

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th DECEMBER 2020.

This was held as a virtual meeting – made necessary as a result of the coronavirus.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors N Batchelor (Chair), C Buckseall, T Bailey, P Goode, D Watson, M Rowley, J Padwick, P Johnson.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor D Rushton.

175/21: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Rowley – 177/21b) 9.11.20 action 7, The Skeffington Close verges (sometimes accesses this area for parking).

176/21: PUBLIC SESSION.

Two members of the public were virtually present at the meeting.

a) Questions sent in by the public

No questions had been received.

One member of the public wished to make some comments relating to the planning application KET/2020/0812 - 18 Wood Street. These were raised and will feed into the discussion of the planning application.

The second member of the public wished to make a comment concerning street lighting. The street light opposite 31 Wood Street had been out for a month. It was queried as to had it been reported on the NCC Street Doctor site. The member of the public will check the site and log the faulty street light if it has not been reported.

The second query concerned drains and the recent heavy rain. He reported that the metal drains in the kerbs still do not seem to be maintained, although recent work was carried out on similar drains in Stamford Road (going towards Stanion) area. Cllr Rowley said that all the drains had been checked in the summer, therefore they were not due now for a routine visit for some time. It was highlighted that two drains seem to be blocked or block on a frequent basis. One of these on Kettering Road had been flagged to Highways as to the road coverage of the water with heavy rainfall. The understanding was that the pipe work taking the flood water from this area to the River Ise had been blocked about three years ago (when the resident was a Parish Councillor) and Highways had examined it. It had been examined again in 2020 when the amount of surface water meant that vehicles had to swerve and drive over the centre line, but it was not considered a significant issue by Highways. It was queried as to could the more distant pipe work possibly still be blocked from approximately three years ago.

The second highlighted drain adjoins 18 Wood Street which also floods when there is any sizable amount of rain. It was suggested that a camera could possibly be put down the drain to see if there was a blockage. This may help with the water flow, even if water will always pond in this area because of the camber of the road.

It was suggested that NCC could be asked if they could increase the number of visits for these two drains because of the flood risk (with the drain on Kettering Road in particular). Checks at the start of each winter could lead to reduced risks of flooding in the two areas. It could also be requested if a camera could be put down the drains as it is believed that there is a problem with pipework below street level rather than the drain being blocked (for both drains).

ACTION 1: The clerk to report this request to NCC via Street Doctor

b) Reports from County and Borough Councillors

- i) County Council report. There was no County Council report from Cllr Perry.
- ii) Borough Council report.

Cllr Rowley reported that consultation for the new unitary authority is taking place. There is a proposed increase of 3% for Adult Social Services and 1.99% on the general council tax for 2021 – 2022. Scrutiny was going forward as to proposals for the unitary authority.

177/21: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

a) Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting draft minutes – held 9th November 2020.

The re-phrasing of one sentence at 166/21 was noted to be amended. It was then proposed by Cllr Goode and seconded by Cllr Padwick that the November minutes be accepted. Approved by all councillors present except for two abstentions (absent at the November meeting).

b) Matters arising; progress on outstanding actions.

9.11.20: action 2: Cllr Rowley will find out if blocked footpaths are part of the decriminalisation Act. If it is, a warden can be asked to carry out a patrol in Geddington.

It is a Police matter as it is an obstruction and should be reported to 101. However, there should be an element of self-help, with a word with the neighbours perhaps being all that is needed. The leaflets have gone out to the whole of Newton Road, so the parking on the path may not happen now, but should be reported if it is necessary to. The parking now seems to have improved somewhat in the middle of and Geddington Road end of Newton Road, although not at the far end of Newton Road.

9.11.20: action 3: Does the Parish Council's public liability insurance covers consequential loss? Cllr Batchelor will pursue this with the insurer as clarification is required to the email received from the insurers and what is the extent of what we are liable for.

The insurers to the Parish Council have been asked whether the Parish Council's public liability insurance covers consequential loss. Cllr Batchelor said the Parish Council wanted the insurers to state exactly what is meant by consequential loss and if the Parish Council is covered for it. No reply has been received as of yet.

9.11.20: action 5: (Kier proposal for double yellow lines in Bridge Street and Queen Street).

The clerk to contact Kier to asked who raised the request for suggestions as to parking restrictions. The original correspondence to be forwarded to the Council if at all possible.

Kier have said they are not allowed to convey who raised the suggestion for parking restrictions or send the original correspondence to the Parish Council. An extraordinary meeting will be held on 23rd November to discuss this issue.

9.11.20: action 7: *The clerk to email Highways, outline the requirements, and ask if it was feasible for some form of hard standing to be laid for residents to park their cars on (Skeffington Close), to ask for guidance.*

The ground used for parking at Skeffington Close/ Grange Road corner has been badly churned up. A summary of the email received from Sarah Barnwell at Kier was given, which repeated the information given two years ago. The painting of yellow lines makes it illegal to park there as cars cannot cross the yellow lines. Highways have said they would not allow or support it being used for parking, that they cannot be seen to be endorsing it or facilitating it. Cllr Watson said that if it is illegal and dangerous to park on / over the verges because it blocks road view, it is a risk issue if the Parish Council have left the issue. It was felt that managing verges is not a Parish Council responsibility though.

Cllr Padwick asked if the area around the industrial units could be used for parking. He was informed that the area is owned by Boughton Estates, but run by KBC. This question has previously been asked, but the security company say that it would open the buildings up to burglary.

Cllr Batchelor concluded that there was nowhere to go with this issue; it would have to be unresolved.

9.11.20: action 8: *Gigaclear to be contacted, to ask them to leave information on Facebook as to what is happening in Queen Street and informing them of residents' frustration with Gigaclear as to the lack of communication and the knock-on effect for potential future sales. The email to be sent to Liz Falconer (communications).*

This had been sent, but there had been no reply from Liz Faulkner at Gigaclear.

ACTION 2: The clerk to send the email out that was sent to Liz Falconer.

Cllr Watson commented that there was the same problem now in Newton as there had been in Geddington, with communication being very bad. Comments made were that they are treating residents and the Parish Council very badly. It was discussed as to should a formal complaint concerning communications be sent in, but it was decided it was a waste of time. It was commented that there was also no consultation as to where the green Gigaclear boxes were going to go. There was total agreement that the installations were a public relations disaster for Gigaclear.

c) Approval of Parish Council extraordinary meeting draft minutes – held 23rd November 2020.

It was proposed by Cllr Goode that the Minutes be accepted, seconded by Cllr Johnson, approved by all those councillors present.

d) Matters arising; progress on agreed actions.

23.11.20: action 1: *(Yellow lines) Cllr Batchelor will mark up the map and send it to the clerk. This is an agenda item (181/21e).*

23.11.20: action 3: *Progress on modification to village signs to be added to the December agenda.*

This is an agenda item (181/21h).

23.11.20: action 4: *(Replacement of glass or Perspex for the Geddington notice board). The clerk to contact them to inform them that the Perspex seal has gone, and as a result the backing now needs replacing again.*

The company has replied, saying that they are confident with their design, they have sold thousands of the boards, and there is no problem with the manufacturing process either. They will come out and review it but if there is no problem with the board that is the company's

responsibility, and that the fault is with the usage of the board then there would be a charge. It was commented that the seals went, which let water in and made the backing wet. The Perspex had not been sealed in properly They can also look at upgrading it to a design that has two doors, but the Parish Council would be expected to pay the difference in price between the one door and the two door models.

It was decided that the company would be asked to come out and look at the notice board, which may or may not be a chargeable visit. A councillor would be present when the visit was made to demonstrate that the board and its usage has not been abused.

ACTION 3: The clerk to contact the company and ask if they could come out to view the board, we appreciate that it may be chargeable, and we would like a councillor present when the visit is made.

178/21: FINANCE

a) Bank statements.

Community account statement	as at 17.11.20	£47,106.67
Business Saver account	as at 17.11.20	£10,779.94

b) Accounts received - none

c) Accounts for payment: -

Peter Goode	£3.47	Maintenance work to recreation fence Nov 20.
Mark Rowley	£21.04	Removal of graffiti in recreation field children's play area and teenage shelter. Nov 20.
Mark Rowley	£19.91	Hardware for repair of the berm gate. Nov 20.
Labosport Ltd	£480.00	Ball strike report 10.12.20

It was clarified that it was authorised at the November meeting that the £250.00 desk top survey by Labosport would not be carried out, and the more comprehensive £480.00 risk assessment with the on-site visit taking place instead.

Cllr Batchelor proposed that the accounts be authorised for payment, seconded by Cllr Padwick, approved by all councillors' present, except for abstentions by the two councillors who had submitted receipts for re-imbusement.

d) Any further issues to be discussed relating to sign off for PC budget for 2021-22 and precept decision in January 2021?

Cllr Watson reminded councillors that the decision for the precept needed to be made next month. No further issues were raised.

e) Insurance – to obtain more than one quotation for the next three years?

The last Zurich insurance payment had been made for one year only rather than the previous three-year commitment. This then gave the option for 2021 – 2022 for quotes by another insurance company as well. It was decided that it was worthwhile seeing if a quote could be obtained from another insurance company, as one specialising in Parish Council insurance might raise one or two issues that need to be considered that have not been raised by the present insurers, or give advice on mitigating any risks. One other insurance company to be contacted for a quotation - Proposed by Cllr Batchelor, seconded by Cllr Rowley, agreed by all councillors' present.

ACTION 4: The Parish Clerk to action the above.

PLANNING

a) KBC Decision notices

KET/2020/0399 - Mr P Frampton, 48 West Street, Geddington.

Single storey annex within rear garden. Listed Building Consent Application

Approved subject to planting on the south side.

KET/2020/0606

Mr & Mrs N Richardson, 17 Queen Street, Geddington.

Two and single storey side extensions, two storey rear extension, replacement detached garage with external staircase, modifications to the existing drive and boundary wall and associated works. Full Application.

Approved.

b) Planning applications for consideration

KET/2020/0812: Mr J Overman, 18 Wood Street, Geddington.

Replacement dwelling with creation of pedestrian and vehicular access. Full Application.

It was summarised that the proposal is to demolish the property and rebuild – the building to have a double garage on the ground floor and accommodation to the first floor. There would be no private driveway. The plan shows that the property would be accessed via the shared driveway.

- It was commented that the building would be timber clad, although there were no other timber clad houses in that part of the road, but there is a mixture of other materials. This was not therefore contentious.

- A concern was raised as to surface water run-off. There are large paved areas within the boundaries of the property, a very long and steeply sloped driveway and all the surface water would pool into a large area on the road that already suffers from flooding - the water extends to the far side of the road whenever there is any rain at the present time. Additionally, foul water and surface water would be going into the main sewers, which are not fit for purpose, even without additional water, of servicing the Wood Street area efficiently. There are problems with the drainage pipes whenever there is heavy rain. It was commented that soakaways and a permeable material for the drive would alleviate the problem as it would prevent water from going into the main sewer.

It was proposed by Cllr Goode that “we do not object to the development subject to a satisfactory drainage system”. Seconded by Cllr Batchelor, approved by all councillors present except for one abstention.

179/21: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND CIRCULATED - to note or comment upon.

- i) *The 2020- 2021 census* – Cllr Batchelor will highlight this in his newsletter article, as it is asking for awareness to be made that it is an online census, and asking if anybody would like assistance

180/21: SOCIAL HOUSING CONSULTATION - for discussion and comments, to be submitted.

Cllr Rowley declared an interest in this item as the portfolio holder at KBC for Housing.

Cllr Padwick has summarised the consultation and sent it out to all councillors. It was decided to use this as the response rather than filling in the questionnaire that had been provided. A slight change was made to the third point that Cllr Padwick had written. Cllr Batchelor then proposed that the stated points were submitted, seconded by Cllr Goode, all councillors present were in favour apart from one abstention.

ACTION 5: The clerk to submit the response by tomorrow at the latest (deadline is 15th December).

181/21: ENVIRONMENT.

a) The footpath project – volunteer to take over the work started by Sue Wenbourne?

Cllr Batchelor asked if anyone would like to take over the portfolio of footpaths, which is currently combined with lighting. Would anybody also like to lead on a walkaround with lights as the main focus. Cllr Johnson was happy to lead on the portfolio, and Cllr Bailey suggested that Doug Hodgkinson may be willing to assist him. Cllr Goode and Cllr Padwick will speak to Cllr Johnson in the next few weeks to bring him up to date with the portfolio. Cllr Johnson will lead a walkaround when free one evening, when a few councillors would normally join him.

Cllr Rowley added that there was a walkabout on Saturday evening (19th December) which would highlight which street lights were out and could be fed back to Cllr Johnson.

b) Street lighting in Chapel Lane – complaint received by KBC street lighting officer.

Kanji Chudasama of KBC had sent an email to the Parish Council saying that there was a street light on Chapel Lane that was not working, attached to a house, but the electricity supply had now been removed from the light. The officer is saying that a policy is needed for issues such as this, as it is going to arise again. This scenario where the resident was paying the electricity bill and the electricity supply is then disconnected, will arise again as there are a few street lights on dwelling walls within the village. He asked if the Parish Council should advise to get it reconnected up with a separate meter or if not, what are the other options. The clerk advised that she had told the Lighting Officer on each occasion he has telephoned her concerning this matter, that the street lights are not owned by the Parish Council, that they are not the Parish Council's responsibility but that she believes that he still thinks that they are owned by the Parish Council even though maintenance of them is carried out by KBC – he thinks the work is being carried out on the Parish Council's behalf.

Cllr Watson commented that if the street light is needed in this location then the lighting authority which is KBC should fix it. It was pointed out by Cllr Rowley that the lighting authority is NCC but KBC carries out the maintenance work on their behalf.

In summary councillors agreed that this is the logical course of action, with any further light having a separate meter to the residents when it is sited on the wall of a dwelling.

ACTION 6: Acknowledgement email to be sent to the KBC officer, thanking him for making us aware of the situation and we look forward to it being resolved.

It was also commented that there is another street light in Chapel Lane so was this one on the wall of a house needed.

c) Labosport UK - ball strike report.

Labosport was asked by the Parish Council to carry out a risk assessment. It had been identified by the England Cricket Board (ECB) that the proposed extension to the car park would be an area where there would be danger from balls, and they said a risk assessment must be carried out. They marked up a satellite image showing the area at risk which also included the veranda in front of the clubhouse, the village hall, tennis courts, the existing car park and the children's play area. Labosport is the only company whose report is recognised by the ECB.

The survey had been taken from the position of the closest wickets to the club house and the existing car park. The Cricket Club have pointed out that some of the wickets are newer wickets, but they are not new wickets. The survey assessed the potential risk of cricket balls passing the boundaries of the cricket pitch, with the level of mitigation from each of the wickets included in the report. The report states that the distance from the first wicket (closest to the club house) without any mitigation means that junior play could only be played from the 5th wicket, and for the seniors, play on any of the first 11 of the 14 pitches would involve a risk factor without mitigation procedures.

Additionally, the planning application stated that a 6-metre-high ball strike netting would be installed in front of the car park. If the Cricket Club wished to use the 1st wicket for juniors, they would need a 12-metre-high ball strike netting in front of the club house and extended in both directions. The seniors would not be able to play on the wickets before the 11th wicket without any ball strike mitigation measures in place.

There is a risk to property and members of the public when they play on any of the other wickets that are closer to the club house than those stated. The Parish Council has a duty of care to recreation ground users as a whole, including dog walkers, picnickers, walkers walking past the club house and other resident activities in the recreation field.

The Cricket Club are aware that the Parish Council were waiting for the results of the survey and they have not yet seen the Labosport report yet as it was only received on the afternoon of this meeting.

Cllr Bailey believed there is a risk that the insurance they are paying for does not cover them in light of the report.

It was agreed that the report needs to be sent to the Cricket Club and copied to the ECB for transparency. The accompanying email should request their formal response to each of the points made in the report and in conjunction with the rules laid down by the ECB as the national governing body. There also needs to be consideration as to what is mandatory as per the ECB and what isn't.

Cllr Watson thought it would be helpful to both the Cricket Club and the Parish Council to obtain an update to what it would cost for higher netting around the boundary of the cricket area where it has been stated that it would be needed as this also needs to be considered from a budgeting point of view.

It was also pointed out that the aesthetics of a high netting around this part of the boundary needs to be considered.

ACTION 7: The clerk to send an email to the Cricket Club advising them that the Parish Council needs to hear how the club can address the safety issues raised by the risk assessment in conjunction with the ECB guidelines. A draft to be sent to Cllrs Batchelor and Goode before it is sent.

d) Village Hall car park extension

i) Email received from the Cricket Club wishing to address stated inaccuracies.

The Cricket Club have sent an email addressing what are perceived inaccuracies of the November meeting's discussion of the village hall car park extension. They had previously said in writing that they were not responsible for any damage caused to cars when parked in the car park. The question had therefore been asked if they had the appropriate insurance. They have said that they have, but it was stated in the meeting that the Parish Council as the landlord does need to see it.

ACTION 8: The clerk to contact the Cricket Club, to advise them “thank you for your offer: as the landlord of the recreation ground, we would appreciate seeing the policy note and details”.

The Cricket Club have also been in communication with the ECB via Northants Cricket concerning boundary requirements. They have said that the Northants Cricket Association have relayed the ECB view that the boundaries do comply. The Parish Council however has to be concerned as to the risk of ball strike, not if the boundary rules comply.

The Cricket Club refer in their email to the discussion at the November meeting to cricket pitches. The extra wickets were added but they are not new, just newer than the other pitches: they were added at least ten years ago.

ACTION 9: The clerk to circulate the email from the Cricket Club to all councillors.

ii) any other updates.

There were no other updates.

e) NCC/Kier review of parking in Bridge Street and Queen Street – feedback from the emergency meeting to be confirmed for submission to NCC/Kier.

Cllr Batchelor had marked the plan which now shows where the Parish Council would like to see yellow lines in Bridge Street and Queen Street.

ACTION 10: The clerk to send the plan and the accompanying points made to Kier.

f) Road run on Sunday April 18th 2021- discussion and feedback.

This involves both a 10 mile and a 10-kilometre race starting from the Cross, which may involve closing off the roads. Car parking for the event would also need to be considered. It was felt that there was not enough time left in the meeting to cover this agenda item and it would be better for it to be added to the January agenda for discussion. It was proposed by Cllr Rowley that the agenda item be deferred to the January meeting. Second by Cllr Batchelor, agreed by all those present.

ACTION 11: the sender of the email to be informed that the discussion for this topic had to be deferred to the January meeting because of a lack of time at this meeting.

g) Graffiti on recreation ground play equipment and teenage shelter, removed by resident.

This has now been dealt as far as the graffiti removal, reimbursement of cost of graffiti removal materials required, and thanks having been given to the resident and his family who carried out the removal. The item needs to be added back on to the January agenda however as there are some repairs needed as a result of some of the graffiti damage.

ACTION 12: The clerk to add both agenda items f) and g) to the January agenda.

h) New parking village signs – progress on modifications to the signs.

Cllr Batchelor clarified what modifications had been requested and said that he will now speak to Kensigns.

l) Gigaclear updates.

This was discussed within actions from the last minutes.

j) Stonepit land - Land Registry update.

Cllr Bailey is now dealing with this issue.

182/21: NEWTON

An email from Cllr Watson had been circulated prior to the meeting. It referred to the fencing that will be constructed both sides of the path in the field where the Dovecote is. The land owner is concerned with dogs allowed to run over the field and the risk that may be present in any diseases being passed to cattle. They are aware of all the regulations concerning a heritage site.

183/21: LITTLE OAKLEY

There were no issues to report.

AOB

Cllr Watson informed the meeting that he had attended the Zoom meeting with the Chief Constable for the Police update. A lot of statistics were given, and Fire Brigade engines were going to be updated.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 21:59hrs