

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th JANUARY 2015.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor M Rowley (Chair), D Watson, D Hodgkinson, I Kelman, K Harden, D.Rushton, A Gordon, P Hopkins, N Batchelor, T Bailey, C Buckseall.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Padwick.

ALSO PRESENT: Two members of the public, PCSO Margaret Lawson.

082/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

083/15 PUBLIC SESSION

a) PCSO Lawson commented briefly on the one crime incident that had been reported for Geddington in December 2014. She confirmed that there had been a cut in the number of PCSOs (by two).

b) In answer to a query relating to the 7.5 ton speed limit on certain roads within Geddington, she advised that if a lorry over the limit was using those roads, the registration number could be noted and, if emailed to her, she would report it to the relevant body.

c) She also advised that the 20mph speed limit for the village was not enforceable, it was only advisable.

d) It was asked why a weight limit could not be put on Newton Road. Commented that the grain lorries are allowed to use Newton Road.

e) Inconsiderate parking was reported at the junctions of The Woodlands and Queen Eleanor Road and Newton Road/Stamford Road. Cllr Hodgkinson added that parking at all the Wood Street junctions was bad. Cllr Hopkins advised that he had previously found that taking the registration number of any offending vehicle, phoning the Police (tel: 101), had resulted in parking more considerately managed within two days.

f) Cllr Bailey raised the issue of parking in Little Oakley. PCSO Lawson said that the Police allow for the tightness of the roads, and use their discretion.

g) A member of the public commented on the update to the tree on the corner of Queen Street and Grange Road. A number of objections to the temporary TPO (Tree Protection Order) had been received by the Planning Department, a new arboreal report had been submitted, and the owner of the tree had had discussions with the Tree Officer at KBC. The Tree Officer had advised that the owner submitted another application to have the tree felled. This has been submitted by the owner and a decision will be made in six weeks as to the application. It was agreed that the Parish Council should show their support of the tree felling application by submitting a letter of support to the KBC Planning department.

ACTION 1 – Clerk to scan and send the letter out to all Cllrs that was provided in the meeting.

ACTION 2 – Clerk to send a letter a letter of support for the felling of the tree, to KBC Planning department.

084/15 MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

Two amendments to be made to the minutes.

- Cllr Buckseall was omitted from the list of Members present.
- 070/15 Boughton forthcoming events – month clarified.

Pending the above corrections being carried out, the minutes will be accepted as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr Harden, seconded by Cllr Bailey.

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

085/15 Free course notification (Raunds) “digital by default” from Email from Anne Kirkwall, Ncalc.

086/15 Work Programme from KBC December 2014.

087/15 Road Traffic Act Order for Geddington.

088/15 Empowering Councilor’s funding application form sent. (from NCC)

089/15 Notification from NCC (Highways) - objection lodged relating to tree TPO, Queen St.
 090/15 Notification from KBC – final approved decision re. Community Governance Review.
 091/15 Notification from KBC – Polling place and Polling District Review – final decisions.

PLANNING

Cllr Gordon reported that the following applications had been approved:-

KET/2014/0713 – Lavender Blue Nursery variation/removal of conditions - approved.

Cllr Rowley reported that he felt that the Planning Officer had misled the committee. The street view (parking issues) was taken facing up Grange Road and on a Sunday morning. The application had been approved by 4:2.

KET/2014/0667 – Mr Holland Croft Barns 14A Queen Street – change of use of paddock. Approved (condition added “for private use only”).

New application.

KET/2014/0816 - Mr & Mrs M Storey, 23 West Street (land adj), Geddington, 1 x dwelling.

A discussion resulted in the following comments to be submitted to Planning:-

The application has not changed significantly since it was submitted last year. The comments submitted by the Parish Council objected to the application, and KBC refused the application.

The reasons why the Parish Council objects strongly to the application now are as follows:

- It is on a designated green area within the village.
- The proposed dwelling within the proposed space is out of character and not sympathetic to the surrounding area.
- It would be detrimental to the street scene.
- Nothing has fundamentally changed from the previous (refused by KBC) application concerning vehicle and driving facilities.
- Dropped kerb access has been carried out, but this may be detrimental to the route of buses if vehicular access was being used via the dropped kerb access.
- To summarize, some of the details from the planning application submitted and refused last year have been amended, but the fundamentals have not changed.

Cllr Hopkins proposed the following: “The Parish Council supports a re-iteration of the Council’s previous reasons for refusal and objects to the planning application. Seconded by Cllr Bailey. All were in favour of the objection to the planning application.

092/15 FINANCE

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Business Saver account | as at 17.12.14 (Issued quarterly) | £10,716.05 |
| Community account statement | as at 17.12.14 | £7,750.12 |

a) Accounts received

None.

b) Accounts for payment

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|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------|---|
| Depreciation Allowance – Parish Clerk | Ch.101603 | £40.00 | For two months (Nov & Dec 2014) to bring the quarterly payments in line with Mar, Jun Sep and Dec quarters. |
| HMRC payment | Ch.101604 | £10.00 | Last payment made in Oct 2014 was an estimated cost – overpayment was made. |

c) Motion to exclude the Public and Press in relation to agenda item 6 (b)

Motion to exclude the Public and Press: In accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Administration of Meetings) Act 1960, in that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by

reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted. Proposed by Cllr Rowley, seconded by Cllr Hopkins. All Cllrs were in favour of the motion.

d) Clerk's review (6 month probationary period ends 31 Jan 2015)

It was agreed within the closed session that the Parish Clerk be informed that she was no longer on probation and that the Councillors wished to increase the working hours to 40 per month, to reflect the number of hours work that was carried out. It was also agreed that there would be a review date in December 2015.

e) Budgetary discussions/decisions for 2015/16

Budgetary considerations raised for 2015/16 were as follows:-

- Lighting column in West Street – continuing delay on resolving issues. This will not be completed before 31 March 2015.
- Number of benches to be purchased needs to be determined.
- Possible funding contribution to the marquee for Little Oakley (for fund raising activities).
- Playground – maintenance costs.
- Clerk's salary – increase in number of hours to be included.

f) Precept – final discussion (for submission in January 2015).

Precept for 2015/16 – Cllrs were reminded that the Parish Council have run a deficit budget for two years, an increase appears to be unavoidable.

Auditors – have highlighted that twice the level of expenditure is in the reserve account.

Cllr Watson conveyed that he thought the precept should be increased from its current level of £6000 to £12,000. No increase would mean that there would be no additional money until May 2016 – the current level would have to last for 18 months, which may make it difficult to cover items of exceptional expenditure. Cllr Bailey asked if there is any separation out for precept figures for Newton & Little Oakley. He was informed that there are separate figures on band charges per house, but the charge per property is the same for all three villages. It was also highlighted that the Parish Council "lost" £5000. In 2014/15 with the grant from KBC being withdrawn in total. Any increase would effectively replace/part replace the now non-existent grant. It was also commented that the councillors have a duty to run the budget sensibly.

Running costs for the Parish Council and its work for the Parish are £8,400.

Total costs are £12,000 to £13,000.

Cllr Gordon said we need to take note of the points Cllr Watson has raised. Cllr Rowley said we have been fortunate this year, with no vandalism costs.

After all points raised had been explored, two proposals were put forward:-

1. Cllr Hopkins proposed that the precept be increased to £9000.00 for 2015/16, with consideration given to a discussion on precepts, open to the public, before any further possible increase. Seconded by Cllr Kelman.

2. Cllr Gordon proposed that the precept be increased to £12,000, as the Parish Council had budgeted for a deficit for two years running. Seconded by Cllr Bailey.

The vote for proposal 2 was taken first. 5 Cllrs were in favour of this proposal, 6 were against.

The vote for proposal 1 was then taken. 6 Cllrs were in favour of this proposal, 5 were against.

ACTION 3:-Clerk to complete the KBC precept form as per option 1, for a precept of £9000.00.

Other general finance and procurement issues were then commented upon.

093/15 ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

a) Bench purchasing – decision needed on number, siting, purchasing and funding.

Cllr Kelman reported that one bench thought to need replacing was actually in satisfactory order.

One bench is needed in the recreation ground by the willow tree.

Three benches are needed within the recreation field, as per Cricket Club requests, with the expansion and the success of the Cricket Club.

There is a bench in Grafton Road by the Stone Pit land that looks like it has had the undergrowth cleared from it.

Funding: The Cricket Club to be asked to pay for one bench plus the installation costs of all three benches sited around the cricket field.

Cllr Harker's commitment to provide funding for three benches plus installation costs, total costs not to exceed £1067.00. Cllr Bullock has committed to provide £200.00 towards purchase of a bench and installation costs. The Parish Council will provide any shortfall, particularly for the fifth bench.

ACTION 4:-Clerk to ensure KBC liaise with Cllr Kelman (and by default, with the Cricket Club) regarding siting of the benches.

b) Geddington Cricket Club requests – decision needed for approval to move the cricket nets to another area of the park.

Cllr Gordon confirmed that the area in question was behind the bowls club building. A decision had not been made yet.

At this stage Cllrs Rowley and Watson informed the councillors that they had attended a meeting concerning progress of development of plans for the village hall extension. Potential problems had surfaced, but the assurance had been given that the development would not go ahead without the funding in place.

c) Playground maintenance – quotations for work needed.

Cllr Kelman will provide the third quotation for February's meeting.

ACTION 5:- Cllr Kelman to obtain a third quote for the maintenance work needed in the playground.

d) Parish Plan

-Cllrs Hodkinson gave an update in the absence of Cllr Padwick. The Village Plan needs to be moved forward. Cllr Hodkinson said that Bill Driver had offered to help with any work or actions that were needed, and would be looking at previous material with Cllr Hodkinson.

-Some kind of grouping and cross-referencing were needed, Cllrs Rushton and Rowley will help with this.

-There was a need to bring together individuals that have expressed an interest, when the timing is right, but this needs to happen sooner rather than later.

-Finance - £5,500 was originally granted to the Parish Council for the 2005 Parish Plan. £3,500 was spent, the balance remains in the reserve account. £500 may be sufficient to complete the update of the Parish Plan, this can be taken out of the remaining balance. This will still leave £1500 in the reserve account, allocated for future work on the Parish Plan.

-Cllr Rowley asked if a Village Design statement was needed if it matched with the Site Specific proposal. He was informed that the Village Design statement covers more than development of sites.

-Next actions needed for the Parish plan are:-

- i). Those residents who expressed an interest in helping with the Parish Plan will be contacted.
- ii). Excel analysis for the survey.
- iii) Parish Plan mapping needed/updated possibly.
- iv) Proposals for projects need to be stated and discussed.
- v) Projects then need to be progressed

It was reiterated that the Parish Plan is a village-owned document.

Cllr Watson added that a conversation with KBC was needed – to hear their view as to what may be needed in the Parish over the next five years and what Geddington will look like in this time frame. This was received positively within the meeting.

ACTION 6 - Cllr Hodkinson to send a holding letter to residents who had volunteered to help with the Parish Plan.

ACTION 7 - Cllrs Rushton and Rowley to contact Cllrs Hodkinson and Padwick to commence grouping and cross referencing via Excel.

094/15 HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING/FOOTPATHS/ROAD SAFETY

a) Removal of Tree update (corner of Queen Street/ Grange Road)

An update was given within the public session.

Cllr Gordon updated as to “Geddington Cross – owner of the relevant company needs to be located as the lighting timer needs to be adjusted” (As per on the ongoing actions list).

The lights/timer are being looked at this week.

Cllr Hodkinson updated as to “Additional light in West Street” (as per on the ongoing actions list).

A lighting update will be circulated via email.

ACTION 8 –Cllr Hodkinson will send the lighting update to the Parish Clerk for circulation.

NEWTON & LITTLE OAKLEY

Cllr Bailey requested a funding application form regarding marquee needed for fund raising activities.

ACTION 9:-Clerk to send Councillor Empowerment application form to Cllr Bailey

A.O.B.

-Trees in Newton Road on the grass verge needed trimming back. The area concerned is from Newton Road/Stamford Road junction (both sides), to Mill Farm.

ACTION 10 – Clerk to report this to NCC.

Cllr Buckseall updated as to the Pathfinder project – flooding prevention. The list of items that are available to choose from for purchasing is now available. Cllr Rowley would meet with Cllrs Rushton and Buckseall and the GVFB to determine which items would be beneficial for the village in the event of potential flooding risk.

ACTION 11 – Cllr Rowley to arrange a meeting with Cllrs Rushton, Buckseall and the GVFB representative.

-Cllr Buckseall offered to carry out some work/updating for the Facebook page.

ACTION 11 – Cllr Buckseall to carry out the Facebook updating.

-“Ford closed” sign – this is being moved occasionally resulting in the road being closed.

ACTION 12 Cllr Rowley will try to find out who is responsible for this.

No items for the next agenda were requested.

Meeting closed at 9.33pm.