

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th APRIL 2026 at 7.00pm.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors J Nolan, C Wrighting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Rowley – 005/27: Stonepit land (member of GVFB)

001/27: PUBLIC SESSION

One resident was present, plus NNC Cllr Brendon Lovell-Moore.

a) Questions sent in by the public

Any questions sent in were included in “Correspondence” **010/27**.

It was reported that a lorry had got stuck in Queen Street, by the buttress near Café Oak.

Cllr Lovell-Moore will take this issue back to NNC as bin lorries frequently cannot get past this area.

Noted that signs cannot be added to walls as the walls are listed on both sides in this area.

b) Reports from North Northants Councillor.

Cllr Lovell-Moore reported on the potholes issue. Most of those in the “triangle” had been filled/ repaired.

New bins – Cllr Lovell-Moore inquired about this - the response was that the Parish Council needs to carry out a survey to prove that additional usage warrants additional bins.

Rubbish by the side of existing bins is sometimes taken – depending on which binman is on duty.

002/27- MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

a) Approval of draft minutes for the Monthly Parish Council meeting held 9th March 2026.

Approved by all councillors to be signed as a true record except for two abstentions.

b) Matters arising - progress on outstanding actions.

9.3.26 – action 1: The clerk to query the NNC invoice sent for the uncontested election.

The clerk updated that an explanation for the fee payable for an uncontested election had now been sent and had been circulated to councillors. The invoice for £70.00 is included in the list of payments for authorisation under Finance **003/27**.

9.3.26 – action 2: The clerk to ask Nat-for-Max to take a photo of the (Queen Eleanor Cross) electrics just in case English Heritage need it in the future.

The clerk reported that this has been chased by email and phone (messages left) but she cannot get a reply from the company.

9.3.26 – action 3: Email from Corby Town Council concerning Community Review – boundary changes.

The clerk informed Corby Town Council that councillors had no adverse comments to feed into the Corby Town Council's proposals.

9.3.26 – action 4: Letter received from resident, with items of benefit to the Parish Plan.

The clerk has replied to the resident.

9.3.26 – action 5: (Stone pit land – Youth Club lease).

Cllr Bailey has sent the relevant maps and details of the rent to Cllr Rowley.

9.3.26 – action 6: email from resident 3.3.26 concerning Parish Council awareness of sewage discharges.

The clerk thanked the resident for the information in the email received.

9.3.26 – action 7: (regarding email from NNC 20.2.26 concerning bund responsibility (CSC783872746)).

The clerk has written to NNC to ensure that they are aware that the berm is also their responsibility. No reply (except for the acknowledgement email) has been received

9.3.26 – action 7: Cllr Johns raised a query: are the old black Victorian streetlights in the conservation area protected? She was informed that they are not protected, and they are owned by NNC as the lighting authority. They are not within the Balfour Beatty contract.

This has been queried with NNC but no response has been received yet.

ACTION 1: The clerk to chase for a response.

LITTLE OAKLEY

Cllr Bailey reported that unease relating to the horse box café proposal had now died down.

Two more potholes had appeared on the road through the village.

003/27-FINANCE

a) Bank statements. –

Community account statement	18 Feb – 17 Mar	£40,163.69
Business Saver account	18 Feb – 17 Mar	£ 15.79

b) Accounts received

£3960.76 Direct credit from NNC Finance ref.1120024879 (Community grant)

c) Accounts for payment : -

Safe Kids Walking Ltd	Cycle rack (purchased with Community grant)	642.00
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Finesse Groundworks	Groundworks for cycle rack(purchased with Community grant).	3425.76
Geddington Village Hall	Hire of Village Hall lounge – 1 st half 2026	195.00
Please see note below	For the NNC uncontested election cost of £70.00	Being queried

Proposed by Cllr McCraith that the first three invoices be authorised for payment, seconded by Cllr Johns, agreed by all councillors present.

The clerk had asked for and received an answer for the uncontested election (May 2025) charge of £70.00, as follows:-

Thu 26 Mar at 13:21

Dear Anita

Thank you for your email.

Your query was also recently raised with us by a North Northamptonshire Council member. I have copied our response below:

The invoice relates to the Returning Officer's fee for undertaking the administration of the uncontested election. The fee is set out in the Returning Officer's fees and charges and covers processes including preparing, receiving, checking, and processing nomination papers. It also covers other administrative tasks including the preparation and publication of statutory notices and receiving candidate's declarations and election expenses returns.

Kind regards

Heather Jackson | Head of Electoral Services

Councillors accepted the explanation, and authorised the clerk to make the £70.00 payment to NNC, and to be reimbursed at the May meeting as NNC are not accepting cheques now.

It was commented that the new cycle rack looks good

There was a suggestion from Brightwayz that there may be an opportunity for the new bike rack to have some publicity. Councillors were happy to partake in some publicity as long as it was made clear that it was a Parish Council initiative.

ACTION 2: The clerk to inform Brightwayz that they were happy for some publicity to take place, subject to the above being stated.

PLANNING.

a) NNC Decision notices

b) Planning Applications - for comments.

Reference 26/00642/HFUL

Alternative Reference PP-14766388

Address 14 Hall Close Geddington NN14 1AN

Proposal Addition of two front dormer windows (including removal of solar panels)

Noted that the two closest houses will not be affected by the changes.

Councillors agreed to support the application.

Reference 26/00399/REM

Alternative Reference PP-14553151

Address The Old Nursery Grafton Road (land At) Geddington NN14 1FA

Proposal Application for approval of reserved matters (appearance, layout, scale and landscaping) in respect of outline planning permission reference NK/2023/0323.

An extension of two days was requested for comments to be submitted.

Councillors noted that there is minimum parking, as cars will probably not park on Grafton Road (too far from some of the houses). It was thought they would end up parking on the service road.

Trees – councillors could not tell from the plans if the trees shown will be new trees or if it will be the original trees that are left.

Councillors wish to make the following comments:

Cllrs were concerned about parking issues as minimum parking spaces are on the plan, and could the number of trees that are cut down be kept to an absolute minimum.

004/27- PARISH PLAN - findings from the survey.

Approximately 100 surveys were completed, with a lot of engagement with residents in a variety of forms. 91% of surveys were completed by residents over 30 years of age. Queen Street parking and access appears to be the biggest concern, with traffic problems generally being the next biggest concern. The Grange Road/Skeffington Close junction was highlighted as being dangerous, and Wood Street/Grafton Road was also highlighted as being dangerous for school children. Maintenance standards in Geddington was also of some concern. The absence of a village shop was a major source of annoyance with a high proportion of residents. A lot of comments focused on the Village Hall and the Youth Club, asking if better use could be made of the two buildings. Little Oakley residents highlighted flooding, potholes, the state of the roads, road markings, a request for a 20mph limit and fly-tipping as their main concerns.

Councillors decided to have a Parish Plan meeting in the near future to discuss how to go forward, to consider if possibly three subgroups would be beneficial, and to inform residents that if they are interested in moving things forward and be part of a sub-group, to come along to the meeting.

ACTION 3: Cllr Walker will list the survey's main points on Facebook.

Cllr Storey updated the meeting at this point as to the Village Hall Committee. She was not able to attend the last meeting but learnt that the Village Hall has agreed that from 8.00am to 5.30pm for five days a week that it will be used by a commercial activity for a private nursery (both rooms).

ACTION 4: The clerk to write to the Chair of the Village Hall Committee and convey that councillors have great concerns with the situation concerning the play group and how it has been initiated to use both rooms for five days a week from 8.00am to 6.00pm. To ask the Chair of the Village Hall Committee if he could attend the next Parish Council meeting.

005/27- STONEPIT LAND – lease update.

a) Lease update.

The leases have been sent out. All eight trustees for the GVFB have to sign it, with each signatory having a signed witness. The Youth Club has two trustees who will follow the same procedure. Once signed, the parish clerk and one councillor have to sign the two leases.

b) Yearly accounts of both GVFB and Youth Club to be sent to the PC.

The GVFB do send a copy of their accounts once it is approved at the AGM, but the Youth Club may need to be reminded that the Parish Council are entitled to see the annual accounts if they are not forthcoming.

006/27- CYCLE RACK – update

The cycle rack has been completed, with councillors being complimentary to the process as a whole.

007/27- STANDING ORDERS - for discussion and review.

AND

008/27- FINANCIAL REGULATIONS - for discussion and review

The above two items need to be reviewed before the Annual meeting on 11th May. Cllr Rowley reminded councillors that the Financial Regulations are quite standard, but the Standing Orders template needs to be checked thoroughly to check that any variations apply to this Council.

ACTION 5: Cllr McCraith and Cllr Storey will check the two documents and it will come to the Annual meeting for approval.

009/27- ENVIRONMENT

a) Anglian Water - water and sewage discharges – Update.

- i) Pumping station checks update.
- ii) Water cleanliness

The two agenda items were dealt with within one discussion. Cllr Gibson has emailed Anglian Water to ask if a representative can come to a Parish Council meeting. She added that they self-regulate and this may be part of the problem, in that spillages get down-graded as they are not aware that the section of the River Ise near the bridge is used by children.

Signage near the ford has been checked. No signage can be placed on the lower part of the berm as it is the Environment Agency's responsibility. Signage by the ford sign is possible if NNC give permission to put a sign on the posts. A larger sign could be added to the gate.

ACTION 6: Cllr Rowley will speak to a signage company, with a maximum budget of £300 being approved by councillors.

b) State of Clay Dick

The ground in Clay Dick is currently very churned up.

ACTION 7: The clerk to write to Boughton Estate to ask if he is able to attend the next Parish Council meeting, and to the resident to inform her of this.

c) Tree priority scheduled maintenance list received – for information.

d) A tree has three boughs that have fallen down at the far end of the recreation field, by the bench and rubbish bin, resulting in a broken fence. Cllr Williams will speak to a resident who may be interested in removing the wood and taking it away.

010/27- CORRESPONDENCE.

a) Email from resident concerning scramble/ dirtbikes racing up and down the chase 30.3.26.

ACTION 8: The clerk to reply to the resident thanking her for her email and inform her that the Council is arranging a meeting with Boughton Estates.

b) Email from NNC wishing to say thank you to Cllr McCraith 2-4-26.

The East LAP had submitted a thank you for the input they had received from the councillor. Cllr McCraith added that they are very good at what they do.

c) Email sent to Cllr Rowley concerning the strip of land to the right of the Village Hall car park by the stone wall bordering the resident's house and at the back of Café Oak. The stone wall is Boughton Estates' property. *This was discussed within the public session.*

It was thought that the narrow strip of land may be Boughton Estates but was excluded from the car park area and the Village Hall. It may also be owned by the Parish Council as the owners of the car park, or be the resident's property. The area in question is from the wall and going towards the back of the carpark. It was thought that ownership will not be shown in Land Registry as the present owners bought the property before compulsory registration was introduced. Another solution would be for the Parish Council to take responsibility for the strip of land.

Boughton Estates need to be contacted., but they would not be able to rebuild the wall as it is in the conservation area.

ACTION 9: Cllr Gibson to contact Boughton Estates to arrange a meeting, with the affected resident also being pre sent.

If this does not resolve the issue, an application could be made to Land Registry, although it is thought highly unlikely that the resident's affected property or the Village Hall would be registered.

AOB.

Cllr Gibson said that the spare pads on the defibrillator in the telephone kiosk in Queen Street are out of date. New spare pads therefore need to be ordered. Cllr Rowley asked if councillors were happy for the pads to be ordered, with a maximum budget of £150 for the pads. Authorised by councillors.

A resident had asked Cllr Johns if the Council could put signs up near the school asking drivers to slow down to no more than 20mph. This will be explored.

Councillors were reminded that the Annual meeting (AGM) will be held at 6.30pm on Monday 11th May, with the normal monthly meeting being held immediately afterwards at 7.00pm. The Parish meeting that is normally held before the Annual meeting will be held once the Parish Plan survey results are explored in greater depth.

There being no more business, the meeting therefore closed at 8.57pm.