

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th NOVEMBER 2024 at 7.30pm

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors B McCreery and C Wrighting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None

049/25: PUBLIC SESSION.

a) Questions sent in by the public

The speed of traffic down Queen Street. It was acknowledged that the speed can be excessive, especially at 2.00pm – school pick up times. There was a crash in Queen Street four weeks ago. The Parish Council does not have remit over highways issues other than push for preventative speeding measures. Cllr Rowley has spoken to the portfolio holder for Highways, which may result in a Kier site visit to Queen Street / West Street to assess what can be done.

b) Reports from North Northants Councillors.

The pelican crossing by Grange Road - lights will be upgraded to LED in January.

An email was sent round concerning new community grants that would be coming out.

050/25: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

a) Approval of minutes for the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held 9th September 2024.

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting were correct, and they were duly signed by the Chair.

b) Matters arising; progress on outstanding actions.

9.9.24 – 046/25 Correspondence e) Cricket Club grass cuttings. The Cricket Club are happy to compost the grass cuttings, but have not yet worked out the dimensions of the container. Suggested location is the spinney area.

ACTION 1: The clerk to ask the Cricket Club what the dimensions of the container will be, and to ask them if it can be sited off the grass in the nettles in the spinney area.

9.9.24 -040/25, action 4: - The clerk to obtain information regarding the Unity bank.

The clerk relayed the information that related to a small parish council. The cost of using Unity would be £6 per month and the account would be a T1 current account. There would not be a reliance on using a cheque book for payments. It was proposed that the Parish Council apply for an account with Unity. Proposed by Cllr Padwick, seconded by Cllr Buckseall, agreed by all councillors present.

ACTION 2: The clerk to apply for an account with Unity bank.

9.9.24, action 6: The Housing Needs assessment that was sent off in July has been chased, but there has still not been a reply.

The Board of Chairs that was formally on the wall in the Village Hall lounge

The Village Hall Committee has agreed that it can be put on the wall in the foyer backing on to the disabled toilet, not in the main hall or lounge. They added that they have refused similar requests from other organisations.

ACTION 3: The clerk to contact Kensigns to cost and then update the board before it is hung in the Village Hall foyer.

c) Approval of minutes for the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held 14th October 2024.

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting were correct, and were duly signed by the Chair.

d) Matters arising; progress on outstanding actions.

There were no matters arising.

LITTLE OAKLEY.

There are problems with the road signs in Little Oakley. Some are faded, and a 30mph sign is now in a ditch. There was a crash in Little Oakley a few weeks ago which may have been caused by faded white line makings. Cllr Bailey has written to both the NNC Chief Executive and the MP raising this issue. Cllr Rowley reported that he is due to have a ward walk-around with the NNC Chief Executive and he will highlight the state of the signs.

ACTION 4: Cllr Rowley to carry out the above action. He will also ask Kier to inspect the Little Oakley area when the Queen Street/ West Street inspection is carried out.

NEWTON

Cllr Lomasney

Cllr Lomasney reported that residents had still not had defibrillator training from a first responder or any information concerning a chain of command.

ACTION 5: Cllr Lomasney will chase these for the third time with the First Responder he previously contacted.

Collapsed wall: Cllr Lomasney has had a meeting with the owner of Dovecote farm and Geddington PCC. He was informed that the only course of action would be to rebuild the wall. However, the PCC do not have the money to do this.

An update for Newton church was given. A planning application was granted to convert the church into a dwelling but no purchaser has come forward.

051/25: FINANCE

a) Bank balances

Community account statement	18 September – 17 October	£33,734.11
Business Saver account	18 September – 17 October	£15.48

b) Accounts received

None

c) Accounts for payment: -

Geddington Village Hall	Hire of lounge for monthly meetings – 2 nd half of 2024-5	192.50
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Proposed by Cllr Buckseall that the payment be approved, seconded by Cllr Lomasney, approved by all councillors present.

d) Budgetary process for 2025/26 – discussion for potential capital spend, plus other spend.

The car park fence and potential gate between the children's play area and the car park are the capital spends, plus the outdoor gym. There was a short discussion concerning the community grant.

- e) **Revenue spends.** Tree maintenance for the Stonepit land is included in the budget. If any councillor would like any additional maintenance spend to what has already been included in the draft budget, it needs to be sent to the clerk.

Cycle racks in the Village Hall car park were mentioned previously, but it is unclear if there is a demand for these.

Electric charging points in the car park to be added to the draft budget.

ACTION 6: Cllr Rowley to send some information about charging points to the clerk.

- f) **Precept – discussion as to level of precept required.**

This will be discussed at the next meeting

052/25: TO CONSIDER PLANS, BUDGET AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LOCAL ELECTIONS IN 2025.

A discussion clarified that from 1st November 2024 if a councillor leaves the council does not have a by-election. It is unclear whether you can or cannot co-opt within the next six months.

ACTION 7: Cllr Rowley to check what happens when a councillor leaves within six months of the elections (May 2025).

ACTION 8: Cllr Padwick and Cllr Rowley will write a report for the next newsletter which is due out in December, centred on a campaign for recruitment.

053/25: STONEPIT LAND – updates.

A lease has been sent out to GVFB. Noted that the containers were not listed separately as they are within the curtilage of the lease. GVFB have requested that they have a seven-year rolling contract. The Parish Council might consider another lease on similar terms a year hence. This would be considered at the time as it would be a new council.

The Youth Club conveyed in the last meeting with the working group that they would not accept a seven-year lease. The Youth Club has previously been informed that if a lease is over seven years in length that it has to be registered with Land Registry and the Youth Club would need legal representation.

Another meeting will need to be arranged with the Youth Club. Cllr Rowley will be able to attend the next meeting if the GVFB lease is sorted out.

ACTION 9: Cllr Bailey to send a draft letter to the clerk arranging another meeting with the Youth Club.

PLANNING

a) NNC Decision notices

NK/2024/0550: Mr & Mrs C Scott, Boughton Wood Lodge, Boughton Wood Lodge Road, Geddington.. **NK/2023/0795** (Demolition of house and outbuildings and erection of 1 no. house and garage, to include photovoltaic panels and ground source heat pump): Ground floor doors converted to windows. First floor window adjustments - lowering of the first-floor window sills by circa 300mm and repositioning of these. New Oeil-de-boeuf window. Amendment to the extent of ashlar stone. Relocation of the date stone. Introduction of six new rooflights on the rear elevation to allow for natural light in loft space. New external wall lights. New external alarm box. Non-Material Amendment

Approved.

NK/2024/0440: D & A Du, The Priory, Grafton Road, Geddington. Converting existing utility room, storage and outbuildings to gym, sauna, steam room, changing room and shower room. Addition of rooflight

Listed Building Consent Application

Refused.

NK/2024/0404: Mr L Hulett, 4 Grange Road, Geddington. Garage extension with pitched roof. Full Application.

Approved

NK/2024/0439: 14 day renotification. Mr & Mrs A Groom, 4 Steele Way, Geddington. Two storey side extension.

Approved

NK/2024/0515: Mr & Mrs Parker, 5 Access Road To Newton House, Newton. Replacement windows and enlarge 1 no. window opening. insertion of 1 no. window and infill doorway with reclaimed stone to front.

Withdrawn

NK/2024/0412: Miss L Buckley, 23 Queen Street, Geddington. Solar panels to the rear. Withdrawn

NK/2024/0437: Ms V Lyon, 29 Queen Street, Geddington. Replacement windows and door to front. Listed Building Consent Application.

Refused.

NK/2024/0436: Mr S Kordi-Harberd, Mayfield, 4 Corby Road, Little Oakley.

Replacement boiler. Listed Building Consent Application.

Approved

The solar farm – update. The application has been submitted but it has not yet gone through the verification process.

b) Planning Applications - for comments.

There were no planning applications received for comments up to 11.11.2024.

054/25: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND CIRCULATED, FOR ANY ACTION.

a) Notification of satisfactory conclusion of 2023-4 audit from PKF Littlejohn.

b) Request from Northamptonshire ACRE (24.10.24) to complete a short membership survey.

ACTION 10: Cllr Rowley offered to complete the survey.

c) Request by Ncalc to complete a survey “the role of parish and town councils in health and wellbeing” , sent 25.10.24. (Follow on from a survey carried out in 2020).

Cllr Rowley offered to complete this or make a judgement on whether this Parish Council would benefit by it being completed.

055/25: VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEETING FEEDBACK- information and discussion of two extra disabled parking spaces

i) Cllr Lomasney reported that he has a copy of the Village Hall accounts and the treasurer’s report.

ACTION 11: Cllr Lomasney to send/ give these to the clerk for filing.

ii) Long-staying vehicles in the car park. The committee were informed that this is not being monitored on a regular basis as the Parish Council does not have the capacity to do that, but if any information is given to the Parish Council it may be followed up.

iii) Use of vehicles on the recreation ground. An email had been sent to the Bowling Club

informing them that it was for emergency vehicles only. The Bowling Club have regular deliveries of calor gas, but they have already been informed that this is acceptable to bring the van onto the recreation field for this purpose.

iv) Hedge between the tennis courts and the recreation field grassed area. This is the responsibility of the Bowling Club as per their lease. It is being trimmed as maintenance to it is needed. The Bowling Club will therefore pay for the work.

The path running parallel to the hedge: - There may be maintenance needed to the path but they do not wish to accept responsibility for the resulting work.,. The Bowling Club representative was informed that the Parish Council would not accept responsibility for the path including if any relaying of slabs needed to be carried out. The path was laid by the Bowling Club. Cllr Lomasney advised the committee to submit some information giving more details.

v) Lights in the car park extension: - It was suggested that this might be a good idea, for both people returning to their cars and to prevent anti-social behaviour. However, no reports of anti-social behaviour have been received. Such a scheme would need planning permission. It was also thought that it would be detrimental to wildlife. It was noted that it was designed as a "semi car park" as to its look, and lights would be detrimental to this. Cllr Lomasney informed the committee that any proposal would not be accepted.

vi) Percentage of disabled car parking spaces should increase. The planning application stated that two extra disabled car parking spaces would be included in the village hall car park giving four spaces in total. Two more car park spaces of 2.6 metres wide including the hatching are needed.

ACTION 12: Cllr Lomasney will measure up two spaces near the Village Hall and action this.

Noted at this point that the Cricket Club netting had been taken down.

056/25: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

a) Tree plan for Stonepit land- discussion on how to proceed.

Confirmation was given that the plan provided included all the relevant trees that needed maintenance on the Stone pit land, running parallel to the road. Boughton Estates is responsible for the trees/hedging on the west side that were cut down previously.

Subject to the budget being checked up until March, it was proposed by Cllr Rowley that the work for the category A trees for Stonepit land be carried out, the costing is £1,460. Seconded by Cllr Lomasney, agreed by all councillors present.

ACTION 13: The clerk to arrange a full committee meeting – for Friday 29th November at 6.00pm.

b) Newton- churchyard wall information.

This information was given at agenda item "Newton".

AOB.

None.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.21pm.