

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th JUNE 2024 at 7.30pm.

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

APOLOGIES

None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Rowley - member of GVFB (018/25b), relative of Cobley Lodge management (023/25).

018/25: PUBLIC SESSION.

a) Attendance by Boughton Estates personnel – update to consultation (Solar Farm application).

Three Boughton Estates officers attended the meeting to give an update to the solar farm project. The public information day recently held by Boughton Estates to convey information and receive comments concerning the solar farm had resulted in a design change as a result of public feedback. Panels will be removed from the western field. Some of the views to the west side of Newton would now be dramatically reduced. The new design shown at the meeting had taken on board some of the comments made.

A habitat enhancement plan was also highlighted. There were three areas of habitat enhancement which were explained: one was a skylark enhancement area. The new areas will include a mix of ponds to give a mixed habitat. Some of the suggestions for improvement can be incorporated.

The Boughton Estates website has been updated with all of the information seen at the public session plus the photo montages. There are some concerns from Highways regarding public rights of way: Boughton Estates are looking to divert the public right of way that cuts through the middle of the scheme.

They stated that they are adhering to best practice regarding consultation. £190,000 will be provided on energization of the scheme – this approach is standard. Noted by Cllr Rowley that the obvious suggestion for spend is the Newton entrance. NNC would have to be in agreement to any scheme proposed.

Feedback obtained at the public meeting – two people were in favour of the scheme and some were concerned with the landscape visual impact, loss of agricultural land and public rights of way. Alternative locations for the scheme was also raised.

As regards traffic and transport, the objective is to get off Newton Road as quickly as possible.

The planning application will be submitted this summer.

The discussion was summarised by the Boughton Estates officer stating that he had taken on board as many comments as he could, and had made some changes as a result of those comments.

If there are any ideas for projects for community benefits, councillors to let Boughton Estates know. They added that as regards the Newton junction, it is NNC property, and if they did authorise work to be carried out the scheme's contractors could do the work that was needed.

It was reported that footpaths across the proposed sited are blocked with foliage. The Boughton Estes officer said that these would be cleared as soon as possible.

Post Office update: Boughton Estates had met with the shop group and conveyed that they would like to find an alternative location for the village shop as the long-term viability of the shop in the old post office building could be challenging. They would be happy to dispose of the freehold with the covenant on it if that was required, but it will start to be marketed with the shop covenant still in place. A shop scheme will be worked out with the community to find an alternative location: Cllr Wrighting added that the shop group is committed to continue to pursue the setting up of a shop in the village. The Blunkett group model would have required the shop to be bought. There is a lot of work that needed to be carried out to the property and this would increase the risks of grants being successfully applied for.

Boughton Estates were informed that the Parish Council would like to keep the covenant in place at the present time, but if that does not work out, could Boughton Estates bring it back to the Parish Council to request that the covenant be taken off.

Attenuation pond: An update should be available for next month as it is hoped that the work can start this summer.

The Boughton Estate Officers then left the meeting.

- b) **Stonepit land – lease update.** Two members of the Youth Club were present and reported that Tollers solicitors had contacted the Youth Club asking for further details for the new lease, but the Youth Club had previously been informed that the proposals would be available for discussion. They were informed that Tollers had been asked to send the draft leases out following the last Parish Council meeting but there is a gap in the information needed, hence Toller's request for the information.

ACTION 1: The clerk to write to Tollers to request urgently that the draft leases are sent out to the two parties by the end of this week, regardless of whether Tollers have the further information requested of the Youth Club.

Cllr Bailey advised the Youth Club to reply to the letter and state everything that they would like to see included in the new lease. This would then be discussed with the Parish Council.

c) Questions sent in by the public

Any questions have been included with correspondence

d) Reports from North Northants Councillors.

NNC are now in the pre-election phase therefore there is no report.

019/25: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

a) Approval of draft minutes for the Annual Parish Council Meeting held 13th May 2024.

Subject to one correction (a name mis-spelt) it was proposed by Cllr Lomasney that the minutes be approved, seconded by Cllr Padwick, all councillors present were in favour but with one abstention.

b) Matters arising.

None.

c) Approval of draft minutes for the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held 13th May 2024.

Cllr McCreery proposed that the minutes were approved, seconded by Cllr Buckseall, all councillors present were in favour but with one abstention.

d) Matters arising; progress on outstanding actions.

13.5.24, action 2: (Financial responsibility of ball stop netting) The clerk to check back on previous minutes to determine that this was the correct action to take, and what was agreed to the responsibility of putting up and taking down of the ball stop netting.

The clerk conveyed that it appeared that it was not determined who would pay for the netting.

The Parish Council incorporated it into the planning application as it had to be included, and hence it was later commissioned by the Parish Council. The planning application was submitted on 3.9.2020 and entitled “change of the use of part of the recreation ground with boundary treatment and erection of ball stop netting. It was reported that the Cricket Club are not refusing to take up and put down the netting – they will try their best but they are not responsible for it if anything happens to it.

ACTION 2: The clerk to write to the Cricket Club that after a long discussion the Parish Council agreed to pay for the netting but the Cricket Club has to raise the nets at the beginning of every game and bring the nets down at the end of every game to ensure that they are not damaged in extreme weather. Given the close proximity of the boundary to the car park the nets have got to be raised before a game and after a game. The Parish Council has accepted to pay for the current netting but the Parish Council cannot afford to replace it. The Cricket Club to also be requested to email a copy of their insurance policy details to the Parish Council.

Noted that going forward for other matters, there should be a clear agreement that the relevant parties have signed up to.

13.5.24, action 3: The clerk to contact First Responders to ask them to confirm that they are maintaining the defibrillator. The Area First Responder to be contacted.

The resident who carries out the monitoring for the defibrillator by the old post office has said that “the defibrillator is held under a managed service agreement from the Community Heartbeat Trust. For the original donation to Community Heartbeat Trust we will provide a defibrillator to install in the phone kiosk. The Parish Council then pays a yearly charge of £126.00 which covers all incidentals for the life of the defibrillator. CHT will immediately replace the defibrillator if there is a fault” This was deemed to be the best way forward at the time by the Parish Council. The resident undertakes the site checks and logs the results which are sent to CHT. The defibrillator is registered with the ambulance service on an alternative system to Circuit”.

First Responders – the clerk has sent an email to the contact name and chased it but no answer has been received. She therefore went back to the original email received from 1st Responders in March 2022 from the First Responder Team (HL). This says that “her understanding is that the school defibrillator and telephone kiosk defibrillator have been checked each month by local residents. The North Northants Community First Responders work alongside East Midlands Ambulance and have taken on the responsibility of providing some defibrillators using charity funds raised. We also check ours and other machines each month and update the circuits. Last month we were contacted by the Circuit to ask us to accept guardianship of the Geddington AED at the school. We do not know who asked us to take it over but we willingly accepted. We will be checking both the AEDs in Geddington at the school and the telephone kiosk. We have had no previous dealings with that”.

A further email said that they could not do the Kiosk check.

ACTION 3: Cllr Wrighting to find out from the First Responder who attended the May meeting who the Area First Responder is. The contact to be forwarded to the clerk.

13.5.24, action 5: (23 Queen Street): Proposed by Cllr Rowley that the clerk to reply to the Appeal to convey the information that the Parish Council did object, the objection is filed with NNC and the Parish Council still objects on the grounds that it breaks the conservation area as it is a significant

wall and the splay lines are non-existent in this area. It also would not save two parking spaces. Seconded by Cllr Buckseall, agreed by all councillors present.

This action was carried out.

13.5.24, action 6: (Raised crossing on A4300). The clerk to email the officer and inform him that councillors still do not agree with the amended proposal. To be recorded that the scheme is objected to and councillors do not understand what they are trying to fix.

This action was carried out.

13.5.24, action 7: The clerk to reply to NNC, answering the questions that have been sent out. To emphasise that primarily this Council is looking to reduce the number of councillors.

This action was carried out.

LITTLE OAKLEY.

a) Defibrillator

Cllr Bailey reported that Little Oakley residents are grateful for the defibrillator, but concerned that it has no facility to lock the cabinet). The clerk confirmed that the supplier, BHF, do not provide locked cabinets. Cllr Bailey asked if Little Oakley could provide a lock, but this is a Parish Council decision. BHF have advised that it should not be locked. The clerk added that the company providing the Newton defibrillator had said it could be locked or unlocked, it was personal preference.

It was also confirmed that the decision was made last month that paediatric pads would not be provided by the Parish Council. The First Responder who attended the May meeting had said that the likelihood of a child under 8 having a heart condition that would need a defibrillator is very remote. He added that in reality you rarely need to defibrillate a child except for children with complex needs or a child who has had cardiac surgery.

It was confirmed that if Little Oakley provided the paediatric pads themselves that this was acceptable.

ACTION 4: Cllr Wrighting thought that if EMAS own the defibrillator then the First Responders service them. If they are privately owned it may work differently. She will check this.

NEWTON.

Cllr Lomasney reported that he has spoken to all the Newton residents concerning a chain of response – to get the defibrillator to a relevant house or person if needed. Six responses from residents have been received to say that they are willing to be part of the chain of response.

ACTION 5: Cllr Lomasney will get in touch with the First Responder who visited last month to find out more details as to what software is needed,

Cllr Lomasney has written to the Parochial Church Council to convey more details about the church wall. He has written the letter on a personal level, not as a parish councillor, saying he is happy to help out if he can.

020/25: FINANCE

a) Bank statements. –

Community account statement	18 Apr – 17 May 24	£69,001.66
Business Saver account	18 Apr – 17 May 24	£15.36

b i) Accounts received

£30,000.00 (Precept rec'd 17.4.24).

b ii)Accounts for payment: -

Requisite Safety Group Ltd	Rental of defibrillator (Newton), 27.5.24 for 13 weeks.	151.20
DJ Cliffe	To remove fallen tree from river, replace damaged fencing & remove tree stump near benches.	750.00
Community Heart Beat Trust	Annual support 27.10.22 – 27.10.23 £126.00 & annual support 28.10.23 – 27.10.24 £126.00	252.00
Mr TW Harker	Remaining work to car park extension – fencing (ball stop netting (supply and fit), fencing (bow top fencing (supply and fit) & general building.	26,288.40
Anita Curtis	Qtrly salary, Apr – Jun 2024	1318.34
Anita Curtis	Qtrly PAYE Apr – Jun 2024, already paid to HMRC by AC	329.59
Anita Curtis	Qtrly agreed depreciation Apr – Jun 2024	60.00
Anita Curtis	Expenses Apr-Jun 2024- Printing ink £25.49, Paper 17.98. Total £43.47	43.47

Cllr Buckseall proposed authorisation for all the payments except for Community Heart Beat Trust £252.00, seconded by Cllr Lomasney, with approval from all councillors.

The Community Heart Beat cheque to be carried over to next month as awaiting clarification as regards maintenance. First responders have been contacted but a reply has not yet been received.

c)The Parish Council Financial Statements for 2023 – 2024 – for approval.

Proposed by Cllr Padwick that the financial statements be approved, seconded by Cllr Lomasney, approved by all councillors present.

e) Section 1 -Annual Governance Statement 2023 – 2024 – for approval.

Proposed by Cllr Lomasney that the financial statements be approved, seconded by Cllr McCreery, approved by all councillors present.

f) Section 2 –Accounting Statements 2023 – 2024 – for approval.

g) Proposed by Cllr Wrighting that the financial statements be approved, seconded by Cllr Padwick, approved by all councillors present.

021/25: STONEPIT LAND UPDATE.

a) Updates.

An update and action were given within the public session (018/25b).

PLANNING

a) KBC Decision notices

NK/2024/0136: Mr Reddan, 10 Bakehouse Hill, Geddington.

Replacement windows and doors.

Approved

Listed Building Consent Application

NK/2024/0223: Ms L Ingram, 12 Bakehouse Hill, Geddington.

Approved

Replacement windows and doors

Listed Building Consent Application

Comments

NK/2024/0252: Mr L Walker, 2 Priory Court, Geddington.

Single storey rear extension

Full Application

Proposed by Cllr Buckseall that there be no objection, seconded by Cllr Padwick, agreed by all councillors present.

Camgrain: Camgrain Stores (north east of), off Newton Road, Newton

Erection of 1no. 100m wind turbine, hardstanding, substation, access track and associated infrastructure

Full Application

This was discussed, with the most interest being concentrated on the noise levels. The decibel level will be 26 from Newton village: 35 is considered loud. Visibility issues: It will be visible to five houses on the side nearest to Camgrain. Cllr Wrighting proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Lomasney, agreed by all councillors present but with two abstentions.

022/25: OUTDOOR GYM

a) Update & decision on funding for maintenance arrangements

Cllr Padwick reported that the outdoor gym grant application to the Communities Foundation was rejected the previous week. Different funding sources will therefore be pursued. The NNC Community Funding source will be explored, but the deadline for submitting bids is later this month.

023/25: Extension car park – update.

The extension car park is completed except for a lock. Copley Lodge will send a link for the lock – they have devised a lock whereby you cannot take one link in the padlock chain off to gain entry to the extension car park. They will also top the gravel up in the extension car park later in the summer.

Cllr Rowley noted at this point that the grass in the berm has not been cut so far this year and he is pursuing this with Grounds work and the portfolio holder at NNC.

024/25: NNC Community Funding - possible funding for bike racks at Village Hall.

It was decided that this should not be pursued within this financial year, as match funding is required and an item such as this has not been budgeted for.

025/25: Electric charging points in the Village Hall car park – for discussion.

Cllr Rowley will send the link to register for the scheme that his company is involved with, and he will transfer the commission earned to the Parish Council, three quotes will be needed however. The information about the schemes is needed before any decision is made.

026/25: VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEETING – issues raised at the Village Hall Committee meeting 28.5.24.

Cllr McCreery

a) Parking of cars over 48 hours - notice is being ignored.

The notices were put up so that the Parish Council could take action to remove a vehicle if and when necessary.

b) Use of the Berm and River.

It has been previously agreed that the gate would not be padlocked as dog walkers use the berm.

There was a problem in a previous discussion of the siting of a notice. The land either side of the “beach” is private land. A notice can’t be put on the bridge as it has monument status. A notice could be put on the gate to the berm. Suggested wording was “no BBQs, please take your litter home and please be aware that there is a live sewerage pump 50 metres upstream of the bridge. We are proud of our village!”

ACTION 6: The clerk to obtain a quotation for such a sign.

c) Ball stop netting - Cost and maintenance

Cllr McCreery reported that a Cricket Club representative has said to him that if they are not paying for the ball stop netting, they will carry out the raising and lowering of the cricket net. for each game.

d) Tennis Club

The Tennis Club has been wound up and the Tennis Club account has been transferred to the Village Hall.

It is thought that the Village Hall own it, but this needs to be checked.

ACTION 7: The clerk to check if anything relates to this in Dropbox, and check access to it for councillors.

Also noted that the Village Hall car park will now be swept by a Village Hall Committee member.

027/25: CRICKET CLUB ISSUES.

a) Email received 28.5.24 from Cricket Club concerning ball stop netting invoice – discussion.

This was discussed at 019/25d).

028/25: CORRESPONDENCE - received and circulated, to note, comment upon, consider or action.

a) Formal letter of invitation from CLG 20.5.24 to the Parish Council to join the proposed Magna Park, Corby Community Liaison Group (CLG). – from Director of SecNewgate.

Cllr Rowley volunteered to be the Parish Council representative for this group.

ACTION 8: The clerk to inform CLG of this.

b) Email from Greenbelt 21.5.24 – offer of complimentary tickets

ACTION 9: The clerk to inform Democratic Services of any councillor who has a free ticket.

c) Email from Public Transport Officer, NNC 29.5.24 requesting meeting (re two bus stops).

The bus has been unable to get through Wood Street because of inconsiderate parking and other obstructions. Any meeting should include an invitation to the school who could then send a letter out to all the parents.

ACTION 10: The clerk to ask the Public Transport Officer for some dates, and inform him that the Parish Council will also invite a representative from the school to the meeting.

d) Email from V Hall Caretaker 16.5.24 concerning whereabouts of board listing PC chairs.

It has been located, but it has now been said that the Village Hall Committee may not want it on permanent display again. It is a historical record however. The suggestion was made that if they do not want it in the lounge, they could install it in the hallway area.

Councillors collectively wished to see it in the Village Hall.

ACTION 11: The clerk to inform the Village Hall Committee that the Parish Council has supported the Village Hall for many years and the Parish Council board has been on display for many years. If they do not wish it to be installed again in the lounge, it could be installed in the hallway area.

The board also needs to be updated again once its position in the Village Hall is decided.

029/25: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

The dog meadow gates – quotation for repairs and renewal of gate and posts in dog walking area.

The quotation is £451.72 plus VAT (total of £542.06) for repair and renewal of gate and posts. Cllr Lomasney added that the other gate that was replaced in October 2022 cost £518.00. This quotation to be accepted.

AOB.

Cllr Padwick reminded councillors that it was agreed some time ago that the next street, alleyway or area to be named in the village would be named after John Doran. Noted that this has been officially recorded.

The village fete is on the 22nd June. It was previously decided that it would be good practice for the Parish Council to have a stall at such an event. However, four councillors are not available on that date, plus it is within the pre-election period so very little could be promoted. It was therefore decided not to have a stall for the event this year.

Anita Curtis - Parish Clerk

Email: Geddingtonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk