

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th FEBRUARY 2026 at 7.00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors M Rowley (Chair), A Storey, B McCraith, L Walker, C Wrighting, G Johns, J Nolan, E Gibson

APOLOGIES: Councillors A Williams and T Bailey.

Resignation: a resignation letter had been received from former councillor Graham Storey with immediate effect. Health issues have led the decision. He has said that he will consider coming back when he is better if there is a vacancy. Councillors wished him well for his forthcoming operation and his future recovery. They thanked him for the work he had carried out and looked forward to seeing him again.

ACTION1: The clerk to email Graham Storey to convey councillors' very sincere wishes for his operation, health recovery and to again thank him for all the work he has carried out as a Parish Councillor.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Rowley – 091/26- Stonepit land (member of GVFB)

087/26: PUBLIC SESSION

a) Questions sent in by the public

Any questions received will be raised under 093/26, "Correspondence".

Four members of the public were present, including NNC Cllr Brendan Lovell-Moore.

One resident was concerned about the number of potholes in Grafton Road, West Street and Queen Street. He wished to know the Parish Council's thoughts on the state of the roads.

An explanation was given for determining which potholes were priorities. Grade P1 should be fixed within 24 hours, P2 within seven days, P3 within 28 days and P4 within 26 weeks. Cllr Lovell-Moore added that P3 is officially 90 days. Kier were trying to review the roads a lot faster, but many roads now needed re-surfacing.

The resident commented that repairs and maintenance of the roads was not keeping pace with road usage.

Cllr Lovell-Moore added that the NNC Local Transport plan is still open for suggestions for improving local stretches of roads.

Cllr McCraith added that this issue could be raised when completing the survey for the Parish Plan.

The representative for the village summer fete (to be held on 5th July) was present. She asked permission for the Cricket Club to do their normal activities by the pavilion, and for the stall holders to be able to park their vehicles at the far end of the recreation field. She was informed that cars cannot be on the recreation field. She asked if stallholders can unload their goods etc before any members of the public are present, then take their cars to the far end of the recreation field, and not be allowed to get back into their cars until the summer fete had ended.

Cllr Rowley advised the representative to write the traffic flow for the recreation field and send it to the parish clerk together with a copy of the insurance, for the next meeting. The licence and public liability notice must also be seen by the Parish Council.

b) Reports from North Northants Councillor.

NNC Cllr Brendon Lovell-Moore was present. As regards potholes, he reported that people were now encouraged not to use "Fix My Street" as only 80% of reported issues go through to officers. They need to be reported now to HORT (Highway Online Repairs Tool). Kier is being encouraged to fix other potholes if they are in the same vicinity as a pothole that is being repaired, rather than doing that one pothole.

He will email the relevant telephone number that members of the public can ring if there is an emergency regarding dangerous potholes.

A Community Safety Plan will be made available shortly. The aim is to draw together the public services, both private and charities, to look at five key principles including safety for women and girls, knife crime, anti-social behaviour, community engagement. The Plan will be sent through to the Council for circulation. (Link was sent: <https://northnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=15483>)

Cllr Gibson had a query which she wished Cllr Lovell-Moore to address regarding a Facebook posting that he had made. A discussion then ensued with no end result.

088/26- MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

a) Approval of draft minutes for the Monthly Parish Council meeting held 12th January 2026.

One sentence was reworded and two spelling errors were corrected. Councillors then agreed for the minutes of the January meeting to be signed by Cllr Rowley as a true record.

b) Matters arising - progress on outstanding actions.

12.1.26 -action 5: Cllr Wrighting will explore if any grants are available from English Heritage to light up their monument.

Update given within agenda item "Finance".

LITTLE OAKLEY

Little Oakley had a flood on the previous Friday – the drainage ditch under the road was blocked. The GVFB cleared it and thanks to them were given by Cllr Bailey on behalf of the village residents.

089/26-FINANCE

a) Bank balances:-

Community account statement	18 Dec – 16 Jan	£40,545.02
Business Saver account	18 Dec – 16 Jan	£ 15.75

b) Accounts received

None

c) Accounts for payment : -

Zurich Municipal	Insurance 6.2.26 – 5.2.27.	1002.85
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It was proposed by Cllr Johns that the payment be approved, seconded by Cllr Gibson, agreed by all councillors present.

An updated budget sheet was circulated and the updated figures were discussed. At the present time there is an underspend of approximately £8.000.

d) 3x quotations/ feedback for Queen Eleanor Cross lights.

The quotations are for £2662.80 for a full listing of work that it is believed needs carrying out. The second “quote” is £312.00 for exploratory work (to remove the three lights, disconnect them, carry out testing of the circuit and the three lights, and a full quotation will then be provided). The third quote centres on the photo cell. The electrician believes that the luminaires and electrical supply are functional. External ambient light interferes with this process. He recommended installing a time clock and time switch to allow the lighting to operate during preset hours independent of ambient light conditions. To supply, install and set up would cost £150.00, to include configuration, testing and commissioning of the system.

Cllr Rowley reported that the light on the wall by Meeting Lane has been replaced by an LED light which may have caused the problem.

Proposed by Cllr Rowley that the company install the time clock and time switch, seconded by Cllr Johns, approved by all councillors present.

ACTION 2: The clerk to contact the company to arrange for it to be installed.

Cllr Wrighting had offered to explore if any grants are available from English Heritage to light up their monument, the Eleanor Cross (*action 5 – 12.1.26*). The Heritage Lottery Fund is for £10,000 and above.

She will go to the Historical society to explore their view on putting in a lottery fund bid of £10,000 as one recommendation from quotations received suggested that major work may need to be carried out to fix the problems with the lights permanently. There may be different areas of work that can be bundled together.

ACTION 3: Cllr Wrighting to contact the Historical Society.

NNC Cllr Lovell-Moore was asked at this point about the new policy for Highways and memorials at road sides. He was asked if it was retrospective. Cllr Lovell-Moore replied that officially, the policy had always been there, but unofficially no-one follows up this. He was informed that the Eleanor Cross is a roadside memorial. He added that no Council, unless it was really dangerous, was ever going to touch a roadside memorial.

PLANNING.

NNC Decision notices

25/00922/HFUL (alternative ref: PP-14189504). 9 Fern Dale Close Geddington.

Ground floor rear extension Ferndale Close, single rear extension.

Approved

25/00948/FUL (Alternative Reference: PP-14252713) Cobley Lodge Farm Stamford Road Little Oakley

Erection of 1 no. dwelling for rural enterprise.

Application Permitted/Approved

b) Planning Applications - for comments.

25/01837/HFUL

39 New Road Geddington NN14 1AT

2 storey extension with juliet balcony to rear, and single storey side and rear extension.

Noted that this is a big extension but the plot is large. The second storey is being re-formatted only. There will be a reasonable space between the (single storey) extension and the next-door neighbour's property. There will be no impact of windows (overlooking the next property).

Proposed by Cllr Walker that there be no objection, seconded by Cllr Rowley, approved by all councillors present.

090/26- PARISH PLAN – progress update

Cllr Walker has sent all councillors a link to the up-to-date Parish Plan as agreed at the January meeting. A QR code will be given out. It will cost £120.00 to print the surveys and paper copies for a separate insert to go into the next newsletter, due out on 27th February. 40 posters will be printed which will cost £106.90. Cllr Rowley proposed a spend of up to £400.00 authorised for publicity, seconded by Cllr McCraith, agreed by all councillors present.

Castle Gardens and the school will be contacted.

It was decided that a meeting with the Sports Committee would be beneficial, as ideally a meeting should be held once every three months.

091/26- STONEPIT LAND – lease update.

Youth Club - It was felt that the last meeting went well. The Youth Club have a copy of the GVFB's lease to show what they have agreed to. The Youth Club need to check the ECP rating however as they rent the building out.

They will come back to the Parish Council to state whether they agree to the Youth Club lease by the March Parish Council meeting.

GVFB – their AGM was last week – once they have sent a list of the new trustees their lease will be ready to be signed.

092/26- NNC COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATION.

a) update on grant application.

The grant application has been successful, minus the VAT element.

Boughton estates need to be contacted as it is not certain whether the strip of grass immediately outside the Village Hall is their property, or it may have been given to the Village Hall as part of the Village Hall land when Boughton Estates gave it away.

ACTION 4:- The clerk will contact Boughton Estates to check this.

Cllr A Storey mentioned at the last Village Hall Committee meeting last month that the Parish Council had applied for a grant to install a cycle rack.

ACTION 5:-The clerk to write to the Village Hall Committee to let them know that the Parish council are going to install a cycle rack and it is hoped that the Village Hall Committee also give their agreement. To inform them again that it would be installed on the strip of grass between the main door and where a buttress/chimney are situated, and it will not take up any car parking spaces.

b) Next steps.

The installation to be arranged once Boughton Estates have been contacted and confirm that it is their land but agree to the cycle rack being installed, or confirm that it is not their land.

093/26:- NEW DOMAIN NAME.

The new domain name is clerk@geddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

094/26:- FEEDBACK- HIGHWAYS BRIEFING.

Cllr McCraith has attended the Highways briefing. She reported that a lot of information was given out and gave a summary of the main issues raised. The information was incorrectly given that Balfour Beatty was responsible for street lights. The Parish Council once again corrected the information, as NNC are responsible for Kettering villages' street lights, including Geddington. Potholes, surface dressing, patching, resurfacing were all covered. Grading of potholes was explained and emergency numbers were given out. Noted that all road issues should now be reported to HORT (Highways online reporting tool). Highways walkabouts are also recommencing.

095/26: CORRESPONDENCE.

a) Query by Newton resident – “Will the Parish Council be organising a litter pick as usual?”

Noted that this Parish Council has never organized the Newton litter pick; it has always been organized by Newton residents themselves.

Action 6: the clerk to convey this information.

b) email from resident concerning the old post office dated 22.12.25 suggesting how it can be used. (Clerk has replied with a general update as per Minutes and advised resident to contact Boughton Estates)

c) Ncalc meeting 26.2.26– explanation of CAN Champion scheme.

d) Nene River Trust 20.1.26 – “how a Parish Nature Recovery Plan could work in your area”. Suggestions were given within the email.

e) Email from summer fete representative 30.1.26 – query and confirmation of fete details required.

This was discussed within the public session at 087/26.

f) Email from Chair of PTA Geddington Primary School 14.1.26 –“fundraiser will be held in Cricket Club and on cricket ground, what licenses are required”. Permission requested for stalls to be put on the recreation ground from the PA on 29th March, 11 – 2.00pm.

ACTION 7: Permission granted as long as the relevant documentation is provided.

g) Email from resident 30.1.26 – overgrowth needs clearing – whose responsibility?

(Clerk has replied by advising resident to contact NNC – it may be resident’s responsibility or it may be NNC’s).

h) email from NNC Elections 4.2.26 – optional material for display for the public.

The posters have been displayed in the three notice boards.

i) email from NNC Democratic services 3.2.26 - online briefing sessions on Active Travel (presented by Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (formerly Sustrans)). This is open for councillors to attend if they so wish.

j) Email from NNC Principal Transport Planner 4.2.26 – crossing at Weekley feedback.

The Parish Council had given its support to the potential scheme, which had been sent to the relevant officer. The clerk was advised to submit it again, and to tell him that this Parish Council supports the Weekley transport scheme.

k) Email received 4.2.26 - memorial bench or plaque request. Two of the benches near the entrance to the recreation field (near the Cricket Club) do not have plaques.

ACTION 9: The clerk to inform the resident that the Parish Council are happy for the resident to install a plaque on one of these two benches, as long as they are the same size and style of other plaques that have been added to benches in this area.

Noted that a reply had been received from NNC concerning an extra bin required near the entrance to the berm, near the “beach”. It was refused citing the reason that there were too many bins in the recreation field at the present time..

A further request to replace the bin in the children’s play area with another bin, on the grounds of the existing bin being old, rusty and at an angle from the base, was also refused, but they will take the existing bin away.

An ordinary rubbish bin in the dog walking area was also refused on the grounds that there were sufficient bins.

Noted that if the bins are emptied on the Monday, Wednesday and Friday the current number of bins would be acceptable, but this often does not happen because of holidays and sickness.

NNC Cllr Brendan Lovell-Moore will voice the Parish Council’s concerns with the relevant officer.

AOB.

Cllr A Storey noted that at the last Village Hall Committee meeting, she had raised the issue of installation of a bike rack and exploratory EV charger information being obtained, but they were non-committal for both of these possible projects. They were concerned that both possible projects would take up car parking spaces.

Cllr Rowley stated that he would stand down as Chair of the Parish Council at the Annual Meeting in May. Several councillors voiced their opinion that they would be very sorry to lose him as Chair as he is such an asset to the Council.

There being no more business, the meeting therefore closed at 8.32pm.