap between lights in this area is considerable. Cllr Rowley confirmed that other villagers had requested it. Cllr Hopkins said that there should be more consultation with those that live along West Street.

Other comments raised:-

- Any powers available for attaching to a house – answer was “no”.
- It will be in the footpath.
- There is a community safety issue for the elderly/in the winter, and was there any alternative site?
- General comment - visibility of other lights may be obscured by vegetation.

Agreed by all Cllrs present:-

**Action 4 - Cllr Hodkinson to carry out some further work on this issue, to include checking to see if there were any planning constraints.**

**Action 5 – Cllr Rowley to provide an illustration of the light, as well as research any cowling on any other light in the village.**

### **031/15 MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING**

The July minutes were agreed to be approved and signed by the Chair, but the following actions were noted as outstanding:-

**July Action 1 - Clerk to write to Rodgers Coaches (see Action 1 above).**

**July Action 2 - MR to email Cllr Bullock regarding footpath.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**032/15** Open and Accountable Local Government. Email received was noted.

**033/15** Community Pathfinder Project – Flooding. Those present agreed:-

**Action 6 – Clerk to action - any date to be set and village hall booked for a 7.30pm meeting for this issue to be discussed, two weeks’ notice is required.**

**034/15** Register of electoral information, letter received from KBC. Cllr Padwick commented that employing two people, all day, in a village location was a possible waste of resources.

**Action 7** - It was agreed to add the letter to next month's agenda for discussion.

**035/15** Letter received from Mr Brian Thompson concerning vandalism of a bench installed at the far side of the village recreation field (in memory of the A'Ness's). Maintenance of the village hall recreation field and the car park resulted in Cllr Locock suggesting that Askews the hairdressers be approached, for their customers who park in the village hall car park to be asked if they would like to make a donation for upkeep of the car park. Cllr Hopkins added that the parish council had no responsibility for the bench.

**Action 8** - It was agreed to add this topic to the next agenda for possible replacement in a different location and in toughened plastic.

A further vandalized seat (in memory of Gladys Risely) was discussed - Cllr K said he was willing to cut away some of the undergrowth around the seat to make the area more visible. However, the tree would need to be replaced as well. It was then noted that the bench on the main road was installed in memory of Ted & Alice Barlow, but this was not brought to the parish council at all. Cllr Hopkins stated that this was not a parish council issue.

## **PLANNING**

### **Applications**

KET/2014/0485 – Mr A Groome – Two storey rear extension

*Concerns were raised as to if the building was outside the parish boundary. It was agreed that the proposal on the application should ask “is it on (outside) the existing village boundary? If it is not, the parish council is in favour of the application”.*

KET/2014/0511 – Mrs R Askew - Variation of condition 12 of KET/2014/0197 in respect of landscaping

KET/2014/0512 – Mrs R Askew - Stabilisation of a retaining wall that is part of a Listed Building

*The closure of Queen Street was raising ongoing concerns. It was agreed –*

**Action 9**: Clerk to contact the KBC and ask if single file traffic is now possible along Queen Street. (This request to be added to the planning application comments as well.)

Cllr Rushton added that a revised timescale was needed, as the 10 weeks as per the signage had been exceeded.

Cllr Padwick referred back to buildings outside the parish boundary. He said that the Core Spatial Strategy, the village design statement and the consultation concerning the village boundary all needed to be considered.

He said a meeting with a KBC Planner was needed and the village design statement is agreed in draft form. Ongoing KBC boundary work would reach final decisions in early spring. The parish council needs to refresh itself regarding what are the specifics and the important issues. All agreed

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**Action 10** – Cllr Padwick to organize a Saturday am meeting for village design statement discussion.

Cllr Rowley added that one more planning application had been submitted, but it was not received by the parish council. This related to a house in Skeffington Close, the original planning application altered to include a sun house. Agreed that –

**Action 11: Clerk to write to Planning to find out why the application did not come to the parish council.** It was commented that the clerk should have notification of all the planning applications.

**Action 12 - It was agreed that MR and AC would verify the process.**

It was also commented that the field up to Mill Farm is now included in the ancient heritage boundary. However, the parish council were not notified of any discussion or paper regarding this. All agreed –

**Action 13 – Clerk to write to KBC Planning to remind them that anything that includes Geddington needs to be sent to the parish council for comment, and why did this not happen with an Ancient Heritage boundary discussion and decision (cc Cllr Bullock).**

### **036/15 FINANCE**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Community account statement as at 15.8.14 | £10,121.28 |
| Business Saver account as at 17.6.14      | £10,713.27 |

#### Accounts received

No accounts were received.

#### Accounts for payment

|                        |  |         |
|------------------------|--|---------|
| HW Accountants         | Audit fee (payment agreed 09/06/2014). ch no. 101585               | £396.00 |
| Loak Building Services | (sleeper on footbridge replacement in the meadow)<br>ch no: 101588 | £86.40  |

Payment of Loak invoice proposed by Cllr Rowley, seconded by Cllr Padwick.

To re-appoint the Clerk to the position of RFO (Responsible Financial Officer) following temporary transfer June Minutes 021/15. Agreed by those present.

Purchase of book/booklets to help or provide information for new parish clerk. Agreed by those present, maximum of £185.00.

### **037/15 FINANCE & ASSET REVIEW - UPDATE**

Update from Village Hall group - No update.

#### Update from the Stone Pit land group

Cllr Padwick and Cllr Buckseall stated that a proposal had been put to the Youth Club and the Voluntary Fire Brigade for the £150 per annum rent to be increased to £250. It was emphasised that this is not a decision. However, both organisations have indicated that this would be agreeable.

Clarification was given that the lease agreement would remain for the Youth Club and the Voluntary Fire Brigade. The land is sublet to the Scouts (approval given by the parish council) and the dances held are fundraising for the Youth Club management fund. The Fire Brigade have the

use of the whole land, with the rent being for the footprint of the land. The accounts are viewed by the parish council.

Cllr Padwick proposed that £250.00 be the revised rental figure for the Youth Club and £250.00 for the Geddington Voluntary Fire Brigade from 1 January 2015, to be reviewed every three years. Cllr Locock proposed that the decision was delayed, as more information was needed. A vote was taken, the proposal by Cllr Padwick was passed. Three Cllrs abstained from voting.

#### Report of meeting with Chris Sparrow regarding Recreation Field Lease

Reported that the field lease does not include the berm, but it does include the triangle from the corner of the village hall small room to (and including) the bowling club land. It was agreed:-

**Action 14 - Clerk to chase the outstanding report/ letter concerning the recreation field.**

CS had stated that there was a preference for organisations not to be charged for use of the recreation field, but some sort of “permitted use” agreement for those who use it may be considered. Other comments made:-

- A third party cannot act on the parish council’s behalf.
- Everyone should have their own indemnity insurance, for example the cricket club, and the parish council should have an agreement with them.
- Anyone can use the field.

It was agreed that the parish council need to wait for the letter from CS. CS had previously indicated that there was a possibility of no rent for the recreation field or reduced rent within a 5year agreement, with no charges for use of the field by any organisation. This would be needed in writing.

#### **038/15 VILLAGE HALL**

A meeting will take place 7 October 2014, but issues relating are not progressing very fast.

#### **039/15 ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION**

**Action.15 – It was agreed that an annual inspection of the play area was needed. Clerk to contact NALC.**

#### Empty house in Newton Road concerns

Cllr Harden said that pipes had burst in the empty house over the previous winter, the garden is in a very bad state, nearby residents are concerned that burst pipes/ general neglect will affect their properties. KBC have said however that it is a private matter. Cllr Hopkins said that the parish council cannot get involved, but all agreed:-

**Action 16 - Cllr Gordon will make some enquiries.**

An update was also given for the brick yard garden. The gate is in place at the bottom of Clay Dick. The barns are currently being demolished.

#### **040/15 HIGHWAYS/ LIGHTING/ FOOTPATHS/ ROAD SAFETY**

Blocked highway drains in the village, specifically those with vertical metal drains apertures that are set into the kerbs – rather than those set into the gutter.

Cllr Hodkinson said that one drain in Stamford Road near the farm entrance caused flooding. Cllr Rowley said that there is currently monitoring only, no work is being carried out to the drains. It was agreed that the drains need cleaning and ensuring that there is free drainage to the brook.

**Action 17:- Clerk to contact the NCC/ Street Doctor – regarding what is the policy, and to ask for copies of maps of the drains. Cllr Hodkinson will assist with this if needed.**

The FOI act was referred to. Additionally, Cllr Gordon said that many drains are soak-aways, and do not link up to the sewers.

Additional street light in West Street - discussed within the public session. Agreed that -

**Action 18:- Cllr Hodkinson will organise a viewing time in West Street for a visual discussion of the proposed siting.**

Street lighting general.

- Newton Road (near crossroads) is now back in use.
- Ferndale Close – one light has been repaired but this is an ongoing issue.
- Cllr Hodkinson asked that if any street lights are out that they are reported immediately now the evenings are darker. 1 x New Road, 1 x at bottom of Skeffington Close and 1 x in Queen Eleanor are currently not working.
- Future consideration may need to be given to a gap in street lighting in Queen Street near the post office as there is a 400 feet gap between two current lights.

Parking on the corner of Grange Road and Skeffington Close

The Lavender Blue nursery sub-let their swimming pool, resulting in users parking in Skeffington Close rather than the Lavender Blue car park. Vehicles cannot park by the industrial units, and it would cost £35,000 to tarmac the grassed area at the top of Skeffington Close. Lavender Blue have been notified of the problem – it is a deviation of the planning application for the nursery.

**Action 19:-Clerk to contact the Enforcement Officer regarding staff parking on the road. Cc Cllr Bullock and the PCSO.**

## **NEWTON & LITTLE OAKLEY**

No reports were given.

### **AOB/ Items for next month's Agenda/**

AOB – School parking congestion - Cllr Hopkins reported that the driveway in Grafton Road appeared to be being used to take children to school. Boughton Estates have said that they own it, that it is not an adopted road.

Cllr Batchelor asked who he needed to contact to find out about signage on the main road for a historical church.

Cllr Rowley reminded all Cllrs of the free training courses email that had been circulated.

For the next agenda.

- HMRC application – it has been returned again.
- Register of electoral information, letter received from KBC
- Vandalism of benches

Meeting closed at 9.53pm.