

**GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors M Rowley (Chair), N Batchelor, D Rushton, D Watson, C Buckseall, D Hodgkinson, A Gordon, P Berry, S Wenbourne, D Rushton.

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors T Bailey, J Padwick,

**101/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**102/17 PUBLIC SESSION**

Rachael Gladstone-Brown, Boughton Estates (Rachael G-B) was present.

David Phelan, prospective Conservative candidate for the Ise Division joined the meeting at 7.45pm.

**a) Questions from the public**

Rachael Gladstone-Brown informed the meeting that the events season had finished and asked if there was any feedback for the organised events. Feedback was as follows:-

- Lorries coming to and from the event used Grafton Road.
- Toilets were taken through the village for the Greenbelt Festival.

Cllr Batchelor noted that there were noticeably less complaints than in previous years. He added however that there had been raves in the woods: Boughton Estates have already been informed of these.

Forthcoming events were bonfire night, Christmas fir trees retail event, and opening the gardens to the public in December.

She also informed the meeting that there would be some felling of taller poplar trees along the avenue to the main road. The taking out of the taller poplars will leave the smaller limes and there will be replanting of a second avenue of lime trees in the spring. This will duplicate the planting pattern as in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Rachael G-B will try to send a copy of the article to the newsletter (pending the deadline), copied to the Parish Council for Facebook insertion.

*Cllr Rushton joined the meeting at 7.40pm.*

Cllr Rowley asked Rachael G-B to confirm the findings of the Boughton Estates tree expert who had examined the remaining trees on the Stone Pit land earlier in the year. A letter had been received from the Youth Club and they were unclear whether any work to the trees could be carried out. Rachael clarified that the trees that were dangerous had had work carried out to them some time previously and the remaining trees are not dangerous. Additionally, the remaining trees are within the conservation area. The trees that have had the previous work carried out to them can be cut down to hedge height again, as there are several tall shoots that have grown from the rotten trees.

**ACTION 1:** The clerk to convey this to the Youth Club.

It was commented that unfortunately, the abundance of falling leaves is annoying but cannot justify the removal of trees.

**b) Reports from County and Borough Councillors**

There was no county report from Cllr Harker.

Cllr Rowley said that there were a lot of discussions at Borough level at the moment relating to council tax rebates. A 45% rebate is given at the moment, for people on benefits, disabled, on a low income etc. This may change for the forthcoming financial year, depending on the decisions made. If the status quo remains, the cost to the Borough Council will be £92,000.00. A link for council tax rebates will be put on the Facebook page, plus a link to Cllr Rowley (as a Borough Councillor).

Cllr Rowley then commented on the work to the street lights on the roundabout on the north side of Weekley. The work would not be completed until 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016. A website relating to roadworks <https://Roadworks.org> states when roadworks are starting and finishing.

Cllr Buckseall asked if fishing rights needed to be raised at Borough level. Enquiries are still being made concerning this issue, but with Boughton Estates at the present time. They do not have any fishing rights on their land, but Rachael G-B will see if she can find any relevant documentation for the Parish Council. Possibly permits may be needed.

**ACTION 2:** Rachael G-B to see if she can find any relevant documentation relating to fishing rights/ permits.

Cllr Rowley informed the meeting that he was now a cabinet member responsible for the environment. This includes the green agenda, trees, cremations, green waste and converting waste to energy.

### c) Police Report / Crime figures.

The crime report showed two crimes (burglary) for Geddington, none for Newton or Little Oakley.

## 103/17 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

### a) Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting Minutes – held 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016

The Minutes were agreed by all councillors present to be a true record.

### b) Matters arising; progress on agreed actions.

All action points had been carried out except for the following:-

*ACTION 3 – 12.9.16:* Flood wardens - this has been added to this month's agenda again.

The Clerk will check again whether the hedge cutback by the Tennis Club has taken place.

## 104/17 MEETING ETIQUETTE

Cllr Wenbourne said that as a new Parish Councillor, she did not know the names of the other councillors, and therefore who was commenting on the individual agenda points or issues as and when they were raised. The clerk apologised, as new desk name plates had been bought some months ago, but had not yet had the names added to them.

**ACTION 3:** The Clerk to add the councillors' names to the desk name plates.

## PLANNING

### a) KBC Decision notices

*KET/2016/0200* – Mr & Mrs T White, 28 - 30 Grange Rd (Lavender Blue Nursery). Confirmation was given that this had been approved. One complaint had been received from a Grange Road resident. 1 Skeffington Close had had their concerns relating to run-off addressed.

*KET/2015/0963* – Mr Nolan, 1 Newton Road (front and side extensions) – approved

### b) Planning Applications.

*KET/2016/0653 - Mr G Brudenhall 29 Newton Road, Geddington,  
Two storey side and single storey rear extensions*

Cllr Batchelor said that the materials were sympathetic to the building/ area. The plans do not come with clear dimensions, but the largest extension is the single story towards the rear, and the property has a long and large back garden. Cllr Hodkinson commented that it sits well within the street scene and is an improvement. Cllr Rushton asked if there are any flooding issues, but as it will replace an existing part of the property, there are no additional flooding concerns, plus it is not on the flood plain.

Cllr Gordon proposed for the application to be approved, seconded by Cllr Batchelor, all Councillors present were in favour (with Cllr Rowley abstaining).

### **105/17 PARISH PLAN - approval of any modifications/next steps.**

The Chair has written the introduction to the Parish Plan. Cllr Gordon made two observations regarding items omitted.

However, the closing date for any observations and comments was 28th September, 2016. None had been received.

Clarity was needed as to what happens next as it is not clear. Cllr Hodkinson said that there had been consultation with the public, and the draft parish plan is out in the public domain. He invited Cllrs to agree to any alterations and the final public consultation would then be in November. If there are any material changes the December meeting can address them. Cllr Hodkinson thought that it would be helpful if reference to the consultation process was added to the introduction. Cllr Batchelor thought that the document was going to be signed off within the October meeting, and if another six weeks passed before the open meeting the time scale would be too long. He asked if it could be held possibly towards the end of October.

Cllr Rowley commented that a Village Plan has a life of its own. Consultation can be on Facebook and in the post office, as well as on the notice boards, advertising a meeting at the Village Hall. The last three or four meetings have been advertised for people to come along. He felt that with the new format for the Parish Plan that people will say that it is up to the Parish Council to sort all the issues out once it is signed off.

Cllr Hodkinson asked if any councillor could see any intrinsic problems with the document, and if they were happy with the direction taken. If the answer was yes, the consultation meeting could be held fairly quickly.

Cllr Berry asked how much of the Parish Plan could be delivered. He was informed that it is an aspirational document, with the Parish Council applying pressure to relevant organisations such as BT and Openreach. A weight restriction on the A4300 is a case in point – it is the Parish Council's responsibility to move these things forward. The Parish Council has direct control over issues such as flooding and sporting equipment for teenagers, as well as dog mess and speeding. Some of the issues would need to be funded via the precept – for example, the playground had previously received £7000 of funding with additional part funding coming from the precept.

The meeting was reminded again that the Parish Plan is not the Parish Council's document – it is the villages' residents' document.

After a detailed discussion, it was decided that the draft Parish Plan would be subject to a two week consultation in email and written form. There is a meeting scheduled to be held on 18th October with the Parish Plan Committee. Hard copies to be made available in the post office, pubs, Village Hall notice board, the church as well as the three notice boards.

Notification would be sent to Geddington.net by the lead councillor. The Castle Gardens residents would also be notified, and publicity could be given at the over 60's GVFB event this coming weekend. Cllr Hodkinson asked if the three villages needed to be leafleted. There was no decision made as to this – the committee would decide.

A print run would be sorted out quickly so that the consultation could start as soon as possible. Lead councillors were reminded that the total budget for the Parish Plan was £400.

All councillors were reminded again that if anything was needed regarding precept money in 2017-18 that the information should be submitted for discussion within the November monthly meeting.

### **106/17 RURAL FORUM - update from the last quarterly Rural Forum meeting 13.9.16.**

It had been noted that voting for the Deputy Chair had not been carried out correctly at the previous Rural Forum. The election was therefore held for a second time within the September meeting. This resulted in Cllr Watson being elected as Deputy Chair for 2016 – 17 for the Rural Forum and the A6 Towns representative.

Cllr Rowley said that the main issues that were discussed included lorry parking in lay-bys and country lanes. NCC is responsible for providing lorry parks, but they charge £15.00 for overnight parking. Most business parks have adequate overnight parking. Some companies allow lorries to park within their site if the lorry is separated from the trailer, others do not allow it citing insurance purposes. Noted that S106 money and SILS grants can often be used for lorry parking facilities.

It was also raised within the Rural Forum meeting that Police crime reports often do not appear to be accurate. Crimes are being reported, but not being given a crime number. These are not being recorded within the monthly statistics. Representatives from the Rural Forum and the A6 Towns Forum will be meeting the Police Commissioner shortly.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.**

107/17: Ncalc – Notice of Annual General Meeting, 8 Oct 2016.

108/17: Kettering Photography Exhibition 2016

109/17: Parish & Town Councillor Visitor Parking Scheme.

110/17 “Can you commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day 2017?”

111/17: *Newsletters.*

Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Broadband, Sept 2016

Fuel Poverty Sept 2016.

Weekly Email News Digest – 19.9.16

Weekly Email News Digest – 26.9.16

North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Spotlight on Older People from RSN – Oct 2016

Rural Economy Spotlight – Oct 2016

Fieldwork: CPRE’s latest campaigning news and ideas Oct 2016

There were no comments made concerning correspondence items.

**112/17 Website update.**

Cllr Rushton said that he was happy for the website to go live, possibly within two weeks. There was only basic information on it at the present time, but this can be added to once the site was up and running. Cllr Wenbourne’s contact details need to be added however. The Parish Plan can then be advertised to the web site as well.

**ACTION 4:** Cllr Rushton to contact Jack Harker to carry out next actions and add Cllr Wenbourne’s contact details to the website.

**113/17 FINANCE**

Community account statement as at 16.09.16	£9,798.5
Business Saver account as at 16.09.16	£10,722.5

**a) Accounts received**

None

**b) Accounts for payment**

BDO LLP	156.0	Review of annual return for year ended 31.3.16
Parish clerk	925.6	Quarterly salary Jul – Sept 2016
Parish clerk (paid via AC’s debit card).	231.20	Quarterly PAYE Jul – Sept 2016

Parish clerk	60.00	Quarterly agreed depreciation of equipment.
Parish clerk	3.84	Expenses (stamps)
Geddington Community website	18.00	Sponsorship of community website for 12 months
Boughton Estates Ltd	570.05	Playing field rental 30.3.16 – 29.9.16, Slade footpath rent for 2016 – 2017 (£0.05).

It was proposed by Cllr Hodkinson and seconded by Cllr Gordon that the above payments be made, agreed by all councillors present.

The clerk advised that Barclays Bank have informed the Parish Council that from 5.12.16 there will be no interest given on the Business Saver account.

### **c) Conclusion of audit 2015/16**

Cllr Watson said that the Parish Council was required to respond to the conclusion of the audit. BDO have referred to a recommendation given by the internal auditor, but the internal auditor did not make any recommendation.

**ACTION 5:** The Clerk to respond to the external auditor, and ask for clarification of the recommendation they are referring to.

### **d).Precept – issues/ projects for consideration.**

#### i) Parking for the Village Hall area.

Rachael G-B has conveyed to Cllr Rowley that there would not be any foreseeable problem with extending the parking area in the car park.

**ACTION 6:** Costings for car park to be added to the precept costings list for consideration.

#### ii) Foot path by the Village Hall.

This needs to be included within the precept discussions next month.

Newton Road / junction with Newton - work is still ongoing to determine costings for this.

All Cllrs were urged to submit items for precept consideration as soon as possible.

## **114/17 ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION**

### **a) Purchasing of sandbags – recommendation by Flood Wardens.**

The Flood Wardens have not met yet, but it was re-iterated that two sandbags should be ordered in advance of the flood wardens meeting, for Little Oakley. Cllr Rowley added that GVFB can phone Brendan Coleman if sandbags are needed, but there is only a finite amount available.

**ACTION 7:** The Clerk to purchase two Quick Dams sandbags for Little Oakley (ahead of the purchasing for the Parish as a whole).

### **b) Reminder of tour of village by Cllr Harker 13.10.16 - Any issues to be raised?**

The tour will commence in Newton at 12.00am and hence to Geddington at 2.00pm.

## **HIGHWAYS/ LIGHTING/ FOOTPATHS/ ROAD SAFETY.**

### **a) Lighting updates**

Cllr Hodkinson is meeting with Michael Chester (KBC) on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016. He will remind him of the cleaning of the Victorian lamps that has not yet been carried out. Cllr Hodkinson will also highlight the reduced visibility of the light at the north end of the bridge caused by overhanging vegetation of trees and bushes of a resident's garden

**ACTION 8:** Cllr Gordon will endeavour to remember the name and address of the relevant person regarding overhanging branches as it is shading the bridge badly.

Michael Dolan has asked if the column by the notice board can be painted. (Between the board and the hairdressers). Unfortunately, this is not something that the Borough Council will do.

One street light out - last light in Stamford Road) - has been reported.

**b) Street sign in Queen Eleanor Road**

The sign needs to be moved, as it is in the area that has now been incorporated into the property.

**ACTION 9:** The clerk to contact Highways to get the sign moved.

**c) Annual waiting restriction review 2016/17**

It was noted that the only parking restriction proposed for Geddington is the restricted parking by the school. The proposed yellow lines at the Newton Road/ Stamford Road junction have not been included.

**ACTION 10:** Cllr Rowley will raise this with the relevant person on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

**d) Outstanding action - road weight restriction**

Cllr Wenbourne asked if a letter could be sent from the Parish Council asking for a weight restriction to be reconsidered. Cllr Rowley informed her that the Parish Council had previously given its support in writing to the County Council. He added that the County Council is also responsible for re-categorising the A4300 (currently red route category).

**e) Outstanding action: Deer warning sign**

Cllr Wenbourne was informed that this won't progress at the moment as the deer have moved on.

**f) Abandoned caravan on the A4300.**

Apparently if a caravan only has two wheels it is not NCC's responsibility. The Borough is presently organising the removal of the caravan

**ACTION 11:** Cllr Rowley will ask the person dealing with it at KBC what is happening.

Cllr Hodkinson added at this stage that he will check to see if all the graffiti in the village has now been removed.

**NEWTON & LITTLE OAKLEY**

There were no updates.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA / AOB**