

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th SEPTEMBER 2023 at 7.30pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Cllrs C Buckseall, T Bailey, B McCreery, C Wrighting, D Lomasney, M Rowley, J Padwick (Chair).

APOLOGIES.
N Richardson.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.
Cllr Padwick - Planning (NNC notification) - involvement in Save Weekley Hall Wood.
Cllr Rowley - Car Park Extension - related to Cobley Lodge management.

046/24: PUBLIC SESSION.

No members of the public were present.

a) Questions sent in by the public

1. Cllr Rowley reported that several residents had reported the cut grass dumped around the edges of the recreation field. It is believed that the Cricket Club are cutting this grass in addition to the NNC cuts and have left this, which should not be dumped as it is classed as rubbish.

ACTION 1: Cllr Rowley to liaise with Cllr Richardson

2. Two wasps' nests in the recreation ground reported - one in the hawthorn bushes on the far side of the Bowls Club, the other nest is on the far side of the recreation field. It was thought that Cllr Richardson was dealing with the latter nest, the first nest will have to be left as it is very difficult to reach.
3. Permission requested to park six self-contained motorhomes in the Village Hall car park from Friday 15th to Sunday 17th September. After a short discussion councillors denied the request.

ACTION 2: The clerk to respond as above

b) Reports from North Northants Councillors.

No report.

047/24: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

a) Approval of draft minutes for the monthly Meeting held 10th July 2023.

Proposed by Cllr Rowley that these be accepted as a true record. Seconded by Cllr McCreery. Approved by all councillors present but with one abstention.

d) Matters arising; progress on outstanding actions.

10.6.23: action 1: (Eleanor Cross lights not working) Cllrs Richardson and McCreery to check the padlocked door again.

P James Electrician attended the Cross and agreed with Cllr McCreery and Richardson as to the work required. Estimate not received.

ACTION 3: Proposed by Cllr McCreery that an alternative electrician be contacted. Seconded by Cllr Rowley. Approved by all councillors present.

10.6.23: action 2: (Removal of cut tree trunk). Cllr Rowley will ask the resident if he can use his tractor to move the cut tree trunk in the meadow. He has not managed to see him and ask him yet.

ACTION 4: Cllr Rowley to speak to the resident.

15.5.23: action 5: The clerk to contact NNC to order a new bench. (Bench in dog walking area). Bench ordered by clerk via NNC Customer Services but a reply has not yet been received. 10.6.23 - This was chased via the NNC reference number. The relevant manager has now replied and said that purchasing a new bench and fitting of it by NNC is not provided now. The clerk has contacted Wyburn to ask for the relevant information.

ACTION 5: Clerk to provide the information.

10.7.23: action 4: The clerk to pursue the NNC grass cutting schedule and the areas that are cut. The clerk reported that NNC is cutting the bund now. Verges are cut a minimum of three times a year. Sheltered housing is mown about every three weeks. Parks and open spaces should be mown every three weeks.

12.6.23: Action 12: The clerk to convey to NNC the concerns of the Parish Council in relation to the difficulties contacting NNC officers directly and receiving a timely response, and to request a list of the relevant officers, their email addresses and phone numbers.

ACTION 6: Clerk to write to NNC.

10.7.23, action 8: Attenuation Pond/ ornamental pond - contact Stamford Road resident - Cllr Padwick to liaise with the owner of the relevant property.

ACTION 7: Cllr Padwick to check the facts relating to this issue first.

10.7.23, action 11: (Potholes) - Cllr Rowley will speak to the relevant officer later this week.

Officer/manager changes have taken place for this area of work. Grafton Road potholes have now been repaired.

10.7.23, action 12: (Camgrain & Navara Site Tour) - The clerk to inform Camgrain of the interest shown. Clerk reported that two councillors were able to attend the tour in September: Camgrain had been informed.

10.7.23, action 13, (Samuel Lees charity – PC nominated person required as trustee). Cllr Richardson has agreed to be the Parish Council nominated person required as trustee.

ACTION 8: Clerk to relay information.

c)Approval of draft minutes for the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held 20th July 2023.

Proposed by Cllr McCreery that the minutes be accepted as a true record. Seconded by Cllr Bailey. Approved by all councillors present except for two abstentions.

d) Matters arising; progress on outstanding actions.

20.8.23, action 1: (Campervan parked in Village Hall car park) The clerk to respond to the resident who has raised this issue, to convey that the Parish Council has similar concerns and will seek to have the campervan removed.

20.8.23, action 2: The clerk to write to the owner of the campervan and ask her to remove the vehicle and to remind the owner that the Parish Council reserves the right to have the vehicle removed.

The Clerk has written to the owner of the camper van requesting its removal from the Village Hall car park. and replied to the resident who raised this issue.

ACTION 9: Clerk to chase the printing and fitting of the car park sign with Kensigns.

LITTLE OAKLEY

New Flood Warden for Little Oakley is needed.

Cllr Bailey has spoken to one of the owners of the two properties that are affected by flooding (10.7.23, action 9) but still needs to speak to the second owner.

ACTION 10: The above action to be updated at the October meeting.

Defibrillator.

The purchase of defibrillators for Little Oakley and Newton was raised. Councillors were informed that the British Heart Foundation will commence its grant programme for purchase of defibrillators in October. They have a criteria for grants that the Parish Council believes it meets.

ACTION 11: Clerk to apply for grant funding when the programme commences.

NEWTON

a) Emails received by the Newton councillor and the Parish Council from a Newton resident, complaining about the manner of the Parish Council's contact with Dovecote Farm. There has been no response from the owners of Dovecote Farm.

ACTION 12: The clerk to thank the resident for the correspondence.

b) Fly-tipping - on Newton and Grafton Road.

It was reported that NNC have cleared a large amount of fly-tipped rubbish from Newton and Grafton Road, but the next day further fly-tipping had taken place. Cllr Rowley noted that 95% of the fly-tipping is carried out by companies, not individuals. Fly-tipping collected by NNC is monitored, with a view to installing covert cameras where appropriate.

048/24: FINANCE

a) Bank statements. –

Community account statement	18 Jul-17 Aug 23	£69,118.14
Business Saver account	18 Mar-17 May23	£10,827.35;

b) Accounts received

None

c) Accounts for payment: -

A Curtis	Clerk's quarterly salary Jul – Sep 2023	£1222.28
A Curtis	PAYE made to HMRC Jul - Sep 23	£305.66
A Curtis	Agreed depreciation of equipment Jul - Sep 23	£60.00
A Curtis	Expenses – Printer ink £24.47.	£24.47

Kensigns Ltd	Sign for the Village Hall car park (<i>this was authorised in February 2023</i>).	£96.00
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Proposed by Cllr Rowley that the invoices be approved. Seconded by Cllr Buckseall.
Approved by all those present.

Weldon trees - Tree survey carried out by Weldon Tree Landscapes in August 2022. Urgent work for category A trees requested in November 2022 - work carried out in March/April 2023. An approximate four months lead time is required for the work to be scheduled. Proposed by Cllr Lomasney that the category B trees work be authorised (medium term maintenance required). Work to be carried out by Weldon Landscapes Ltd as originally agreed, cost £4,130. Seconded by Cllr McCreery. Agreed by all councillors present.

Category C trees were classed as low priority maintenance work, with timescales given of 12 - 18 months.

Cllr McCreery reported that a tree has fallen over the fencing into the berm (from the recreation field side).

ACTION 13: Cllr Lomasney to view the fallen tree.

049/24: STONEPIT LAND

a) Update from the Working Group.

A list of issues that needed to be considered had been circulated some months ago.

Cllr Rowley clarified he was a member of the Geddington Volunteer Fire Brigade but was not on the Executive Committee or a trustee.

Councillors agreed the next steps forward including that the third quotation for solicitors' work for the lease should be obtained from the NNC Legal team.

Cllr Rowley proposed that the Council was satisfied with the next steps forward. Seconded by Cllr Buckseall. Agreed by all councillors present.

b) Wayleave update.

Letter from the National Grid received stating that the wayleave has been negotiated with Boughton Estates, but they have overlooked that Boughton Estates do not own that land.

Agreed that Boughton Estate be contacted as the wayleave payments should go to the Parish Council.

ACTION 14: Clerk to email Boughton Estates.

PLANNING.

a) KBC Decision notices

NK/2023/0353: Miss L Buckley, 23 Queen Street, Geddington.

Demolition of front boundary wall to facilitate off-road parking with associated extension of vehicular access and alterations to hardstanding. Refused.

NK/2023/0437: M & R Hale: Rothville, 3 Newton Road, Geddington -

Two storey rear and side extension with conversion of garage to habitable accommodation Full Application. Approved.

NK/2023/0313: M & R Hale, 3 Newton Road, Geddington.-

Single storey side and rear extension.

Approved.

NK/2023/0299: Miss C Hunter, 14 Queen Street, Geddington..

Single story rear extension (retrospective) and replace Polycarbonate roof with blue slate roof

Section 73A Retrospective Application

Approved.

NK/2023/0277: J Prentice, Weldon House, Corby Road, Little Oakley.

Detached garage. Full Application.

Refused.

NK/2023/0165: Mr J Meadows, The Old Rectory, Mill Hill, Corby Road, Little Oakley.

Convert outbuilding first floor to 1 no. flat with external staircase and 4 no. rooflights

Full Application.

Refused.

b) Planning Applications for consideration.

NK/2023/0459: Mr & Mrs M Tate, 43 Wood Street, Geddington.

Single storey side and rear extension. Full Application

No objection. Proposed Cllr Buckseall. Seconded Cllr Lomasney. All councillors present in favour.

Larkfleet Appeal – still no information.

c) NNC Appeal notification - Full Planning Permission (EIA): 5 no. B8 warehouses, 1 no. B2 general industry building, service yards, parking, drainage, landscaping and 3 no. substations

Weekley Wood Lane (land at), Kettering

07/08/2023

APP/L2820/W/23/3325758

The Parish Council's previously submitted comments related to traffic generated by Phase 2 – the Venture Park that would extend to the Weekley roundabout.

Agreed nothing further to be submitted.

050/24: CAR PARK EXTENSION. ESR is not responding to Cllr Lomasney. The alternative quotation sent to the Parish Council on 9th September 2022 was from Cobley Lodge for £51,552.00 excluding VAT, approximately £5,000.00 more than the ESR quote. It was proposed by Cllr Lomasney that the Parish Council ask Cobley Lodge if they were could carry out the car park extension work and confirm their current price. Seconded by Cllr McCreery. Agreed by all those present except one abstention.

ACTION 15: Cllr Lomasney will contact Cobley Lodge.

Noted at this stage that the temporary fencing on the car park extension has been opened – clarification to be sought whether it was agreed that the Cricket Club will open and close it.

ACTION 16: Cllr Padwick to contact Village Hall Committee via Cllr Richardson.

051/24: OUTDOOR GYM - Update

No company prepared to quote for installation of the outdoor gym and the updated play equipment. The working group therefore recommend instead that the outdoor gym equipment alone should be the focus. A bid to FCC by 6th December is the target date for submission. Support will sought from the Cricket Club and other organisations, and a request for financial contributions.

It is estimated that the bid for the outdoor gym will be approximately £30,000.00 rather than approximately £70,000.00 including the updated play equipment.

052/24: RETURN OF OLD GOAL POSTS TO NNC - decision to be made.

The goal posts were originally supplied by KBC and are now surplus to requirements.

ACTION 17: Cllr Rowley to contact the relevant person to arrange collection.

053/24: NCC ACTIVE COMMUNITIES FRAMEWORK SURVEY

ACTION 18: Cllr Padwick agreed to complete the survey.

054/24: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND CIRCULATED, TO NOTE, COMMENT UPON OR CONSIDER.

a). Email from resident concerning the future of the Parish Council Facebook Group.

A group of residents now run Geddington.net which includes a Parish Council page, but access is currently an issue to be resolved. The Parish Council Facebook page may also be subject to changes. Clarification on this needed.

ACTION 19 Cllr Rowley will invite the current editor for Geddington.net to the October meeting.

b) Email from resident concerning state of the ground by the Village Hall, and the entrance to the car park.

Ivy is creeping up the small wall by the now demolished play shed and is growing up to their house. The grass is cut around the Village Hall but not the area that the resident has highlighted. Historically it is not the Village Hall's responsibility, and it is uncertain whether it is Boughton Estates land.

ACTION 20: Cllr McCreery will check the plans in the Village Hall filing cabinet to ascertain the boundary of the Village Hall land.

c) Email from resident suggesting closure of the bridge to traffic.

It was reported that the highway is the ford, not the bridge, but because the bridge has been used for a long period of time as a road, permission would have to be given by Highways.

ACTION 21: The clerk to reply to the resident - further contact to be made when an exploratory contact with Highways has been made, and gauge their views.

d) Email from NCalc - The 76th Northants CALC Annual Conference, Saturday 7 October 2023.

Cllr Padwick put his name forward to attend this conference.

ACTION 22: The clerk to notify Ncalc.

e) Email from resident - Parking concerns - Skeffington Close/Grange Road.

It is recognised that there are problems in this area with the parking on the grass verge and the resulting mud and ground churned up, plus the limited vision. Solutions were explored several years ago, but funding was not available. It is also recognised that parking on the road (legally) obstructs views of oncoming cars to a greater extent, thus making the situation worse.

ACTION 23: The clerk to reply to the resident.

055/24: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

a) Remaining tree work - decision to commission the work.

Discussed within 048/24: Finance

056/24: PARISH COUNCIL RECORDS - discussion & decision on involving a trainee archivist.

A member of the public is a trainee archivist and may be interested in digitalising Parish Council records. Agreement that Cllr Lomasney should contact them in relation to this.

ACTION 24: Cllr Lomasney to contact the resident.

AOB.

1. A short discussion took place concerning the future of the post office.
2. It was asked whether the trees and hedging on the Parish Council boundary of the Stone pit land should be added to the report that Weldon Landscapes have carried out.

ACTION 25: Cllr Lomasney to contact Weldon Landscapes.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.42pm.