

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH NOVEMBER 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor M Rowley (Chair)
Councillors D Watson, D Hodkinson, I Kelman, K Harden, D.Rushton,
A Gordon, P Hopkins, J Padwick, N Batchelor.

APOLOGIES: Councillor T Bailey

ALSO PRESENT: Rachel – Interim Estates Manager, Boughton Estates Ltd. 3 members of the public.

055/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Rowley - planning application i) KET/2014/0662, Harkers Barkers (relative).

056/15 PUBLIC SESSION

One resident reported fireworks going off in the recreation field on Saturday (8.11.14). Spent rockets were found in the car park the following day, within feet of a thatched roof. Further fireworks had burnt bamboo stakes within a private garden. The concern centred around fire risk as there are several thatched roofs in the centre of the village. It is unknown who held a big party as no permission was asked for or given.

ACTION 1. – The tennis and bowls clubs to be emailed to ensure that they are aware that permission must be sought from the Parish Council if any one-off event is being considered by a group/an individual.

ACTION 2. – The clerk to diary date for an article to be submitted to the Newsletter in July 2015 concerning fireworks, usage or otherwise in the recreation field and the surrounding area.

Rachel informed the meeting regarding the proposed development of the land to the north of the village. A conditional contract with Maurice Homes has been agreed, subject to planning permission being given for the development. The application for the bridge is also progressing. A possible meeting is being proposed by Boughton Estates on 16 December 2014 so that they can go through all the potential/ forthcoming planning applications that will be submitted in the near future.

The photo montages of the proposed wind turbine is being finalised.

Mill Farm (on the outskirts of Newton) – a planning application will be submitted in the near future to convert this into 1 x 4 bed house and 2 x 2 bedroom houses.

057/15 MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

The following changes to item 054/15 were agreed by all cllrs present.

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 B.C., on the feasibility of a further alternative location, in the public footpath in front of the nearby corner of no. 46.*

The minutes were approved and will be signed by the Chair subject to the above correction taking place.

An update was given as to progress of the action points, the clerk reported that actions awaiting replies are to be or have been chased.

CORRESPONDENCE

058/15 - Email from Cllr Locock – letter of resignation dated 31.10.14

059/15 - Precepts notification and form from KBC, to be returned by 30.1.15

060/15 - Installation of Christmas lights (email from Kerry Palmer, NCC – 29.10.14)

061/15 - Courses for the remainder of 2014 and on into 2015 (email from Northants calc - 28.10.14)

062/15 - Parish & Town Councils "How to stand for election" - leaflets from KBC

063/15 - Your guide to council services 2014/15 - leaflets from KBC

PLANNING

a) Applications.

i) KET/2014/0662, Harkers Barkers, Cobley Lodge Farm, Stamford Rd, Lt Oakley. Siting of mobile home to accommodate an essential worker to assist with the operation of 30 dog boarding kennels.

Several points were discussed concerning this application –

1. This differs from the application strongly objected to (KET/2014/0469) last month in that this is a very well established and thriving business, with full planning permission having been previously given for the original business planning application.
2. 1 x cllr commented that in order to obtain a boarding kennels licence, the stipulation is stated that there must be one person present at all times to look after the dogs.
3. The cllrs understand that it will be sited where a portacabin was originally.
4. The cllrs wished to emphasis again the distinctions between this and the previously mentioned application.

However - The cllrs asked for Planning to explore carefully considerations/conditions that can be put in place to ensure that the dwelling is for the use of the person employed for the care of the animals and that it cannot be used for a dwelling for other persons other than the person directly employed for care of the boarding kennels dogs.

All cllrs present agreed to approve the application, subject to the above considerations by Planning.

ii) KET/2014/0721 - Dr J Fletcher, 10 Bakehouse Hill. Removal of fireplace between the kitchen and dining room.

All cllrs present agreed to approve the application

iii) KET/2014/0651 - Mr & Mrs Gibson, 1 Bridge Street. Single storey rear extension with lobby, internal alterations, partial removal of kitchen and lobby wall, block up window to utility room, new roof structure.

There were no objections raised by those cllrs present .

iv) KET/2014/0709 - Mr & Mrs Gibson, 1 Bridge Street. Proposed development: Single storey rear extension (note – application submitted twice as x 1 is a listed building application)

There were no objections raised by those cllrs present .

v) KET/2014/0713 - Mrs J White, 28-30 Grange Rd, Geddington. Variation of condition 9 and removal of conditions 14&15 of KET/2011/0227, for maximum number of children & parking plans.

Several points were discussed concerning this application –

1. The original planning application stated provision of parking and number of children conditions in recognition of traffic flows in Grange Road/ top of Skeffington Close. It was felt that the conditions would be tighter if the same planning application was submitted now.
2. Comments received via Facebook indicate near accidents involving children from those posting the comments.
3. One resident stated that a resident's driveway had been blocked by irresponsible parking by somebody using the nursery.
4. Skeffington Close was experiencing constant parking on the road and grass verges which in turn are now deeply rutted.
5. Skeffington Close is sometimes blocked by cars accessing the nursery, to such an extent that an emergency vehicle would not be able to enter or exit the Close.
6. A resident said that the cars do not merely drop off children and drive off. The parents stop and chat for several minutes which makes the problem worse.
7. Subletting of the pool for swimming lessons was continuing.
8. The current maximum number of children allowed is being exceeded at the present time.
9. "Why would we approve an application when the nursery has already breached the stated conditions".
10. "The application needs to go to the Planning Committee."

Those cllrs present objected to the planning application. As there was agreed strong opposition to the application, the application feedback will include a request for the application to go to the Planning Committee.

ACTION 3: Clerk to send a copy of the email previously sent to KBC concerning traffic issues & enforcement of planning regulations to Martin Hammond, to ensure that it is considered along with other objections raised.

b) Report of planning – policy/issues meeting (3.11.14) – work or actions needed?

It was agreed by those cllrs who had attended the meeting that the meeting with the Senior Planning Officer had been worthwhile and had clarified several planning issues.

064/15 - NCALC UPDATE ON BEST PRACTICE FOR EMAIL AND WEBSITE USAGE.

Cllrs were asked by the Chair to review email and website for all Council correspondence. There are two issues: 1. cllrs using their own email address (as opposed to a parish council email address which included their name) , and 2. should the declarations of interest be available online within a stand-alone parish council email address. Cllr Hopkins stated that there was no need for another web site when the Geddington.net website was updated on a regular basis. Cllr Rushton added that if you were creating a domain name, an additional website could be set up for planning applications/issues as well.

The majority of cllrs were not in favour of adding register of interests to the website. A vote was not taken, but a majority of cllrs expressed a preference for leaving the existing parish council information within the Geddington.net site.

065/15 - FINANCE

Business Saver account	as at 17.9.14 (Issued quarterly)	£10,714.71
Community account statement	as at 17.10.14	£ 9,639.02

a) Accounts received

None.

b) Accounts for payment

ICO data protection registration.	Ch. 101594	£35.00
Geddington Village Hall	Ch.101595	£157.50 (2 nd half fee for 2014)
R.B.L.	Ch.101596	£35.00 (poppy wreath)
Boughton Estates	Ch.101597	£570.00 (1/2 yr lease recreation field)
Kettering Borough Council questionnaire)	Ch.101598	£199.80 (Printing Services – Parish Plan)
Parish Clerk's salary	Ch. 101599	£345.99 (1/4 yr for Aug, Sept, Oct 2014)
Equipment depreciation allowance	"	£60.00 (" ")

Cllr Hopkins stated that he did not agree to the poppy wreath invoice of £17.00 being paid for from precept funding. A donation of £35 is normally sent by the parish council to the British Legion. Cllr Hopkins offered to pay the £35.00 himself. Cllr Gordon confirmed that the donation used to be forthcoming from the cllrs' personal contributions. For several years now however, the parish council has presented a wreath that has been from the parish council, and funded through parish council funds. It was agreed that the poppy wreath invoice (£17) would be paid, but £35.00 in total would be sent by the parish council to the Royal British Legion, to include an £18.00 donation as well. .. Motion proposed by Cllr Kelman, seconded by Cllr Gordon.

c) Budget projections for 2015/16

Cllr Kelman reported that repairs to the soft matting area of the playground were needed – the matting has pulled away from the tarmac. The initial costing has been priced at £1300.00 plus VAT. It was agreed that three quotes need to be obtained for the repair job. Projected total cost = £1500.00. Cllr Rowley said that clarification was needed as to whether the work be carried out before or after March 2015.

ACTION 4: - Cllr Kelman to obtain a total of three quotes.

Cllr Hodkinson reported that lighting costs have a projected cost of £1100.00 - £1200.00. This was allocated originally for the 2014/15 budget , but it will now need to be part of the budget for 2015/16.

Cllr Watson asked what costs need to be allowed for work relating to the Village Plan. No costs were forthcoming at this stage.

d) Precept discussion.

Cllr Watson reminded the meeting that the request for precept must be submitted by 31.1.2015, with the funding then received in May 2015. He reminded cllrs that installation of the playground and the footpath to the Youth Club were work carried out as per residents' requests at consultation. Similar funding for community led work would not now be available as the present precept does not allow for it. Similar potential projects to benefit the village as a whole need to be considered within the precept discussion.

ACTION 5: Clerk to inform as to costs at the moment, per year.

It was agreed that a possible separate meeting may be needed for finance and precepting.

066/15 FINANCE & ASSET REVIEW – UPDATE

Update from Village Hall group/Village Hall issues

There will be a meeting on Wednesday 12 November for the village hall sub-committee. Any decisions made will be reported at the next Parish Council meeting.

Recreation Ground

Nothing to report.

067/15 ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

a. Report of Pathfinder Project Meeting (27.10.14) and proposals for way forward.

Cllr Rushton and Cllr Buckseall are considering putting themselves forward as flood wardens.

ACTION 6: - Clerk to email Mary Donague to obtain a list of possible equipment, leaflets and information that can be considered. The Voluntary Fire Brigade have agreed to sort out the equipment for the village. It was also clarified that the equipment will be given to the village via the parish council.

b. Roots of the tree in Queen Street – any developments?

There appears to be uncertainty as a recommendation has gone forward that the wellingtonia tree in the garden on the corner of Queen Street and Grange Road be demolished. Accessing the road in this area is not safe, the wall has once again cracked and the roots are destroying the drains.

ACTION 7:- Clerk to write to KBC, Cllr Harker and Highways to find out if any potential action is planned.

c. Benches - Replacement of benches/change of location/specification of material used.

Clarified that the Keith A'Ness bench was bought by the family, vandalised almost immediately, and the parish council replaced it.

The vandalised bench on the main road was installed without the knowledge of the parish council.

The vandalised bench at the end of the recreation ground in the bushes – the decision needs to be made whether to remove or replace.

ACTION 8:- Clerk to obtain definite costs for the preferred style of bench and installation costs.

It was decided that exact siting of any replacement benches could be carried out after the costs have been obtained. However, it was agreed that the seating will be just in the recreation ground, and the existing bench on the main road as you leave the village (Kettering end) would not be replaced by any other bench in that location.

d. Geddington Cricket Club requests (1) for shared funded seating around the cricket pitch (2) approval to move the cricket nets to another area of the park and (3) change of lease to allow advertising on the recreation ground.

-Request 1 – Additional seating of 2 or 3 benches would be needed for the Spring. The Cricket Club will need to allocate somebody to work with a parish cllr to move this forward. Cllr Kelman will lead on this.

The cllrs were reminded that as well as funding or part funding by the Cricket Club for any benches requested by them, funding applications may be submitted to Cllr Bullock and Cllr Harker.

ACTION 9:- All suggestions as to siting to be amalgamated by Cllr Kelman by Spring 2015.

ACTION 10:- Cllr Padwick to speak to the residents of Castle Gardens as to their views for any seating preferences.

-Request 2. Re-siting of the cricket nets. – A request has been received to re-site the nets to where the old junior football pitches used to be. An AOB item received after the agenda was circulated was mentioned at this stage because of its relevance: a request has been received for a rugby club to start using the recreation field. Cllr Rowley said that the Village Hall Management Committee will look at the request and submit a proposal to the parish council as to plans for approval.

ACTION 11. Clerk to contact the Cricket Club to inform them that their requests are currently under discussion.

-Request 3. Advertising on the nets – the Cricket Club are requesting to change the lease to allow advertising on the recreation ground. This is not currently allowed under the terms of the lease from Boughton estates and Chris Sparrow has previously stated that he did not want the terms of the lease of the recreation ground to the parish council to be changed.

After a discussion, the cllrs decided unanimously that it was not desirable to see advertising on the recreation ground.

e. Annual Inspection and Certification of Play Area – update.

The cllrs agreed that the inspection would be carried out by Wicksteeds.

Cllrs Gordon and Padwick said that they may be available to accompany the play area inspector when the inspection is carried out.

ACTION 12:- The clerk to contact Wicksteeds to arrange a date for the inspection to take place.

068/15 HIGHWAYS/ LIGHTING/ FOOTPATHS/ ROAD SAFETY.

a) Additional light in West Street – update.

Cllr Hodkinson reported that he had met with Jim McNally, the issue is pending at the moment.

Other lighting updates – The light on New Road is back in action, the Queen Eleanor Road light – a reminder has been sent as this is still not working, and 2x lights in Wood Street have been reported – at the top of Wood Street and by the junction at the bottom of Wood Street.

b) Blocked highway drains in the village – update

No update as to Digdat progress – it is the responsibility of the clerk to progress this.

ACTION 13 – Clerk to progress this.

c) A43 Corby link road - Traffic flows -

d) A4300 – Safety concerns over the stretch between Geddington and the Stanion turn off.-

Following a Facebook message received from a concerned resident, items c). and d). were dealt with jointly, and discussed within the public session so that comments could be expressed if wished.

The main points raised were as follows:-

-Recent accidents may be the result of rain after a prolonged dry spell.

-Cllr Harker is talking to the police authority concerning speed cameras, as the Police in some authorities are turning their speed cameras back on (if they are digital rather than analogue).

-A recent police survey showed that 85% of cars are within the speed limit, but it was agreed that it was desirable for this percentage to increase.

-Cllr Hodkinson said that the link road encourages people to speed and to be careless.

-Additionally, hedges have been trimmed and there are no stretches locally where the view of oncoming traffic has been obscured.

-Cllr Watson said that putting a weight limit on the bridge on the main road does not seem to be a priority.

-Also noted that parking may be allowed on the road following the de-trunked 43 now.

ACTION 14. Issues concerning road safety need to be taken up with the Police. Agreed that PCSO Margaret Lawson would be contacted to relay the concerns and request a speed check to inform as to average speeds in the village.

Cllr Padwick asked if extra or replacement speed cameras are being requested. It was confirmed that Cllr Harker is trying to get the existing camera reinstated.

ACTION 15 - Clerk to write to Cllr Harker to confirm and support this, copy to be sent to the Police. Broader concerns need to be raised with the Police, and they need to be asked when they are next scheduled to attend a parish council meeting. The crime figures need to be supplied every month, the clerk to urge this as well.

ACTION 16 – The Clerk to contact the MP to look at the problems we are facing, concerning the continued amount of traffic and the speeding that occurs.

A general comment was that Knights of Old are using alternative routes whilst the work is ongoing on the A14 (due to complete in Spring 2015).

Other issues raised

Cllr Watson reported that guttering is hanging off one of the bus shelters on the main road, and questioned whether they are the parish council's responsibility. Cllr Hodgkinson said that the parish council has the power to provide them. Cllr Hopkins added that the parish council have cleaned them out, but not repaired them.

ACTION 17:- The clerk to write to KBC & NCC to find out who is responsible for the bus shelters in the village.

NEWTON & LT. OAKLEY

No reports were given.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA/AOB.

AOB -

Cllr Watson reported that he is unable to attend the Rural Forum on 27.11.14 – an alternative parish council representative is needed if possible.

ACTION 18 – a cllr to contact Cllr Watson if they are able to attend.

-Cllr Padwick thanked cllrs for distributing the parish plan leaflets.

-Cllr Harden reported that there are a considerable number of lorries still going up Newton Road.

-Cllr Hodgkinson asked for all cllrs to keep their eye open for any trees or shrubs that are blocking any street lights so that their location can be reported.

Items for next month's Agenda

Trees on the village green – responsibility of the Parochial Church Council

Agenda item – trees in general.

Meeting closed at 9.49pm.