

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th MAY 2025 at 7.30pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors M Rowley (Chair), B McCreery, C Wrighting, B McCraith, .
L Walker.

APOLOGIES: None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Rowley – 009/26 - Stone pit land leases (member of GVFB), and
008/26 - quotation (family member).

005/26: CO-OPTION.

Several residents had expressed an interest in being co-opted on to the Parish Council - Adrian Williams, Graham Storey, Avril Storey, Julie Nolan, Elaine Gibson and Gail Johns. They individually spoke for a few minutes about their background, how long they had lived in the village, why they had decided to put their name forward etc. There was no vote as it was unanimous that they should all be parish councillors.

006/26: PUBLIC SESSION

a) Questions sent in by the public

Any questions received will be raised under 010/26 "Correspondence".

The member of the public noted that one of the street lights in Little Oakley had been fixed but one other light was not working. He was informed that if it is reported to Street Doctor he will be informed that street lights are not part of the Balfour Beatty contract and be advised to speak to the Parish Council. He was advised to speak instead to the new NNC councillor for Geddington and Stanion ward, Mr Brendon Lovell-Moore, who will advise on what to do next.

Additionally, requested new road signs for Little Oakley are now in place but the road markings have not yet been painted.

He was advised that he needs to speak to the NNC councillor about this as well.

b) Reports from North Northants Councillors.

There was no report received, but the new NNC councillor had advised today (Monday 12th May) that he had only just received an NNC laptop and therefore emails today.

ACTION 1: the clerk to invite the new NNC councillor to all future meetings.

007/26: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

a) Approval of minutes for the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held 14th April 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr McCreery that the minutes were a true record, seconded by Cllr McCraith, agreed by all councillors present.

b) Matters arising; progress on outstanding actions.

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

Cllr Rowley reported that this has not yet been done – he needs to speak to Highways about flooding in the area as a whole, which will include the Stamford Road attenuation pond.

No update was received for this item.

10.3.25: action 8: (Email from Skeffington Close resident 28.1.25– Sycamore tree shedding branches in Skeffington Close). Cllr Rowley will email the relevant officer this week.

Cllr Rowley reported that he has contacted NNC about the sycamore tree. NNC notice period for looking at the tree is 15th April. They have been asked if they will knock on the resident's door to inform her that it has been looked out.

ACTION 2: It is unclear whether NNC have been out – therefore the clerk will contact the resident to check that she has been informed of their tree inspection.

10.3.25: action 12: (Damage to property in Queen Street caused by large branch from a tree).

10.3.25: 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.

14.4.25, action 2: The clerk to write back to the resident and advise him that he would have to make a formal claim but he would have to show negligence of the Council in the maintenance - the tree was surveyed in August 2022 and any remedial work that was required at that time has been completed.

The resident has since contacted the Council with a Freedom of Information request. The information for the FOI request is currently being gathered.

Marking of post woman's contribution to the village) 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.

This will be ready by the next meeting.

14.4.25 action 4: It was noted that it was agreed a few months ago to renew the original fencing to the car park, some of which is broken. Proposed by Cllr Rowley, seconded by Cllr McCreery that this is carried out. This was originally agreed at the time that the car park extension was being constructed, and the contractors were advised that contact would be made again for the existing fenced area to be replaced in the new financial year.

The original contractors have been contacted.

14.5.25 action 11: (EV charging points). The clerk to contact three relevant organisations to come to the Parish Council to give a talk on what would be involved.

NNC had been contacted – they will forward the name of the contact for the company they use. It was thought however that both the company they use and usage of the charging points will be very expensive.

LITTLE OAKLEY.

There is currently no councillor for Little Oakley. The former councillor who was present at the meeting reported that the only issue was outstanding road markings. He added that he had not put his name forward for nomination at the May elections as he wished to give a younger person in Little Oakley a free run to put their name forward as the Little Oakley representative. No one has come forward however, so with approval a flier from the Parish Council will be circulated to all residents informing them that there is a vacancy at the Parish Council for a Little Oakley Councillor. The resident said he didn't say he wasn't willing to do it, he just wanted to give any Little Oakley resident the chance to be nominated and accepted.

NEWTON

The church wall has fallen down and is on a footpath. The Church are reaching out for the diocese to pay for it. The church warden needs to highlight how dangerous it is now.

ACTION 3: The clerk to action the above issue.

The river is completely blocked below Newton.

ACTION 4: The Environment agency and Boughton Estates to be informed of this.

008/26: FINANCE

Bank statements. –

Community account statement	18 March – 17 April	£28,461.04
Business Saver account	18 March – 17 April	£15.60

Accounts received

HMRC (VAT reclaimed) £6074.40

Accounts for payment: -

Nil

It was reported that the fencing at the far end of the recreation field between the wooded area and the river Ise has broken. A quotation has been requested and sent for £895.20 from Copley Lodge. Proposed by Cllr Wrighting and seconded by Cllr McCraith that the quotation is accepted. Agreed by all councillors present.

A third cheque signatory is needed as one of the signatories is not now a councillor. Cllr McCraith to be added to the signatories.

009/26: STONEPIT LAND – updates.

The Youth Club were given until the end of April to get back to the Parish Council with a final response.

No communication has been received from the Youth Club. The Youth Club to be asked if they are prepared to negotiate.

ACTION 5: The Clerk to write to the Youth Club to ask if they are prepared to negotiate.

PLANNING

NNC Decision notices

*NK/2025/0076: The Udder Preschool, Cobley Lodge Farm, Stamford Road, Little Oakley.
Single storey side extension to nursery
Full Application*

Grants permission

*NK/2025/0146: Mr & Mrs M Anslow, 9 Newton Road, Geddington.
Extension to and conversion of an existing outbuilding into a garden room / home gymnasium
Full Application*

Grants permission

b) Planning Applications - for comments.

*NK/2025/0154: Ms V Lyon, 29 Queen Street, Geddington.
Replacement windows and front door to front of property
Listed Building Consent Application*

It was proposed by Cllr Rowley that the application was supported. Seconded by Cllr B McCreery, approved by all councillors present.

*NK/2025/0138: Mr & Mrs N Maycock, 34 Wood Street, Geddington.
Single storey rear and two storey side extension (part retrospective)
Section 73A Retrospective Application*

It was proposed by Cllr Rowley that the application is supported. Seconded by Cllr McCraith. Approved by all councillors present.

c) Withdrawn application.

*NK/2024/0721 Cobley Lodge Farm, Stamford Road, Little Oakley.
Erection of 1 no. dwellinghouse for rural enterprise (Self-Build)
Full Application*

Withdrawn.

010/26: CORRESPONDENCE.

a) FOI request received 29.4.25. Damage to outbuilding (Queen Street) by tree in Village Hall car park.

The compilation of information is currently being actioned.

b) Flooding protocol request received from West Northants Officer.

ACTION 6: the clerk to reply to the email to inform the officer that this Council does not have a protocol.

c) PFCC - Wishing to go to as many groups as possible to give information out via talks.

To be sent to geddington.net.

d) Resident of Little Oakley has 45 ft trees and height needs reducing, Resident written to informing them to contact NNC as they need planning permission.

011/26: TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

New councillors asked if they wished to attend a training session for new councillors. Councillors were asked to inform the clerk if they would like to do this.

012/26: ENVIRONMENT

a) Access/notices at Clay Dick track.

This is Boughton Estates responsibility. A Boughton Estates officer offer is being invited to the June or July meeting so this question can be asked.

A second query was ownership of the track between the barrier at the top of Wood Street and the Brickyard Garden. Councillors were informed that it is owned by NNC.

b) Bowls Club path.

Query concerning the triangle of land between the Village Hall lounge and the Bowls Club including the land that the Bowls Club sits on. The lease states that the path running through this area is the responsibility of the Village Hall as the lease is between the Village Hall and the Bowls Club.

The Parish Council were going to be asked if they could pay a third of the replacement cost of the path (total path renewal would be approximately £10,000).

The Village Hall found three letters that they believe illustrate that the responsibility to pay for a path replacement is the Parish Council's. It is not clear how they interpret the letters to come to this conclusion.

A contractor who has viewed the path informed Cllr McCreery that the cost of making the path safe for wheel-chairs users would be £600.00.

Also noted that the parralel hedge is also the Village Hall's responsibility.

AOB.

- Cllr Wrighting wished to commend Cllr Rowley for his work at NNC and linking the Parish Council into the relevant issues.
- Noted that you cannot get a wheelchair down the path on the east side (the Meadows side) of New Road as the bushes are so overgrown.

ACTION 7: The clerk to write to the resident responsible for maintenance of the bushes.

- 30mph sign in Stamford Road is obscured by bushes plus badly needs cleaning.

ACTION 8: The clerk to write to NNC to inform them that the 30mph speed limit sign is not visible plus it needs cleaning.

There being no other business, the meeting finished at 9.34pm.