

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th SEPTEMBER 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors N Batchelor (Chair), C Buckseall, D Rushton, S Wenbourne, T Bailey, P Goode, M Holland, J Padwick and D Watson.

APOLOGIES:

Cllrs M Rowley and P Berry.

31/20: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Watson – the Newton village junction traffic issue.

32/20: COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION

Cllr Holland has resigned as a councillor as a result of his successful university application. Congratulations were given to him, and the appreciation by the councillors was expressed for his contributions made whilst in his councillor role.

33/20 PUBLIC SESSION,

a) Police Report / Crime figures available for June and July 2019.

Crime figures	June & July 2019, for September 2019 meeting		
Geddington	location	Category	Current status
Jun-19	On or near Slade Close	Violence & sexual offences	Local resolution
	On or near Chase View Road	Violence & sexual offences	Unable to prosecute suspect.
	On or near Chase View Road	Violence & sexual offences	Unable to prosecute suspect.
	On or near Chase View Road	Violence & sexual offences	Unable to prosecute suspect.
	Crime on or near Chase Hill	Violence & sexual offences	Unable to prosecute suspect.
	West Street	ASB	Details not provided
	Crime on or near Newton Road	Violence & sexual offences	Local resolution
Jul-19	Crime on or near Chase Hill	Vehicle crime	Under investigation
	Queen Eleanor Road	Vehicle crime	Investigation complete; no suspect identified.
	Crime on or near Newton Road	ASB	Details not provided
Newton	Nil		
Little Oakley	Nil		

Councillors commented that the figures look worrying but are inaccurate. It was felt that there is little to be gained from compiling the figures therefore.

b) Questions from the public

Five members of the public were present including Rachael Gladstone-Brown (Boughton Estates).

(34/20 Environment and recreation)

Boughton Estates – update by Rachael Gladstone-Brown (this was agenda item 10a)

The following report was given:-

- Boughton House public openings have finished for the year.
- The numbers were up for the Green Belt festival.
- Residential portfolio – being updated at the moment. Everyone has received notification as to what is happening/ individual circumstances.
- There is no risk of losing the Post Office in Geddington.
- Events: a film night.
- Fireworks will not be held this year
- Xmas fayre – xmas trees.
- Bushcraft. A children's holiday camp organisation is keen to expand their operation and also use Boughton Estate facilities for storage/ cleaning of their equipment in the winter. A conversion plan for commercial storage for a barn will shortly be submitted by Boughton Estates to KBC Planning. They are keen to work with local schools (aged 7 - 18 years of age); it is a commercial venture with Boughton Estates renting the land only. One councillor commented that it was a shame that no link could be made with the Newton Field Centre.
- Solar farm on Grafton Road- this will not have any impact on Geddington.

Rachael G-B then left the meeting.

c) Reports from County and Borough Councillors

County Councillor Victoria Perry was present and gave the following report:-

- i) The issue of clearing of the gullies (which was reported in March 2019) was due to be carried out by March 2020. The timetable for the work has changed and the maintenance work will be carried out in the next four weeks.
- ii) NCC is inviting tenders for a service to replace the Centre Bus service which terminates in October 2019. Tenders for delivery of a revised number 8 bus service should be this week. A proposed timetable has been sent out and Cllr Perry will organise a meeting with James Loader (NCC) once the revised timetable is confirmed. Attendance on the school bus times is very low, with usually only one to two pupils on the buses. A discussion took place as to why this is, with the cost of the fares being a possibility. A suggestion was that a student could travel free for two weeks, but the costings of this would be dependent on NCC. Noted that Corby to Kettering travel is cheaper at the moment than Geddington to Kettering.

It was stated that for school transport needs people will plan for a term, and will make alternative arrangements if public transport times and availability is uncertain. However, the meeting was told that the current timetable had been well publicised in the village and on Facebook but the use of the service was still low.

Cllr Perry said that the service will definitely operate to the end of the financial year, and further clarifications will become clear when the tenders come in and the meeting with James Loader (and copied to /include Cllr Rowley) takes place.

The discussion was summarised by the member of the public stating that more promotion within the village was needed, clarity on the price was needed, and communicating use of the bus via secondary schools is a logical way forward. The Parish Council stated their approval as to the work the transport working party was doing.

- iii) Cllr Perry was not aware of the junction at the Newton access road: a short explanation was given.

Cllr Perry then left the meeting.

Cllr Rowley was unable to be present at the meeting to give a report from KBC.

The following points were agenda items but also discussed within the public meeting as input on these topics was requested.

(34/20 Environment and recreation)

Agenda items 10b i) Gigaclear issues?

ii) Gigaclear meeting.

It was reported that a list of issues had been sent to Gigaclear in July. Answers had been given, and the advice that any queries or complaints needed to be sent at least initially to the Network Buildcare team. An August meeting was suggested, but Gigaclear were not keen for this to take place.

A few issues still need to be raised, and a site meeting has been agreed, with Liz to contact Glynn then get back to the Parish Council with some suggested dates. Dates of availability of PC councillors have been sent to Gigaclear as well.

Issues to be raised with Gigaclear at the site meeting include the following:-

1. Pinch points in West St, Queen St – residents must be communicated with well in advance of work (people on holiday etc) to alleviate the problem of parked cars not being moved as people are not aware of impending work.
2. Residents not happy with main road and traffic lights in situ for 3 days and no work appearing to be carried out.
3. H & S issues – for example the traffic lights not working, footpath closed. No pavement available in some areas such as Queen Street.
4. Golden gravel – replacement clarification req'd.
5. Depth of buried cable? Reported by one councillor that the cable has been sliced through twice at his place of work as not deep enough – would like re-assurance that this (laying too shallow) has not happened in Geddington.
6. Communication issues – residents are saying they don't know what is happening.
7. Re-instatement of the grass verges. One resident says all the grass verge has disappeared at the top of Wood Street going into the Chase.
8. Grass seeding to still be carried out this autumn?
9. A big piece of metal is buried/sticking up within another grass verge. Advised to inform Network Build Care and copy to Matt or Glynn Richardson.

10. Newton – Cllrs awaiting update to inform residents.

Gigaclear have also previously been informed of the Health and Safety issues of traffic lights not working and digging has caused footpaths to be closed off.

The completion date is now scheduled for the end of October.

ACTION 1: a list of the above issues to be sent to Cllrs Batchelor, Goode and Padwick by the end of the week.

(34/20 Environment and recreation)

Agenda items 10h) Viability & necessity of a Speedwatch scheme

One member of the public was concerned about the speed of traffic through the village, in particular West Street, Grafton Road, Bridge Street and Queen Street. He has written to the Police, NCC and Rospa, and wanted to know what he could do to help with the problem. He was informed that the Parish Council looked into the Speedwatch scheme previously. It was thought that eight villages have to be involved, and need training on the use of a speed gun. The parked cars in West Street slow traffic down but they speed up again as they go towards the Cross.

20mph limits are painted on approach roads but are not enforced by Police as under 30mph. There should be a further two 20mph signs down the length of Queen Street As there is not, Geddington does not legally comply with a 20mph zone. However, this would still not be enforced by the Police. .

There is no support for chicanes or rumble strips.

Councillors felt that it has to be proved that there is a speeding issue, and if you could monitor the area several times a day motorists would slow down.

ACTION 2: The clerk to write to Speedwatch to convey interest in the scheme.

35/20: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- a) Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting Minutes – held 8th July 2019
Cllr Goode proposed that the minutes were approved, seconded by Cllr Padwick.
Agreed by all councillors present.

- b) Matters arising; outstanding actions.

Action 6 (8.7.19): Cllr Goode will check again with Sarah Barnwell as to if works are entered on her schemes list that you cannot change your mind and the work be cancelled.

Cllr Goode clarified the process. As the cut-off date was August there is now another year to try to alleviate the problem. If a one –off (yellow lines) request is submitted to NCC the cost is £3700.

Action 8 (8.7.19): Contact details to be found for renewing the Parish Council “Chairs” board in the Village Hall lounge.

Estimate for updating the board to be requested.

Action 9 (8.7.19): It was proposed by Cllr Bailey that Cllr Goode obtain quotations and that a Boughton Estates meeting takes place if at all possible. Seconded by Cllr Batchelor, agreed by all those present.

At present the cost of mirrors is £917.00 plus VAT. The quotation is valid for 30 days and is for two 600 by 400mm mirrors.

Concerns raised were:-

- Insurance concerns – regarding drivers being dazzled. The insurance company would need to know that a professional contractor was being used. Noted that the public liability insurance states “to take reasonable care”. The Parish Council has taken reasonable care by carrying out a risk assessment and taking planning advice.
- Positioning of the mirrors.
- The mirrors have to be on private land not the highway, so the land owner’s permission and probably Boughton Estates approval will be needed.

Cllr Batchelor proposed that the Parish Council continue with the mirrors proposal and if an updated quotation is acceptable of £1000 net of VAT then installation of the mirrors should proceed (with the expressed permission of Boughton Estates).

Seconded by Cllr Holland. Agreed by all councillors present except for one abstention.

8.7.19 The Nancy Moore steps – possible stile change to gate.

ACTION 3: The clerk to write to Boughton Estates as to any possibility of a grant for a gate at the top of Nancy Moore steps and in the field the other side of the steps.

The clerk informed the meeting that a letter had been sent by the Youth Club in response to the Parish Council’s earlier reply concerning the Youth Club’s Stone Pit land lease. Unfortunately it had been received too late to be added to the September agenda.

ACTION 5: the letter to be scanned and circulated to councillors.

RURAL FORUM - held 18th July – update

- Cllr Watson reported that £800,000 worth of work in the community has been carried out by the Community Payback scheme.
- The five year statutory review has been carried out as to polling stations for the Parish: there is no change.
- Public sector reform - a shadow board will be elected for May 2020, ready for 2021.
- After November this year there will be no Parish Council elections, the only availability will be to co-opt.
- Other items included a rural bus update being given, an item on travellers and planning training.

The next meeting is on 3rd October 2019. Cllr Watson gave his apologies in advance for non-attendance at this meeting.

At this point the meeting had to close as the deadline of 10.00pm had been reached. A further meeting will be arranged to action the outstanding agenda items.