

GEDDINGTON NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th NOVEMBER 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors M Rowley (Chair), N Batchelor, D Watson, D Hodkinson, P Berry, S Wenbourne, D Rushton, T Bailey, J Padwick.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor A Gordon.

116/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Rowley and Berry declared an interest concerning agenda item 9a) (as members of the GVFB).

117/17 PUBLIC SESSION

Six members of the public were present.

a) Questions from the public

One member of the public asked if an existing bench could be a memorial bench. After a short discussion, this was agreed.

The majority of the members of the public present wished to have input to the Parish Plan. This was therefore discussed within the public session (see Minutes 119/17).

A further agenda item that the public wished to have input into was agenda item 9a) "Old paddling pool in the meadow" (see Minutes 137/17a). This item was therefore also discussed within the public session.

b) Reports from County and Borough Councillors.

i) County Council.

There was no County Council report.

ii) Borough Council report.

Cllr Rowley reported that the PSPO for dogs was going to the Executive Committee on Wednesday 16th November. The recommendation will be that all of the proposals are proposed for acceptance. One proposal that is more controversial is dogs to be on leads in all Kettering parks. 68% of respondents were in favour of this however.

A final recommendation will also go forward on Wednesday for SLAs to give their contributions to charities for local spend, such as Citizen's Advice and Cindy's Youth

Works. The Borough Council recognises that third sector organisations can usually deliver their services very efficiently.

c) Police Report / Crime figures

The crime report as circulated showed one theft from vehicle for Geddington, none for Newton or Little Oakley.

118/17 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

a) Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting Minutes – held 10th October 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.

PLANNING

a) KBC Decision notices

There were no decision notices for the last month.

KET/2016/0528: *Mr & Mrs Foulke - St Peters Church, Corby Road, Little Oakley, - Change of use from church to residential dwelling.*

The application has been withdrawn.

There are some concerns over the former Lavender Blue nursery application.

ACTION 2: Cllr Rowley will speak to the Head of Planning. (Note: There is no Action 1).

b) Planning Applications.

No planning applications have been received by KBC over the last four weeks.

Cllr Wenbourne asked if there was any knowledge yet for future plans for the White Lion. Cllr Rowley informed her that the only firm knowledge was that it is closed for refurbishment, and opening soon. If there is any change of use then planning permission would be required.

119/17 PARISH PLAN UPDATES.

The Parish Plan updates were discussed within the public session.

Cllr Padwick commenced by saying that the Parish Plan had come to the Parish Council meeting for approval. He added that some of the members of the public present had assisted with the Parish Plan work.

There had been the agreed further consultation meeting since the last Parish Council meeting. Two issues had been raised – car parking in the Village Hall and housing. Housing had not been raised before and may be more appropriate on the Village Design Statement. It was noted that as previously pointed out, several of the topics in the Parish Plan involves the Parish Council working alongside other bodies to push for and encourage changes to result in issues being addressed. The Chair and Vice-Chair will attend a meeting with the Parish Plan Committee on a suggested date of Tuesday November 29th. The Parish Plan should be able to be launched at a drop-in open meeting in the New Year.

It was suggested that a few topics could be worked on at a time. Possible first topics could be:-

1. Lighting – night work with some parish residents around relevant areas would be needed.
2. A working group of teenagers and young adults would be required.
3. Securing the future of the post office and options of local retailing could be explored.

Cllr Padwick ended his report by adding that the Parish Plan concludes with an action plan. Cllr Rowley said he wished to personally thank the members of the villages who had been involved in the Parish Plan work. One member of the public asked in what form did the consultation take place. Cllr Padwick explained that at the beginning of the process a questionnaire had been sent out, a consultation open meeting took place, and a Parish Plan Committee was then set up to process all the comments, queries and further input received as a result of the initial consultation. For the final round of consultation hard copies of the draft Parish Plan had been located around the village in the Post Office, the church, the Village Hall, on the notice boards, and a copy posted to the Facebook page. Cllr Hodkinson added that the villages had been leaflet dropped on the previous round of consultation which had led to 11 responses being received. It was also publicised in the autumn edition of The Newsletter.

Cllr Rowley added that it had taken two years to get to this stage. The public consultation had been comprehensively carried out and the villagers have identified what is important at the present time. It is a living document, so as issues are resolved, new issues can be added. The previous Parish Plan ran from 2004 – 2014 and the present document is a new version of it.

Cllr Padwick said an open meeting could be held in the New Year where further comments could be invited, but this would delay the start of working towards addressing some of the topics in the Parish Plan, and it would be too late to include any projects in the precept for 2017 – 18.

Cllr Hodkinson thought a drop-in session early in the New Year would acquaint people with where the Plan is up to now. Possibly a leaflet drop at that stage could be carried out.

It was felt however that the Parish Plan should now be launched, but keep it “live” and moving on. A further progress meeting could then be held, possibly before the next AGM.

Cllr Padwick therefore proposed that the draft Parish Plan be adopted. Seconded by Cllr Hodkinson. All councillors present were in favour.

RURAL FORUM UPDATE

Cllr Watson reported that the Rural Forum will meet with the Police and Crime Commissioner early in the New Year. One issue that will be raised will be the format of the crime figures – in their present format they mean very little. If any other issues need to be raised councillors need to send them to Cllr Watson as soon as possible. They need to be based on policy and strategies however.

Cllr Watson added that crime numbers aren't important. No analysis is given or trends discussed. If analysis was given the Police could ask the Rural Forum how any help could be given.

Cllr Padwick commented that telephoning the Police is a lengthy process now, and are members of the public aware of the 101 number?

Cllr Rowley raised a local issue by commenting on the number of bikes in the village, particularly Grange Road and Wood Street. He urged all councillors to report any incidents to the Police, and also to obtain a crime number or the incident does not get reported. Councillors were informed that the next Rural Forum meeting is on 1st December 2016.

ACTION 3: Any questions for the Police and Crime Commissioner based on policy and strategies to be sent to Cllr Watson as soon as possible.

CORRESPONDENCE.

120/17: Rural Forum Minutes – from David Pope, KBC 13.10.16

121/17: Memorial & Remembrance Services – Administrator St. Mary Magdalene, 13.10.16. **122/17:** Ncalc – reminder of AGM and update – Danny Moody 13.10.16

123/17: Newton Rd & Wood St - email from NCC 4.10.16 **124/17** Rural Oscars – Countryside Alliance update. **125/17:** Work Programme Oct 2016 – KBC

126/17: Police & Crime Plan consultation – Police Crime Commissioner – 21.10.16 **127/17:** Ncalc - Big Friday round up – Danny Moody 21.10.16

128/17: NCC consultations Prioritisation Framework and Process – 28.10.16 **129/17:** Northamptonshire Rural HA – annual report 2015 – 16.

130/17: Free RSN seminar – grants & funding – Rural Services Network – 3.11.16

131/17 Part 2 Local Plan for Corby, Regulation 18 - CBC 4.11.16

132/17 Ncalc response to Government (NALC's objection to the possibility of precept capping) - Danny Moody 4.11.16

133/17: Letter – query re.18th Rector of Little Oakley – Ian Keable 6.11.16

134/17: *Newsletters.*

Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Broadband, Oct 2016

Weekly Email News Digest – 18.10.16, 24.10.16, 31.10.16, 7.11.16.

Rural opportunities bulletin 2.11.16

Rural Housing Spotlight – 19.10.16

. There were no comments made concerning any correspondence item.

135/17 WEBSITE UPDATE.

Cllr Rushton informed the meeting that the website will be ready for use by next month. Further additions may be needed to the site, but it will be in a useable format.

Cllr Padwick left the meeting at 8.32pm.

136/17 FINANCE

Community account statement as at 17.10.16 £9,631.05

Business Saver account as at 17.10.16 £10,722.74

a) Accounts received

None

b) Accounts for payment

Northants Calc	78.00	Courses x 2 (Cllrs Bailey and Wenbourne)
Information Commissioner	35.00	Data protection registration 1.12.16 – 30.11.16
Kettering Borough Council	100.80	Printing Services – Draft Parish Plan
Local Councils update	75.00	Yearly subscription Dec 2016 – Nov 2017..
Hortons Badges & Emblems Ltd	36.65	Additional desk name plates needed.
	To be discussed	Defibrillator – yearly maintenance costs / possible future support.
Royal British Legion	35.00	£17.00 wreath, £18.00 agreed donation

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

c) **Update on the village defibrillator and possible future support**

After a detailed discussion, the following proposal was made:-

“That the Parish Council underwrites the cost to cover any shortfall”. Proposed by Cllr Watson, seconded by Cllr Rushton, agreed by all councillors present.

Cllr Wenbourne then added that she thought the Parish Council should pay all the annual costs, with Cllr Bailey being undecided as to this.

It was noted that the Parish Council should be given a month’s notice to inform of the contribution that is needed.

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

Councillors were reminded that the Borough Council needs to be notified of the requested precept by the end of January 2017. Possible items for funding therefore need to be discussed.

i) Parking for the Village Hall area.

In answer to a question by a member of the public, Cllr Bailey explained that the issue was not included in the Parish Plan as it has only been raised in the last couple of months. The cricket, tennis and bowling clubs as well as the Village Hall itself were successful, but the lack of adequate parking was now affecting bookings and usage of the facility. An entrance outside the village would give easier access for parking to alleviate the parking problems for those wishing to use the Village Hall and recreation ground facilities, as well as easing the congestion in Queen Street.

Cllr Watson asked if the proposals had been discussed with Boughton Estates, Cllr Rowley confirmed that the broad outline of proposals had been raised with Boughton Estates and they were happy with it. The member of the public said that he had written to Cllr Jim Harker as he was concerned about any ribbon development along the Kettering Road, and would a link road to the A4300 from a new parking area encourage such development. Cllr Rowley said that there was no potential residential development on the plans up to 2035. Cllr Watson added that Boughton Estates had expressed interest however in building a link road from the A4300 to Grafton Road.

ii) Foot path by the Village Hall.

Councillors were reminded that the triangle of land from the lounge is Parish Council land. The Parish Council is therefore responsible for the upkeep of the path.

iii) Cost of elections

Cllr Rowley informed the meeting that the Research and Development Committee have said that the cost of Parish Council elections should be borne by the Parish Council. This would cost £2,500.00 for each election or by-election. If 15 people want an election this would be the cost, but if no request were put forward (as last year), then there is no cost. If a Borough Council or County Council election was held at the same time, the election costs would be proportional.

The recommendation was that no change was made.

Cllr Hodkinson said that the Parish Council need to know that there is a standing risk. A quarterly cost of funding election costs need to be added into the reserves each year.

iv) The improvement work proposed for the junction at the approach road to Newton. This is a further issue for consideration for the precept. The proposed work is not a highways issue. The estimated cost to improve visibility would be £30,000.00 - £40,000.00, with landowners agreeable to having the surplus soil spread on their fields.

Cllr Hodkinson summarised the discussions by asking if the Parish Council needed to start accumulating money for a development fund for the projects. Cllr Watson said that £10,000.00 was needed just to run the Parish Council and £10,000.00 was a realistic increase of precept funding towards the items that were being proposed. This would equate to an extra 25 pence a week for each household. He added that ten years ago the grant from the Borough Council was £12,000.00; the Parish Council had been operating on a smaller total sum of money than this for several years.

Cllr Hodkinson added that an increase would facilitate the projects that are in the Parish Plan.

Councillors agreed that any proposed increase to be decided on at the January meeting and would need to be publicized.

ACTION 4: Cllr Rowley will publicize any discussion of the precept on Facebook and on the notice boards – what the Parish Council is considering, and welcoming input by members of the public at the December meeting as to raising the precept in principle.

Cllr Watson added that banking the money for a specific project is allowed by auditors.

Cllr Bailey and Cllr Watson both left the meeting at 9.05pm.

137/17 ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION.

a) Old paddling pool in the meadow. (Discussed within the public session of the meeting).

A member of the public said that a proposal had been put forward to tidy it up. This had not happened for 20 years, when the GVFB had last cleaned it out. The Woodland and Wildlife Trust have confirmed in writing that newts will not go into the pond in its present state as it is too choked up with weeds. Any work however must be carried out before February. Boughton Estates are happy to give support by giving use of a tractor and trailer on Saturday 19th November. The work would be for a tidy up only. Facebook response to the proposed work has been overwhelmingly positive. The pond is fed by a spring and it would lead to a better habitat for wildlife.

Cllr Berry thought it would be good to return it to its former use as a paddling pool, if the tidy-up cleaned down to the gravel/ stone/ concrete floor. Cllr Watson said that the email from the Wild Life Trust should be added to the Minutes. Cllr Bailey said that the email needs to state “happy with the plans for the paddling pool” and “agreed to go ahead and do the stated work” - that this extra level of detail is needed.

The discussion ended with the councillors happy for the work to be carried out, but a copy of the consenting email to be kept on record.

ACTION 5: The clerk to incorporate the email in to the Minutes (see addendum following).

b) Broadband provision in Geddington - the current waiting list.

This issue had been raised by a newcomer to the village to Cllr Hodkinson. Cllr Rowley said that if you wish to complain regarding broadband, you need to contact Openreach as the service provider, not BT. Openreach provide the facility that is then used by the service provider. The resident needs to contact the service provider to be added to the waiting list for when a fibre is available.

c) Update by Flood Wardens – meeting regarding purchasing of sandbags.

The meeting has not taken place yet.

ACTION 6: Cllr Rushton to arrange a meeting with Cllr Buckseall and possibly Cllr Rowley.

d) Tour of villages by Cllr Harker 13.10.16 - any issues highlighted?

The omission of request for yellow lines at the junction of Newton Road and Stamford Road has been raised and will now be included.

Cllr Rowley informed the meeting at this stage that he had been informed that a weight limit for the A4300 will definitely not be introduced. It is an A road and there are no structural or physical issues near to it for it to be anything other than an A road. There is no appeals process. He added however that he has asked for clearway restriction to be removed. Additionally, the police have removed the wide load category, and residents can now apply for dropped kerbs.

ACTION 7: Cllr Rowley will check with Ian Boyle (KBC) as to if the above two actions have taken place.

Traffic restriction on the corners of Wood Street and Grafton road are now going through the relevant processes.

Whilst visiting Little Oakley, Cllr Harker looked at their meeting area (community hall). NCC may consider asking if they can use it for bowls.

The main topic of conversation for Newton was the safety issue of the approach road junction, and the proposed solution.

c) Odour control

Cllr Wenbourne reported that Darren Froggarty (Anglian Water) has said that the smell in certain areas of Geddington is coming from the sewers. These were jetted in Thomas Rippin Close. There have been very few complaints about other parts of the village. However, the middle of the village by the stables and the area by the White Lion have been bad at times.

It was noted that the large Wellingtonion tree, recently removed from the garden on the corner of Grange Road and Queen Street, damaged the storm drains but not the sewers.

138/17 HIGHWAYS / LIGHTING / FOOTPATHS ROAD / SAFETY. a) Lighting updates

i) Tree overgrowth.

This relates to the bridge being overhung by branches and foliage. Michael Chester has asked Street Doctor to set in motion getting the trees cut back, on behalf of KBC. Cllr Gordon was going to try and find out who has responsibility for the trees (the owner of the property concerned), as they are overhanging on a public highway. Cllr Rowley said that he had also raised this issue on the village walkabout.

There were issues concerning overhanging branches in Stamford Road as well. These are too big a job for GVFB to consider.

ii) Dirty/obscured glass to Victorian lanterns.

Three of the lanterns have been cleaned; one lantern (made of Perspex) needs to be replaced (this is the street light near the dog walking meadow).

iii) Uneven lighting levels.

Michael Chester appreciated what was being said about uneven lighting levels around the bridge area in particular. Although a night time visit is desirable, this would have overtime implications to which he was unable to commit to at this time.

iv) Lighting repairs previously requested.

Street lights not working have been reported in Grange Road and Grafton Road.

Newton & Little Oakley

No further issues raised.

Items for next month's Agenda / AOB

Precept discussion, and bench issues.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Addendum to Minutes 14.11.16 – 137/17 - Email relating to the paddling pool in the meadow.

From: Lisa Rowley [<mailto:Lisa.Rowley@wildlifebcn.org>]

Sent: 17 October 2016 16:23

To: pualarichardson@talktalk.net

Subject: Clearing pond in Geddington

Hi Paul,

This email is to confirm what we advised a month or so ago when I last spoke to you about the overgrown pond in the village.

We're happy for the clearing out of the pond to be carried out over the autumn/winter months when any disturbance to amphibians will be at a minimum as they'll be mainly out on land, rather than in the water. I understand you will aim to start the work in November.

If the work isn't completed by February then you will stop, as amphibians will start returning to the pond from February onwards. You will aim to complete the work in September/October 2017.

We recommended that any vegetation that you clear out is left at the side of the pond for a few days in order to allow any pond wildlife to disperse – it can then be disposed of afterwards. If any amphibians are found during the works then transfer them to an area of the pond that you're not working on and they will find their own place of safety.

If I can be of further help then please don't hesitate to get back in touch.

Good luck with your community project and kind regards,

Lisa Rowley

Administration Officer

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