

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th MARCH 2025 at 7.30pm

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors J Padwick.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Rowley – for minutes item 078/25: - Stone pit land leases (member of GVFB), Finance 079/25 (d) - quotation (family member), and Planning (b) relative of the applicants.

077/25: PUBLIC SESSION

PCSO Norbert Meszes was present at the meeting. He stated that Geddington Parish was one of his designated areas. He then explained his role, adding that his was a community engagement role, rather than an enforcement role. He explained issues that were covered by PCSOs, such as recognising where there was drug use and then bringing it to the attention of a constable.

The parking issues around the school were brought to his attention. The PCSO then left the meeting.

PCSO Meszes said he would be attending the next meeting.

a) Questions sent in by the public

Any questions sent in were included under 082/25: “Correspondence”.

b) Reports from North Northants Councillors.

Cllr Rowley reported that councils were now in pre-election mode. This means that council facilities cannot be used to promote a person applying to be elected as a councillor, or promotion of a project where the credit could be given to the potential councillor.

There will also be no press releases from NNC that include councillors’ names until the elections.

The nomination papers were now available and current councillors were advised to complete the form if they wish to apply to be re-elected.

ACTION 1: The clerk to send the link out for the nomination papers.

Cllr Rowley reported that at the last NNC Full Council meeting there was a motion put forward to press the Chief Constable to open police stations in all the major towns in North Northants.

078/25: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

a) Approval of minutes for the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held 10th March 2025.

Proposed by Cllr Rowley that the minutes were a true record, seconded by Cllr McCreery, agreed by all councillors but with one abstention. The minutes were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

b) Matters arising; progress on outstanding actions.

16.1.25 action 1: (Flooding in Stamford Road – attenuation pond). Cllr Rowley will check with Highways to confirm that they are contacting the land owner concerning the pond.

ACTION 2: Cllr Rowley will check this with Highways.

10.2.25, action 3: The resident has agreed to carry out a training session for Geddington.

ACTION 3: The clerk will email her as to possible dates.

Noted at this stage that maintenance for the Geddington defibrillator in the former BT kiosk by the old Post Office has not yet been clarified. The two volunteers who have been carrying out the monthly checks are happy to hand over responsibility for the monthly checks when this is sorted out. The maintenance contract agreement is with Community Healthcare Trust. Cllr Wrighting believes that the first responders will take over the maintenance but this needs to be confirmed

ACTION 4: The clerk to contact CHT to check this as nothing formal was set out when the defibrillator was installed. Cllr Wrighting will send the first responders contact details to the clerk so that taking over the maintenance can be confirmed.

10.2.25, action 4: (EV charging) The clerk to find out from other parish councils if they have EV charging points in their village hall car parks (or similar places in their area), what their usages are, is the scheme working well, what are their thoughts about them, and any other issues.

Charging points in the village hall car park is on the agenda and discussed at 081/25.

10.2.25, action 5: Cllr Rowley will check to see if it is too late to submit an article for the village newsletter concerning electric charging points and what are villagers' thoughts.

This has been done and an article submitted.

10.3.25, action 8: Email from Skeffington Close resident 28.1.25– Sycamore tree shedding branches in Skeffington Close – tree report.: Cllr Rowley will email the relevant officer and ask again if this particular tree needs maintenance work carrying out to it.

ACTION 8: Cllr Rowley will email the relevant officer this week.

LITTLE OAKLEY.

A new 30mph sign has been installed and the "low bridge" sign on the A43 has been restored. The other signs and the road markings are still to be done.

NEWTON

The annual litter pick is being arranged for the end of March.

The PCC is obtaining some quotations for repair of the wall to the south side of the church.

079/25: FINANCE

a) Bank statements. –

Community account statement	18 January – 17 February	£27,565.59
Business Saver account	18 January – 17 February	; £15.54

b) Accounts received

None

c) Accounts for payment: -

Boughton Estates	Playing field NS4071 30.-9.24 – 29.3.25	570.00
Boughton Estates	Slade footpath 25.3.25 – 24.3.26	0.05
Weldon Tree & Landscapes Ltd	Tree safety works (priority A at the Youth Club).	1752.00
Requisite Safety Group Ltd	Qtrly rental of defibrillator equipment, Newton.	151.20
Anita Curtis	Clerk's quarterly salary Jan - Mar 2025	1382.39
Anita Curtis	PAYE made to HMRC Jan - Mar 25	346.00
Anita Curtis	Agreed depreciation of equipment Jan – Mar 25	60.00
Anita Curtis	Expenses Jan – Mar 2025. Printer ink £16.47, Pack plastic wallets 5.49, stamps (8x2nd class) 6.80. Total £28.76	28.76

Proposed by Cllr McCreery that the above cheques be approved. Seconded by Cllr McCraith, agreed by all councillors present.

d) Quotations for disabled bay markings in the Village Hall car park.

After some discussion the quotation for the disabled bay line markings in the village hall car park was proposed from the three that had been obtained. Proposed by Cllr McCreery that the Cobley Lodge quotation of £1,250 was accepted, seconded by Cllr McCraith, accepted by all councillors present but with one abstention.

080/25: STONEPIT LAND – updates.

a) Letter received from the Youth Club.

The letter circulated to councillors stated that the Youth Club were not prepared to accept a seven-year lease. They also feel that they need to get some legal advice. Cllr McCreery noted at this point that both Cllr Bailey and himself had stressed two years ago at the commencement of the new lease work that they were advised to get legal advice. A seven-year rolling contract cannot be given at this stage as it would be classed as more than seven years which would alter the security of tenure.

It was emphasised by councillors yet again that they wished to have a youth provision in the building.

ACTION 9: A draft reply to the Youth Club's letter of 18th February will be finalised and sent to the Youth Club.

b) Update from the Stonepit land leases – working group.

The GVFB have asked for some changes to the lease which will tidy it up, and they have accepted the seven-year lease. This lease has gone back to Tollers for the proposed changes to be inserted/ deleted.

PLANNING

a) NNC Decision notices

NK/2024/0312: 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.

Approved

b) Planning Applications - for comments.

NK/2025/0049: Mr J Wood, 5 New Road, Geddington.

First floor side and rear extension, convert garage to habitable accommodation, brick up door and insert first floor window to side elevation, alter window and door to rear elevation, extend existing hardstanding to front of property, erect shed to rear garden

Full Application.

No comments to be sent back as this is an amendment only.

NK/2025/0076: The Udder Preschool, Cobley Lodge Farm, Stamford Road, Little Oakley.

Single storey side extension to nursery

Full Application

The application was not contentious.

Cllr Buckseall proposed no objection to the application, seconded by Cllr McCreery, agreed by all councillors but with one abstention.

An application was noted that was not within this Parish but an adjoining parish.

Acre land – a barn to be changed to a self-storage type of facility.

It is not envisaged that it will cause any problems to this Parish.

No reply to be returned.

081/25: CHARGING POINTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK – update.

a) EV chargers list – compilation of several nearby Parish/Town councils as to do they have EV chargers in their parish.

Responses from a good percentage of North Northants parish councils have been received.

A lot of them do not own car parks, or if they do, they have no plans to install EV charging points. One parish looked at the option but decided against it, a couple of parishes will track what this parish does and possibly install if it goes well.

b) Updates and discussion

Overnight/ long term parking in the car park. - It was thought that it is only usually nearby residents that park their cars in the car park overnight so it is not worth informing an enforcement agency of long-term parking at the present time.

An article was put in the village newsletter to see what the response to possible EV charging points was: no questions or comments have so far been received by councillors.

Raunds Town Council have a charging point, but it is not available for the public as a council van needs to have access to it.

Rothwell Town Council have one but there is currently a dispute concerning it.

c) Fast/ slow chargers and percentage funding.

Cllr Walker noted that a small village in Dorset were going to install two rapid and two slow charging points and the council will cover the installation costs and the parish council will receive a percentage of the profits once the chargers are up and running.

ACTION 10: It was thought that it is beneficial to explore this option further: the clerk will therefore add it to April's agenda.

082/25: CORRESPONDENCE.

9a) Email from GVFB 11.03.25 - copy of the GVFB Annual Report and Accounts for 2024. This has been circulated to all councillors.

9b) Email from Police Liaison Representative Central Coordinator 24.2.25 asking for examples of good work in the local area around crime prevention advice, community engagements, and generally positive work.

ACTION 11: The clerk to write back informing that the council requested and had the PCSO for this area attend this meeting and he will be attending the next meeting. To also add that the presence of the Beat bus in the village would be more than welcome.

9c) Email from resident 1.3.25. Damage to property in Queen Street caused by large branch from a tree.

The tree was surveyed in August 2022.

ACTION 12: Cllr Lomasney to check with Weldon tree and landscapes if any action was required when it was surveyed and how often should a survey take place, and to generally ask their advice.

ACTION 13: The clerk to check what is the legal position when a branch falls off a tree into a private property. Is it classed as an act of God.

9d) Email from resident 4.3.25. Property in Bridge Street has had a wall light removed. Cllr Rowley has reported the missing light to NNC.

Request from resident to use the recreation ground (area by the Cricket Club) - For a child's birthday party on Sunday 6th April, with a bouncy castle being in the Cricket Club area.

Request from resident on behalf of the school's parent/ teacher association.

An easter egg hunt is being organised and face painting, bouncy castle and BBQ to be held near the cricket club area on Saturday 5th April

Both of the above two request had permissions given by councillors as long as a copy of the insurance is sent and the inflatables are manned at all times. Both requests to be informed that no vehicles to be allowed on the field except for unloading a loading up again before and after the events take place.

ACTION 14: The clerk to email the two residents with the above information.

083/25: MARKING OF POST-WOMAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE VILLAGE.

A discussion took place asking if councillors wished to mark her retirement.

It was thought that it was a good idea to have some "in recognition of your service" cards made up so that they could be sent when it was appropriate.

Noted that an article had been written for the village newsletter.

ACTION 15: Proposed by Cllr Wrighting and seconded by Cllr Walker that Cllr Wrighting will devise a letter or/and a certificate for the post-woman. Approved by all councillors except for one against and one abstention.

AOB.

None.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.18pm.