

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH OCTOBER 2014

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

Apologies: Councillors A Gordon and T Locock.

Also present: Mr C Sparrow [CS] – Agent, and Rachel - Boughton Estates Ltd. One member of the public.

041/15 Declarations of interest: None were given

042/15 PUBLIC SESSION

The member of the public asked if the three large trees in the vicinity of the village hall car park entrance could be cut down/ cut back, as they are interfering with reception. She acknowledged that the trees help to filter the light from cars coming out of the car park, but added that they also appeared to be ruining the wall to the car park – a large crack has now appeared. It was agreed by all councillors present that the trees and the wall should be looked at, however the trees are in a conservation area and ownership of each of the trees needs to be determined.

ACTION 1. – Village Hall Management Committee to be asked to look at the trees and comment (as to ownership).

C Sparrow (CS) informed the meeting as to the main items that Boughton Estates are currently working on. These are:-

- a) Newton Field Centre.
 - b) Boughton Estates - Events for 2015
 - c) Handover
 - d) New road and north area of Geddington
 - e) A single turbine - sited north of Newton, across by the sewage works.
- a) CS, as Chair of the Newton Field Centre, is aware that the Parish Council has an interest in the building and its usages. The County Council have a service level agreement with the field centre which they currently part fund. The probability is that the part funding will end after the 2015/16 financial year. It is envisaged that the centre will be able to remain solvent until 2018 (current usage of the Centre is 2000 school children a year plus adults). He noted that the Parish Council may have a possible political influence. The management committee have firm ideas as to how to take the entity forward.
- b) Forthcoming events over the next twelve months will be a firework display, Tough Mudder, Greenbelt and two possible sporting events.
- c) Rachel is the Interim Estate Manager. She will attend the Parish Council meetings.
- d) Two applications were being worked on.
1. For a new road and a bridge, by a firm called "Landscape Estates". The bridge will link the A4300 at the sewage works to Grafton Road near to the Youth Club and have a weight limit of 40 tons.
 2. Planning application for the north part of Geddington. The firm involved is "Shakespeares". The pre application talks have started with KBC. Physical issues need to be resolved, such as sewage, foul waste and flood water. Most of the work has been carried out, and it is in its last stage before the pre-consultation. The application will include 50 houses as before, to take into account the Local Needs Survey and affordable housing.
- e) Single turbine, north of Newton, near the sewage works.

This is linked to the grain store. CS left a copy of the plan with the Parish Council. Three photo montages were required, those parish councillors present were asked for their views. CS said the turbine would be a 50 metre hub and only one turbine was being considered. Cllr Harden asked if there would be more than one at a later stage. CS replied that this was down to policy. He added that there was a place for renewable energy.

Cllrs appeared unsure of the exact siting of the parish boundary in the proposed area.

ACTION 2: Clerk to contact Ian White for boundary and public rights of way maps.

Problems with grain trucks accessing the grain store via the village and Newton Road - CS said that if any go across from West Street into Newton Road, please make a note of the date. The trucks can be identified via CCTV (entrance to the grain store) and GPS on the trucks. An agreement is in place whereby the lorries should not be going into to Newton Road from West Street.

The route is:- If the load is milling wheat – out of Boughton Estates to West Street, left onto the A4300, down to Weekley, to the Harvester and back up to the grain store.

If the load is feed wheat – route is Grafton Underwood, Cranford, A14 to Cambridge (main Cam Grain base). If empty lorries are picking up – they come through Cranford, Grafton Underwood, Grafton Road, West Street, to Acreland. They will occasionally come from the A4300 up West Street.

043/15 MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

A typo was noted and will be corrected.

Terminology for the school parking congestion (brought up in A.O.B.) was incorrect, this will be corrected.

They were approved and will be signed by the Chair once the two points above have been corrected.

An update was given as to progress of the action points:-

- Actions awaiting replies are to be/have been chased.
- Action 11 resulted in all councillors agreeing a recommendation that the clerk should be the main contact with KBC Planning.
- Cllr Rowley asked if one outstanding action could be resent to C.Cllr Harker (clerk had sent it to NCC Street Doctor).

CORRESPONDENCE

044/15 - KBC Work programme 2014 – for information, circulated prior to the meeting.

045/15 - Rural Forum – contacts given to the Police for Mobile Police Unit site knowledge - for information, circulated prior to the meeting.

046/15 - Delegates for Kettering Parish: a 20:20 vision (for 6.10.14). Reported that Cllrs Bailey and Watson plus the parish clerk had attended.

047/15 - Scouts request to use wooded area of recreation field after dark (for 26.9.14). Cllr Rowley had been asked to pass on thank yous from the scouts to the Parish Council allowing use of the area for one night.

048/15 - Civic ball invitation from Mayor (for 7.11.14) – for individual consideration.

049/15 - Community Governance review – final proposal. – numbers of parish councillors to remain at 13.

PLANNING

Applications

KET/2014/0578 Mr Smith 9 Wood street, full application. Two story rear extension with 3 dormer windows.

All cllrs present agreed to support the application.

KET/2014/0616 Mr Le Blond Stoneleigh Priory Court, full application. Demolition of outbuildings and erection of single storey extension with garage.

All councillors present were in agreement to oppose the application.

KET/2014/0469 Mr Shepherd Bath Road Kettering, full application. Small holding for rare breed sheep, poultry and pigs, siting of agricultural dwelling and sewage treatment plant. Location - Stamford road (land off).

All councillors present were in agreement to oppose the application.

KET/2014/O614 - Mr McCallum-Toppin The Old School House Grafton Road - various internal and external alterations.

All councillors present agreed to support the application.

KET/2014/0502 Mr & Mrs Best, 48 West Street - Various internal and external alterations.
All cllrs present agreed to support the application

KET/2014/0579 Mr Lyon 4 Priory - Single story side and rear extension.
All cllrs present agreed to support the application.

Other Planning issues.

Cllr Padwick added that he would need any comments or any issues that needed to be raised with the Planning Officer sending to him within the next few days, for the meeting that he was currently arranging concerning Planning.

050/15 FINANCE

Community account statement as at 17.9.14	£9,725.28
Business Saver account as at 17.9.14	£10,714.71

Accounts received

No accounts were received.

Accounts for payment

BDO (Accounts) ch no. 101590 £120.00
PAYE (maximum estimated amount due) ch no: 101594 170.00

All Cllrs present agreed for a cheque to be written for PAYE for £170.00, to be adjusted at the next quarterly payment.

ACTION 3: Clerk to speak to Cllr Watson concerning BDO.

Cllr Watson then gave an overview of finances as per the “Kettering Parishes: a 2020 vision”, with further comments and feedback given by Cllr Bailey. He said that the meeting had started by discussing the need for parish councils to have a Business Plan, stating their aims and ambitions, and a statement of the council’s purpose, its priorities etc. However, discussions moved on to precepting and abolition of the grant, with the responsibility now on the parish councils for raising funds. Several comments were made referring to “double taxation”. Several parish councillors at the 2020 meeting were worried that not only lighting may have to be paid for, but also hedge and grass cutting, and sidewalk maintenance.

Councillors at the parish council meeting then had a discussion concerning who delivers which services.

Cllr Watson added that Danny Moody had been instructed to inform KBC that parish councillors are not happy with the services provided, communication is poor and KBC does not listen to the results of any consultation. Cllr Bailey added that they had tried to ascertain what services the Borough Council provide to us and there should be some “set off” costs against the precept. Both councillors spoke of the need to consider these issues when producing the parish plan, that parish plans should form the basis of services needed.

Cllr Padwick added that if parish and town councils are expected to provide services, such as in Wellingborough and Market Harborough, there must be a case for off setting the costs against the precept.

Cllr Watson quoted the example of Geddington recreation field – villagers have to pay for the use of it via the precept, as well as paying council tax, although it is open for use by anybody. Those wishing to use the North Park, however have already paid for use of the park via their council tax, so residents of Geddington appear to pay twice.

A discussion then followed highlighting precept levels against numbers of electors.

ACTION 4: Clerk to send copy of the precept levels plus “Developing a Council Business Plan” to all.

ACTION 5: Cllr Rowley to follow up grants/ local government funding – having to be given back to rural areas, not used in towns.

ACTION 6: Clerk to contact KBC to determine who delivers which services.

051/15 FINANCE & ASSET REVIEW - UPDATE

ACTION 7: Cllr Rowley to file the berm letter and lease in the Dropbox.

Update from Village Hall group

Cllr Rowley said that there was currently no update to give as the meeting had been cancelled the week before. He added that Brian Leaton, Cllr Gordon and himself were setting a new date for a further meeting.

Recreation Ground

The letter had been received from Boughton Estates concerning the recreation field lease, and circulated prior to the meeting. There were no comments raised.

Registration with HMRC

An application for charity status for Stonepit land was being written, at the level needed if value is under £5000. Three Responsible Officers are needed, with only one name provided at present. All councillors present agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair of the parish council should be the other named officers.

ACTION 8: Cllr Rowley to forward the completed document to the clerk.

052/15 KBC - REGISTER OF ELECTORAL INFORMATION

Cllr Watson suggested that the Newton polling station could be put forward for closure. 34 residents are registered to vote, only 10 voted at the polling station at the last election.

As regards to siting, Cllr Bailey said that £4,000 had just been spent to install ramps at Little Oakley village. After a general discussion, it was agreed by all councillors present that the village hall remained the best venue for Geddington.

053/15 ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

a) Meeting for Village Design Statement discussion/update – Cllr Padwick reported that this is being finalised, details will be sent out shortly.

b) Parish Plan – Cllr Padwick reported that this also is in hand.

c) Neighbourhood Watch sign positioning –

Cllr Rowley asked if councillors were happy for signs in Skeffington Close to be installed. All councillors present were in agreement that these could be installed.

d) Community Pathfinder Project – meeting to be held 27.10.14.

Cllr Hodkinson and Cllr Padwick agreed to hand deliver leaflets to those properties that have been flooded in the past.

ACTION 9: Cllr Rowley to print leaflets and drop off to Cllr Padwick.

ACTION 10: Cllrs Padwick and Hodkinson to deliver leaflets to the relevant addresses.

The Volunteer Fire Brigade have expressed an interest in applying for £3000 worth of equipment, to include sandbags and spades. They need to find out what the options are regarding the type of equipment.

e) Vandalism of bench – possible replacement/change of location and material.

Cllr Rowley commented that councillors need to look at non destructible benches. Cllr Watson commented that the Cricket Club are offering to pay for three new benches, but the criteria as to type and materials used needs to be specified.

ACTION 11: Clerk to obtain details/pricing etc as to the black solid recycled plastic benches (as currently on the playing field).

It was commented as an aside that advertising on the recreation ground is not allowed.

ACTION 12: Cllr Rowley to email the Cricket Club to point this out.

It was also agreed in principal that the A'Ness bench and the bench tucked away in the bushes on the far side of the recreation field will be replaced, pending costings, and possible relocations. The bench on the main road that had been vandalised may not be replaced, but the placque may be moved to another bench.

e) Annual Inspection and Certification of Play Area – Inspectors.

Three quotes to be obtained.

ACTION 13: Clerk to obtain three quotes from ROSPA, Playsafe and Wicksteeds.

It was noted that there possibly needs to be a meeting at the play area with the contractor. If there is a safety complaint it should still be covered by the contractor. The certificate of implementation was received when the equipment was installed, but nothing has been received since.

ACTION 14: Cllr Kelman to give a report as to updating on this matter.

f) Bund at the top of Wood Street – request sent to KBC (Michael Chester)

A request for a small weave mesh to be added to the current metal cage - it was commented that the cage was installed by the Environmental Agency. They therefore need to assess the channel/opening to determine if a closer mesh weave is desirable. Cllr Rowley commented that this could be raised at the Pathfinder project meeting.

ACTION 15: Clerk to email all councillors to remind them of this and any other questions that they think are relevant, to raise at the meeting.

054/15 HIGHWAYS/ LIGHTING/ FOOTPATHS/ ROAD SAFETY

a) Additional light in West Street – update

Councillor Hodkinson reported that Listed Building Consent would be required for the location outside no. 46 West Street. He circulated paper copies of an example of a nineteenth century style lantern likely to find favour in such a location.

ACTION 16: Councillor Hodkinson to email a copy of the circulated example to Councillor Rowley.

Cllr Hodkinson also reported that the earlier light was now understood to have been attached to no. 19b, not no. 46, so he would not now be chasing Henderson Connellan.

ACTION 17: Agreed that Councillor Hodkinson's next step should be to consult Jim McNally, Kettering BC, on the feasibility of a further alternative of location, in the public footpath in front of the nearby corner of no. 46.

The only other alternative is as discussed previously – on the footpath(on the corner) which is public highway.

Cllr Rowley commented that lack of light in this area means that it is virtually a blind spot for pedestrians and the Highway Authority would be responsible for any claims for accidents. However, It has been minuted that the Parish Council are actively pursuing the objective of replacing the light in the area.

b) Other lighting issues – the light(s) by the Eleanor Cross are on in the daytime. Reported that Cllr Gordon was going to phone the company responsible.

Action 18: - Clerk to email Cllr Gordon to ask if he is able to do this.

NEWTON & LITTLE OAKLEY

No reports were given.

Items for next month's Agenda/AOB

Items for next month's Agenda

a) The expenditure budget needs to be assembled, to include street lights.

Cllr Watson commented that the budget discussions and decisions will form the basis of the precept for 2015 – 2016. If no decision is put forward, the earliest any change of precept will be able to be received will be in June 2016.

c) Parish Council website and email address (the URL that is being used).

d) Signage – brick wall.

AOB:

a) Cllr Watson reported that the Rural Forum had had two meetings. The A6 meeting had taken 50 minutes, the Rural Forum (rural) meeting had taken 2 hr 50 minutes, the same agenda was used for both the meetings. He added that there may be a clerks' meeting arranged at some stage.

b) The Government Review - Geddington Newton & Little Oakley parish to remain with 13 seats.

c) Update needed as to the Crime Commissioner.

d) S.106 monies used by KBC and the CC – there is no consultation with the Parish Council.

e) The old recycling centre in Cunliffe Drive – this is now a recycling and energy efficiency education centre.

Meeting closed at 9.49pm.