

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th DECEMBER 2025 at 7.00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors M Rowley (Chair), A Williams, T Bailey, A Storey, B McCraith, L Walker, C Wrighting, G Johns, E Gibson.

APOLOGIES: Councillors G Storey and J Nolan.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Rowley – Planning: Cobley Lodge Farm application (relative of the applicant).

067/26: PUBLIC SESSION

a) Questions sent in by the public

Any questions received will be raised under 073/26, “Correspondence”.

Two Cobley Lodge representatives were present concerning planning application 25/00948/FUL.

PCSO Norbert Meszes was also present. He had recently held a surgery in the car park. It was a successful session, with some residents specifically wishing to speak with him, and other residents dropping in to see him when they observed that he was present. Speeding, drink driving and cannabis smoking were raised. He noted that there is no evidence of drug dealing.

Speeding awareness was carried out in Newton Road recently, followed by a session in Grafton Road.

The PCSO said he would write an informal report and send it to the clerk who could circulate it to all councillors.

The issue of a car parking right on the corner of Grange Road and Skeffington Close was raised.

b) Reports from North Northants Councillor.

Councillors expressed disappointment that the NNC councillor Brendon Lovell-Moore was not present again. He has attended only one meeting since being elected in May.

068/26- MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

The minutes for 10th November were late being finished because of illness and will be carried forward to the January meeting for approval. It was agreed however that outstanding actions would be checked.

b) Matters arising - progress on outstanding actions.

10.11.25, action 1: (measuring up for EV charging points in Queen Street). The clerk to enquire of NNC if it was themselves who had been observed measuring for chargers. No reply has been received.

ACTION 1: the clerk to chase this.

10.11.25, action 3: *Comprehensive list of trees available?*). The clerk has checked with the former Lead for Environment to see if he has a definitive list. The only list was the tree survey already forwarded to Cllr G Storey

10.11.25, action 4: The previous parish plan has been circulated.

10.11.25, action 5: *The clerk to contact Tollers solicitors to send the lease to Cllr Rowley.* This has now been sent from the solicitors.

10.11.25, action 6: *Cllr Rowley will base his abbreviated layman's version of the lease on the GVFB's version and try to complete it by the December meeting. This will be covered under Stonepit land (071/26).*

10.11.25, action 7:- *Cllr McCraith to approach a resident in Steele Way to be a representative for the Nature Championship scheme.* This has not happened as the address of the possible representative was not known to Cllr McCraith.

LITTLE OAKLEY

No issues. Traffic lights had been installed on the day of this meeting, but it is unclear what work has or will be carried out.

ACTION 2: There appears to be roadworks happening around Geddington, but no notifications have been received. The clerk to contact Kier to find out what is happening .

069/26-FINANCE

a) Bank statements. –

Community account statement	18 Oct – 17 Nov	£49,627.61
Business Saver account		£15.70

(No statement sent 18/10 to 17/11 as no bank transactions took place).

b) Accounts received

None

c) Accounts for payment: -

James Stevenson Tree Surgery 102139	Tree removal - dog walking area-res gdn.	900.00
Northants Calc Ltd 102140	Off to a flying start A Williams, L Gibson (Approved at the October meeting)	127.20 (not paid)
Requisite Safety Group 102141	Rent of Newton defibrillator 13 weeks	151.20
Northants calc Ltd 102142	Off to a flying start A Storey, B McCr	127.20
Geddington Village Hall 102143	Hire of lounge, 2 nd half of 2025	195.00

Anita Curtis	Clerk's quarterly salary Sep-Dec 2025	1,382.39
Anita Curtis	PAYE made to HMRC Sep-Dec 2025	346.00
Anita Curtis	Agreed depreciation of equipment Sep – Dec 2025	65.00
Anita Curtis	Expenses Sep-Dec 25. £ to do.	To do.
Unity Trust Bank	Replacement deposit for account 1 (replaces out of date cheque no.102079	£50.00
Unity Trust Bank	Replacement deposit for account 1 (replaces out of date cheque no.102080.	£50.00

There was a query over cheque no. 102140. This was approved last month but the cheque was unable to be written as the clerk was waiting for a new cheque book from Barclays to be received. It was decided however to delete it from this month's list of payments to be written and signed.

ACTION 3: the clerk confirmed that the cheque had not been written even though the payment had been approved, as she was waiting for the new cheque book to arrive. She agreed to double check this however.

Proposed by Cllr McCraith that the other payments be approved, seconded by Cllr Johns, agreed by all councillors present.

d) Quotations for tree maintenance schedule.

The three quotes that have been received were discussed and it was decided that the contract would be offered to James Stevenson, but first informing him that £6080.00 was the maximum the Council could pay, and asking if there was any leeway for a cheaper quote. Proposed by Cllr William that this be accepted, seconded by Cllr A Storey , agreed by all councillors present.

e) Budgetary process for 2026/27 – continuation of discussion for potential projects/capital and other spend.

Cllr Rowley will send budget information in a different format out to all councillors this week.

Estimated outgoings to March 2026 from the clerk were circulated. It was expected that there would be approximately £9,500 in reserves at the end of the financial year, to include any provision for elections and by-elections. £3000.00 has also been included as a contingency fund.

f) 2025-6 budget update.

This was discussed within "e) Budgetary process for 2026/27". Potential projects are the bike rack for the village hall car park (if a grant is refused). Noted that EV chargers should not cost anything to be installed if such a project does go ahead. A new defibrillator may need to be purchased to replace the Geddington defibrillator in the former BT kiosk. £1600.00 to be allowed for this.

Other costs may be transferred to the Parish Council from NNC, such as the playground equipment maintenance costs.

g) Precept – discussion as to level of precept required.

This was discussed within "e) Budgetary process for 2026/27".

ACTION 4: The clerk to contact the electrical company that have already inspected the lights.

PLANNING

a) NNC Decision notices

No decision notices received.

b) Planning Applications for comments..

25/01101/HFUL: 37A Newton Road, Geddington. Householder planning permission – the addition of an air source heat pump to the rear of the property.

Commented that an application for this was not needed. No objection recorded.

25/00948/FUL.

Alternative Reference PP-14252713

Application Validated Wed 13 Aug 2025

Address Cobley Lodge Farm Stamford Road Little Oakley NN18 8HE

Proposal Erection of 1 no. dwelling for rural enterprise

Cllr Wrighting chaired this part of the meeting as Cllr Rowley had declared an interest.

After a detailed discussion It was proposed by Cllr Johns that there was no objection to the application, seconded by Cllr Gibson, agreed by all councillors present but with one abstention.

In response to a licence application that had been sent to the Parish Council email address, it was noted that the Parish Council does not make comments for such applications.

070/26- PARISH PLAN – update .

A list of ideas had been submitted and headings have been agreed. Consultation within the Parish needs to be carried out. and it will now be pulled together and go out for feedback to residents. Some of the new items for possible inclusion are a permanent table tennis table, a community orchard and a boules area.

Once a priority for the village is shown as a result of consultation, that priority will be concentrated on.

071/26- STONEPIT LAND – lease update.

The new draft lease for Youth Club has now been received from the solicitors. Cllr Rowley will check it with Cllr Bailey. A layman's version of the lease was going to be written by Cllr Rowley for explanation purposes, but he has not had the time to do this. It was suggested that when the draft lease is given to the Youth Club a timeline is given for when a reply needs to be received by – possibly to the March Parish Council date. If it is not signed by then, the building will have to be re-possessioned.

It was suggested that a meeting should be arranged between representatives from the Youth Club and two or three councillors. The above information could be put to the Youth Club at that

meeting.

ACTION 5: The draft lease will be checked by Cllr Rowley and Cllr Bailey.

ACTION 6: Cllr Rowley will write to the Youth Club to obtain some dates, and will then liaise with Cllr Wrighting and Cllr Walker.

072/26- PLAY AREA – maintenance of children’s play equipment and cutting of grass in the recreation field.

- a) Reply received from NNC - for discussion and decision.
- b) NNC have stated that the play area and equipment will not be maintained by them after March 2026. However, the historical facts have been put to NNC, and further correspondence from NNC states that they will maintain the area and play equipment for a further year, to end of March 2027.

ACTION 7: At least one quotation for playground maintenance to be obtained if possible so that the Parish Council has some idea of how much a yearly contract would cost.

073/26: CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) email from resident 14.11.25 asking if New Road is to become 20mph road.

Noted that councillors have not heard anything to the effect that this will be happening. If the resident wishes to check this they need to contact NNC.

ACTION 8: The clerk to convey the above to the resident.

- b) email from NNC 17.11.25 -closure of Queen St and Bridge St Jan 2026.

This information concerning work by Anglian Water had been circulated to all councillors.

- c) email from Brigstock Parish Council 17.11.25 informing of possibility of outreach Post Office weekly session.

This would be carried out by the same person who ran it in Café Oak under the previous owners. Other options are that sessions may be able to be held in the church, the village hall or the Cricket Club.\

ACTION 9: The clerk to write back and say that there is interest in this for the village.

- d) email from NNC Elections 28.11.25 – no call for an election for Newton councillor.

As a by-election is not now needed for Newton, a co-option can now take place.

ACTION 10: the clerk to add a notice to the boards informing residents that there are currently two vacancies for councillors – one for the Geddington ward and one for Newton ward.

- e) Northants Police and Fire & rescue funding “Have your say” form.

Councillors can complete the form if they so wish or contact them directly.

074/26: DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE.

Cllr Gibson has spoken to the British Heart Foundation who have quoted £1,560 for a like for like replacement if the Geddington defibrillator needs to be replaced within the next few months. The defibrillator is now on the BHF website for listing of current working defibrillators. Cllr Gibson is happy to do the monthly checks in the short term and added that the battery and pads will be serviceable until 2028. Grants can be looked at and the current defibrillator should be serviceable

until late 2027.

075/26: EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY– for approval.

It was proposed by Cllr McCraith that the policy be accepted. Seconded by Cllr Gibson, with all councillors present approving the motion except for one abstention.

076/26: CYCLE RACK.

a) Update on application for grant funding (from NNC Community funding).

The grant application has been submitted and the response usually takes a few weeks. £4070 has been requested, which covers the cycle rack and the installation costs.

The Parish Council village hall committee representative (Cllr A Storey) will inform the next village hall committee meeting that the Parish Council have applied for funding for the cycle rack.

077/26: ENVIRONMENT

There were no updates as Cllr G Storey (as lead for the environment) was not present

078/26: EV CHARGING POINTS.

a) Quotations and information requests.

Information and quotation requests had been sent to Inspire Office Technology and EZ-charge. Both of the companies had sent information but said they would need more details before a quotation could be given. Clear Brew Northants had also sent information about a year ago. Cllr Walker will add the EV charging point topic to the Parish Plan.

Cllr A Storey will let the village hall committee meeting know out of courtesy that the Parish Council are currently looking at this issue.

No further actions to be taken at the present time.

AOB.

A whats-app group was suggested by Cllr Walker for items that councillors needed to know about at short notice. It was thought that this could be an option as long as no Parish Council business was discussed within the group.

Cllr A Storey informed the village hall committee that the padlock for the far end of the village hall car park extension could not be changed. They were concerned about who has keys for the padlock. It will be suggested to them that a key could be put in a key code box on the village hall building.

There being no more business, the meeting closed at 9.24pm.