

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th APRIL 2024 at 7.30pm.

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

APOLOGIES

J Padwick.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Rowley – 003/25d) relative of Copley Lodge management.

PASSING OF FORMER COUNCILLOR BOB AUSTIN.

Bob Austin sadly passed away a few weeks ago. He was a former parish councillor for this Parish. The Council wished to show their respect by observing a minute's silence.

001/25: PUBLIC SESSION.

a) Attendance by First Responders – explanation as to chain of community support for defibrillators.

The First Responder who was due to attend was not able to because of illness. His attendance will be rearranged.

c) Questions sent in by the public

A request had been received to use a small area of the recreation field for a birthday party.

Two small ponies would be present for the children to ride, but a mat would be laid and any mess cleared up.

Noted that the Cricket Club should not be telling people that they can use the field.

ACTION 1: The Cricket Club to be reminded of the above point.

ACTION 2: The resident to be informed that if this was requested again, that the request should come to the Parish Council. Additionally, a copy of their insurance must be seen.

d) Reports from North Northants Councillors.

Concerning the community shop and the community group that are leading on taking this project forward, Cllr Rowley has agreed to pay for membership of the Plunkett group from his ward empowerment fund. However, the payment cannot go from the community group as no bank account has been set up. Cllr Rowley therefore asked for permission to give the Parish Council's name so that the grant can be paid into that account, and hence a payment on behalf of the community group/ association to the Plunkett group can be made. Proposed by Cllr Rowley that this is authorised, for a transfer in to and then transfer out of the Parish Council bank account. Seconded by Cllr Wrighting, all councillors present were in favour.

Closure of Council offices: the London Road Kettering offices will stay open, as will the Corby offices (The Cube). Wellingborough Council offices will not be used but its future use has not yet been determined. Some services will run from Wellingborough library.

002/25: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

a) Approval of draft minutes for the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held 11th March 2024.

Proposed by Cllr Wrighting that the minutes be accepted as a true record subject to two amendments - one correction and one name spelt incorrectly. Seconded by Cllr Buckseall,

approved by all councillors except for two abstentions.

b) Matters arising; progress on outstanding actions.

11.3.24, action 1: (the large speed humps proposed at the junction of Newton Road, Stamford Road and West Street). The clerk to send an objection to NNC Planners.

This has been sent.

11.3.24, action 2: The clerk to contact NNC - suggested closure of the bridge to traffic.

Cllr Rowley will speak to the portfolio holder to check the information that has been given.

This action to be carried forward to the April meeting.

Cllr Rowley reported that he would be seeing the portfolio holder later this week.

11.3.24, action 3: Removal from storage of two traffic mirrors that a resident has been storing. The clerk reported that seven parish councils had been contacted to see if any of them needed a traffic mirror. One firm commitment has been given so far, for one of the mirrors.

The clerk updated that a further parish council was interested in the second mirror, but it has not yet been collected.

11.3.24, action 4: Cllr Rowley will check tomorrow whether NNC would be happy to take over the maintenance of the outdoor gym.

This action to be carried forward to the May meeting.

11.3.24, action 5: Paediatric pads (defibrillators).

An email was sent to the paediatric nurse who was going to attend the April meeting asking if any of the pads were available, or how can they be purchased; should they be included when a defibrillator is purchased and are they needed.

11.3.24, action 6: Paediatric pads (defibrillators).

The clerk to checked with the provider of the defibrillator for Little Oakley to determine if they should have been provided. The lease company that provided the defibrillator for Newton will also be asked if paediatric pads should have been included. The first responder will be able to inform councillors in April if they are provided for the Geddington defibrillator.

The clerk updated that an email was sent to the coordinator for the BHF and to defib solutions for the defibrillator install in Newton. The BHF explained that their equipment is suitable for both adults and children, and Defib Solutions explained that it came down to an appropriate and balanced needs assessment. The adult electrode pads are suitable for anyone 8 years and above or 25 kgs. He added that a slightly different defibrillator is provided for primary school locations.

11.3.24, action 7: The railings on the side of Mary Magdalene Church in Geddington (between Bakehouse Hill and Hall Close) were also in need of some maintenance. The clerk to draw the latter issue to the attention of the Church as it is a health and safety risk.

A message has been sent to the Church via the contact form on the church website.

11.3.24, action 9: (Zurich insurance – new defibrillators to be added to Zurich insurance?) The clerk to contact Zurich and ask them what would be the premium for the defibrillators to be added to the insurance.

The clerk reported that she had contacted Zurich. If the new defibrillators are added Zurich will not charge any more for insurance coverage for the current year of insurance. From February 2025, allowing £5000 for the cost of three defibrillators, the cost would be £20.52. plus the insurance premium tax (12%).

11.3.24, action 10: the clerk to write to Kier and ask for drains clearance maintenance schedule. To also ask - maintenance to the pipe under the road at Little Oakley– does this have a maintenance schedule? Additionally, to enquire as to more thorough work to the drains.

The clerk has written to Kier via Street Doctor, but no reply has been received yet. Cllr Rowley reported that drain clearance is now on a once a year cycle with the old Queen Eleanor ward last being cleaned in November/December 2023.

An enquiry as to more thorough work to the drains was also included, plus the Little Oakley query. This may be the responsibility of Boughton Estates however.

11.3.24, action 12: The clerk to write to Weldon who it was thought maintain their own outdoor gym, to try to determine what level of costs would be involved.

The clerk sent an email out to Weldon, Thrapston Town Council, Brigstock, Gretton and Little Stanion. A compilation of the replies had been sent to Cllr Padwick. Those that replied stated little or low level maintenance.

ACTION 3: The clerk to circulate the compilation of replies to all councillors

11.3.24, action 12: Outdoor gym - email from Boughton Estates relating to any request for funding. The clerk to enquire as to a meeting to follow up a possibility that Boughton Estates may provide some assistance with funding. Cllrs were happy for Cllr Padwick to follow this up.

The Boughton Estates Office had given two dates for a possible meeting; these had been sent to Cllr Padwick.

11.3.24, action 12: (email from Youth Club 5.3.24 – no request for rent for 2024 received). The clerk to reply, to inform them that the Parish Council will send them an invoice in due course. The clerk reported that this had been sent with a similar email also being sent to the GVFB.

LITTLE OAKLEY

a) Street signage.

Cllr Bailey reported that two of the 30mph sign are unreadable in Little Oakley and one has been knocked down and is now in the ditch.

He was informed that the one that has been knocked down should be reported to Street Doctor, but Cllr Rowley will raise all the street sign issues internally if Cllr Bailey sends him an email.

NEWTON

Cllr Lomasney stated that a community litter pick took place mid-March. NNC have collected all the bin bags but not the other rubbish. This is being chased for collection. Cllr Rowley will chase this up this week.

003/25: FINANCE

a) Bank balances. –

Community account statement	17 Feb – 15 Mar 24	£79,498.03
Business Saver account	17 Feb – 15 Mar 24	£15.36

b) Accounts received

£9,305.40 (HMRC VAT).

c) Accounts for payment : -

ACRE	Annual Membership from April 2024	36.00
Boughton Estates Ltd	Rent of playing field Sept 23 – Mar 24	570.00

Boughton Estates Ltd	Slade Footpath 25.3.24 – 24.3.25	0.05
Geddington Village Hall	Hire of lounge – 1 st half of 2024	192.50

Authorisation proposed by Cllr Lomasney, seconded by Cllr Buckseall, agreed by all councillors present.

It was confirmed that the cash flow was adequate up until the end of the financial year and also until the end of April when the precept for the next 12 months will be received.

ACTION 4: The clerk will circulate the Finance Committee draft minutes to councillors.

ACTION 5: The budget and cash flow spread sheet will also be circulated.

It was noted that three or four people had sent emails in to the Parish Council stating that 36% increase was a very large increase. It equates to £12 a year increase for the average property.

ACTION 6: It was agreed that the budget that was agreed in January would be sent out to those residents that sent in emails concerning the precept increase.

d) Fence quote (Village Hall existing car park)

Quote for removing the fence between the existing car park and the recreation field is £5,374.52 including VAT, but Cobley Lodge have offered a discount which would be then be £4,478.77 excluding VAT.

Councillors decided to not proceed with this at the present time, and to review it towards the end of the financial year, or possibly include it in the 2025-6 budget.

It was noted at this stage that the planning application needs to be reviewed relating to the Cricket Club and provision of the netting. If that was a condition the planning application will not be signed off without it.

ACTION 7 The clerk to write to Cobley Lodge thanking them for the quotation, but informing them that the Parish Council has decided to wait until the end of this financial year and then review it.

d) Draft rental agreement for the defibrillator for Newton – authorisation for signing.

This was circulated in January when it was planned that the Newton defibrillator would be installed, and recirculated for the April meeting.

It was agreed by all councillors present that the agreement to be signed by the Clerk as the RFO.

ACTION 8: The Clerk to action the above and send to the defibrillator company.

004/25: STONEPIT LAND UPDATE.

a) Update.

The clerk updated that the person who has been doing the lease has been on holiday, and at that time the draft leases would be ready in two weeks. They are therefore expected to be received by 20th April approximately.

PLANNING

a) KBC Decision notices

NK/2024/0009: Mr A Cosgrove, 26 Queen Street, Geddington.

External flue to the side. Full Application

Approved

005/25: CAR PARK EXTENSION.

a) Update.

Cllr Lomasney reported that the car park was usable from today. The remaining work is installing the boundary fencing and the access barrier. The ball stop netting sole plates need to be fixed and the netting is on site in storage. This was included within the Cobley Lodge quotation. The bench which had to be removed (by the willow tree) also needs to be reinstalled in a suitable place. The dog bin will not be replaced as it was falling apart. Noted that the Cricket Club need to be invoiced for the ball stop netting.

ACTION 9: Cllr Lomasney will find out the cost of the netting, for the clerk to then send the Cricket Club an invoice for the netting, and the Cricket Club to arrange for the payment to be made.

006/25: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND CIRCULATED, to note, comment upon, consider or action.

- a) **Letter from Samuel Lee Trust 20.3.24 – confirmation of Samuel Lee Trustee of a former councillor.**

ACTION 10: The clerk to send an email to the former councillor and ask him if he wishes to continue as a trustee.

- b) **Email from FCRM officer, Asset Performance for Welland and Nene asking for the status of fallen trees across the River Ise, and what action the Council will implement.**

The clerk informed councillors that she had already replied to the officer, informing him that the work has been booked in and will take place to remove the tree from the river, as soon as the ground is not extremely muddy.

- c) **Email from resident 14.3.24 asking how the figure of £30,000 for 2024-5 precept was reached.**
d) **Email from resident 19.3.24 asking for explanation for the precept increase to £30,000.**
e) **Email from resident 21.3.24 requesting under the Freedom of Information Act a breakdown of costs incurred by the Parish Council that justifies the increase.**

ACTION 11: For the above three emails received, the clerk to send the budget for 2024-5

007/25: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

- a) **Discussion of next phase for tree works**

The category C trees from the tree survey that was carried out in August 2022 were recommended to be dealt within two years (by August 2024). The twelve trees within category C will cost £3,150.00 and is budgeted for.

ACTION 12: Cllr Lomasney will contact Weldon Trees so that this can be scheduled in.

AOB.

Noted that in May the Parish meeting (village meeting), the Annual meeting (AGM) and the Monthly Parish Council to be held, at 6.30pm, 7.00pm and 7.30pm respectively. Agreed by all councillors present.

The Facebook page is not showing properly; this will be looked at.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.28pm.