

**GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 at 7.30pm.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors N Batchelor (Chair), C Buckseall, P Goode, J Padwick, M Rowley, P Johnson, D Lomasney.

**APOLOGIES:**

Cllr T Bailey.

**014/22: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) Cllr Batchelor – for agenda item 10d and 12d.

**015/22: PUBLIC SESSION**

Two members of the public were present at the meeting.

**a) Questions sent in by the public**

No questions had been received.

**b) Reports from North Northants Councillors.**

- Cllr Rowley reported that the swing in the recreation ground that was very noisy had been fixed.
- The notice in the recreation ground will be fixed or replaced.
- A price has been obtained for boulders for the River Ise slip roads.

**ACTION 1: The clerk to invite all three of the NNC relevant councillors to each Parish Council meeting.**

**016/22: ATTENDANCE BY FIRST RESPONDERS REPRESENTATIVES – Presentation and to answer any questions you may have as to their operation, their fund raising and any other queries.**

Three representatives attended the meeting – Stacy (co-ordinator), Linda (marketing) and Rosemary (interaction with parish councils). A presentation was given.

- They were asked what is the process for the voluntary selection? The potential volunteer attends a volunteer day at which checks are carried out, why the person is interested in volunteering and if they are accepted the training will commence.
- To equip one responder costs approximately £1000, with the uniform purchased by the individual.
- Each responder commits to 200 hours a year to attend when a 999 call is received.
- Do the defibrillator “guardians” that look after the defibrillators link in with the First Responders? This does not normally happen. Cllr Rowley will forward relevant contact details and informed them of the Facebook page.
- They explained their backgrounds and that they were medically trained. They attend 111 calls such as chest pains and bleeding, and there are two levels of responders that can attend which is governed by the level of training that has been received. When a 999 call is made, an ambulance response will also generate a first responder being notified.
- The first responders were informed of the two defibrillators in Geddington, in the telephone kiosk by the Post Office and at the school. There is one in Little Oakley in the meeting room but no defibrillator in Newton.
- GVFB have funding which can help to support buying a defibrillator
- Fund raising is ongoing, with projects such as the charity bin raising funds on a constant basis.

Cllr Batchelor concluded the presentation and question and answer session by thanking them for their attendance and that the Parish Council will be making decisions as to the First Responders in four weeks time.

## **017/22: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

### **a) Approval of Parish Council Meeting draft minutes, held 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021.**

Pending one name correction, Cllr Batchelor proposed and Cllr Padwick seconded that the minutes were a true record. Agreed by all councillors present.

### **b) Matters arising; progress on agreed actions**

*12.7.21 action 1: Cllr Rowley will enquire at unitary level what is happening as to a Rural Forum.*

Cllr Padwick offered to attend the next meeting concerning Rural Forum. He will not have voting rights, but it was felt that the most important thing is to have a councillor from this Parish present.

*12.7.21 action 2: The clerk to ask Ncalc if they have the latest template for Standing Orders.*

Cllr Goode clarified that two actions are needed -the adoption of the Code of Conduct, and the revision of the standing orders.

Councillors voted to adopt the NNC Code of Conduct at a previous meeting.

The Ncalc new model standing orders 2018 were updated in 2020 and sent to the Parish Council. However the latest set of standing orders is completely different to the Standing Orders currently being used by the Parish Council.

**ACTION 2: It was proposed by Cllr Padwick that a sub-committee go through the changes and put the recommendations forward to the next general meeting. The members to be Cllrs Padwick, Goode and Lomasney. Seconded by Cllr Lomasney, approved by all councillors present. Cllr Goode will forward the document to the two councillor shortly.**

*12.7.21: action 3:-new Housing Needs Survey could be initiated.*

**ACTION 3: The Clerk to contact NNC again to ask for an indicative time scale.**

*12.7.21: action 4:- The clerk was asked to contact Ncalc and ask for a list of what the Parish Council benefits from with its membership with Ncalc.*

**ACTION 4: The Clerk will circulate the email and attachment from Ncalc.**

*12.7.21: action 5: The clerk to chase this, and send to the Contracts Manager (Glynn Richardson) via the customer service email.*

**ACTION 5: The clerk advised that the contract has now been received, but the wrong name has been applied to the document, and there are some conditions attached to the free installation for which the Parish Council will need to have a considered view. This item to therefore be added to the October agenda once the name change has been carried out by Gigaclear.**

A short up date was given as to Polka Dot and their stated re- scheduled race for 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

The clerk confirmed that no emails have been received from Polka Dot since the 19<sup>th</sup> May when the road closure notice was sent through. Cllr Johnson stated that the company are waiting for a response – the Village Hall Committee have been asked if the Village Hall Car Park can be used by them on the morning of the race. However, it was thought that the race is not on hold as 60 people are registered for the run.

**ACTION 6: Cllr Goode will inform the Village Hall Committee that nothing has changed from the Parish Council’s previous position.**

**ACTION 7: Cllr Johnson will share the emails that have circulated.**

*12.7.21: action 10: a request to be sent to Boughton Estates and Highways emphasising the health and safety aspect of the issue. Trees/ shrubs hang over the path for a considerable distance. There is no path on the opposite side of the road and it is also a cycle way.*

The clerk reported that a ticket has been issued by NNC Street Doctor on 9.8.21.

**ACTION 8: The clerk to add another ticket to Street Doctor asking, because of Health and Safety issues, how much longer it will be before the issued ticket has the work carried out.**

*12.7.21: action 11: Cllr Padwick will write the report for the September meeting.*

*12.7.21: action 12: “To set a working party to form a draft for the new Parish Plan” to be added as an agenda item to the September meeting.*

These agenda items to be carried forward to the October meeting

*12.7.21: action 13: The clerk to write to NNC and the Rural Sergeants, informing of serious issues on hot sunny days around the ford and the park. Enforcement wardens need to be requested to attend, at lunchtimes and at 4.00pm.*

This was carried out, but no reply or acknowledgement had been received.

**c)Approval of Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting draft minutes held 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021.**

*(These were approved at this meeting but the clerk omitted to record the proposer and seconder. They were therefore brought to the next monthly meeting on 11.10 21 to be proposed and seconded again).*

**d) Matters arising; progress on agreed actions.**

There were no actions to be carried out.

## **018/22: FINANCE**

### **a) Bank statements.**

Community account statement as at 17.8.21	£59,881.26
Business Saver account as at 17.8.21	£10,780.48

### **b) Accounts received**

None

### **c) Accounts for payment : -**

Geddington	Hire of main hall 14.6.21, invoice 6552.	35.00
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Village Hall		
Anita Curtis	1/4ly salary Jul – Sep 21.	1106.85
Anita Curtis(PAYE already pd via AC's own debit card).	PAYE Jul – Sep 21	276.60
Anita Curtis	Agreed 1/4ly depreciation of equipment.	60.00
Anita Curtis	Expenses Jul – Sep 21 – Printer ink £13.96.	13.96
Cllr Goode	Cylinder keys cut for The Cross	30.00

Proposed by Cllr Batchelor that the payments be approved for payment, seconded by Cllr xxxxxxxxxxxx, (*These were approved at this meeting but the clerk omitted to record the seconder. They were therefore brought to the next monthly meeting on 11.10 21 to be proposed and seconded again*). Approved by all councillors present except for one abstention as the councillor had submitted a receipt for payment authorisation.

## **PLANNING**

### **a) KBC Decision notices**

Any decision notices received will be added to the next Parish Council agenda (Shortage of time).

### **b) Planning Applications for consideration.**

There were no planning applications for consideration.

### **019/22: CONSULTATION ON THE SPATIAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ARC, which opened on 20 July 2021 and closes on 12 October 2021.**

*This item will be carried forward to a further Parish Council meeting to be held in September, the date to be decided.*

### **020/22: PARISH PLAN**

a) Parking Survey from the Working Group - next steps and actions. Cllrs Johnson and Goode.

*This item will be carried forward to a further Parish Council meeting to be held in September, the date to be decided.*

### **021/22: FLOODING**

a) To consider a written report/outputs from Cllr Rowley, and any verbal update, of his actions and findings to date.

- b) To consider any and all root causes of the flooding as manifested on 23rd December 2020, and likely responsible parties.
- c) To review outstanding actions and appoint owners, plus allocate specific assistance should Cllr Rowley request it.
- d) To agree next steps and delivery timelines, as applicable.

The above agenda items were all considered within the same discussion.

Cllr Rowley had written a report entitled "Flooding in the Parish" which had been circulated to all councillors.

The report summarises each of the pinch points. Cllr Rowley gave a verbal summary of each of the areas affected, with the following being explained.

### **Little Oakley.**

Water flows from the top of the hill, into the fields and hence down to the road. The kerb drops 20-21 centimetres which lets the water run freely on to the road.

There is a service road for a farm on the A 43: diverted surface water drains into the ditch in this area.

The road at the top of the hill in this area needs to be dug up and a pipe installed. Liaison and is ongoing between Highways, Cllr Bailey, Boughton Estates and Cllr Rowley to try to push this forward.

Cllr Rowley added that it was thought that the A43 attenuation ponds were flooding but there is a hill between the ponds and the course of surface water flooding so it is not the ponds.

The drainage ditch is cleared every six months, and Boughton Estates have said that it is not practical to clear it more often than this.

### **Geddington.**

#### Stamford Road/ New Road.

This area flooded on 23.12.21 but it was the first time that the flooded field had also flooded the gardens in this area. There used to be an attenuation pond in the Red Brick Farm field, but it was filled in some time ago. This area experienced some flooding a day after the main flooding, and the owners have said that they will look at re-excavating the pond.

**ACTION 9: Owners of properties in Stamford Road to be reminded that they are responsible for clearing the drainage ditch by their boundary wall. The clerk will write a reminder letter advising that if any stretches of the ditch are not cleared, the Parish Council will have to arrange to clear it/them and recharge the relevant owner(s). To remind owners of the impact that any blocked stretches of ditches have on all the residents that are prone to flooding in this area. The letter to be delivered to the properties.**

#### Newton Road.

The report explains the series of pipes and ditches that drain into the river and is comprehensively covered by a series of photographs.

The water emerges at the end of Newton Road, goes over the road and floods on the other side of the road. Drainage gullies were installed in 2008 and these are normally quite efficient at drawing the water away from this area. On 23<sup>rd</sup> December numbers 2 and 4 Newton Road were flooded, with 4a having water in the garden only.

It has been said that a pipe was installed under the road taking water from the east side of the Chase. Cllr Rowley did not think this had happened though, as the flooding would have occurred across the road if this was so. Any water on the east side of the road is not causing any problems'

The manhole covers in this area were "popping" at the December floods. Additionally, whilst carrying out their installations, Gigaclear had broken some of the drainage system in Newton Road but they were informed of it and this should be renewed or mended now. The flooding in Newton Road had not happened to this extent previously.

Mud and stones were carried down with the water that came down over the fields: this had also contributed to drains being partially blocked,

The water table in the field at the back of Newton Road (east end) is very high for most of the time. Concerning the planning application by Larkfleet Homes for this field, the developer has to make sure that the water does not exit the field any quicker than it does at the present time. There were attenuation ponds listed on the original application.

#### The Bund.

A network of drainage ditches are dug as far as the Chase, with the drains down Wood Street taking the water.

The Bund is built to provide a barrier to excess water flooding the area, the height designed to withstand a 1:20 ratio of heavy surface water flows. There is an original hard copy of the original Bund document in existence but it cannot be found. It was noted by a councillor that 1:20 is not acceptable now. Also noted that when they rebuilt the Bund in 1998, the new height would have prevented the earlier flooding in 1998. Cllr Rowley added that if the bund was raised further the additional water would flow down Wood Street and Priory Court may flood.

Levelling out of the field containing the Bund is being considered, to take the overall level to the lowest current level. This has been suggested by the Environmental Services Officer. Boughton Estates would have to carry out the work, but the former Kettering Borough Council said that they were willing to help.

Clearance of ditches further up the Chase has commenced. Debris does slow the water down, but clearing them enlarges the capacity of the ditches.

The field immediately north of the Brickyard Garden has an attenuation pond that has silted over. One option is to dig this out again, enlarge it if possible and the surplus soil be used to create another bund. This is only an option however at this stage. Cllr Rowley is currently taking this forward by getting this option assessed with a view to stating that this is the way forward.

Noted that the water flowing from the Chase does not currently flow down the drainage ditch.

Cllr Rowley reiterated the course of the water in this area: from the bund, down Wood Street, though Priory Court. It splits into two courses at the old school, with the big pipe exiting at the Priory Court drains. The other pipe exits on the other side of the river. The bigger pipe could be converted to a surface water pipe which would be at a higher level than the present pipe, but it would have to be in the curtilage of the garden. This is again another option, to which the agreement of the householder would be needed as well as an Engineer's expertise.

Noted that the pipe that travels down Wood Street is adopted from opposite 31 Wood Street.

#### The Berm

This has saved flooding in the centre of the village on several occasions.

#### Queen Street

On 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 water could not flow quickly enough along the river therefore it backed up. There is also a lip at the top of the Queen Street ramp which slows water flowing back into the river.

**ACTION 10: Cllr Rowley will ask Highways if the lip can be removed or a drainage channel installed.**

#### **Next steps**

Residents living in areas that are prone to flooding have to do as much as they can to help themselves. Pathfinder carried out a roadshow approximately 3 – 4 years ago to inform residents of all they could do to protect themselves. This particularly applies to properties by the river.

Noted that there is a community aspect to this issue. There needs to be a protocol to follow with an operational plan when there is an emergency. GVFB can help with this, to advise on the Pathfinder plan and the Environment Agency's plan – flood protection at the front door, alternatives to sandbags etc. The Parish Council/ partners/ civil engineers need a workable emergency plan as the flooding will continue. If NNC are involved, if they have not got an expert in this field they will employ one.

Normal sand bags are not an effective way of providing a barrier for water, but small dirt water pumps would help with localised flooding. Two high pressure pumps were used at the ford in December to pump water into the river quickly.

Flood barriers such as "L shaped" sandbags would be a good option to redirect the flow of water in particular areas such as Newton Road and the top of Bridge Street.

The two members of the public present asked if they could have a copy of the report. This will be provided as soon as the errors are corrected.

One member of the public noted that it was tabled in January to bring an expert in to examine this issue. Additionally, and as per the informal meeting held in May, it was now outside the growing season when Boughton Estates as the landowner or the tenant farmer can now carry out any agreed remedial work. A suggestion had also been made which would prevent rubbish from entering the pipe at the top of Wood Street.

**ACTION 11: Cllr Rowley agreed that a chase request for the foliage in the field to be cut back could now happen, but it can only be requested that the attenuation pond is dug out.**

**ACTION 12: Sam Rees to be invited to the next monthly meeting.**

Cllr Rowley added that any flood prevention equipment needs to be determined, with a further councillor asking if Environmental Services could do the validation kit though.

**ACTION 13: Cllr Rowley will bring details of the flood alleviation barrier to the next monthly meeting. These may be able to be purchased by grants, possibly from Mick George or Wren.**

It was commented within the summary that the report is very good and now needs validation with Highways and Environment Services so that it is not just anecdotal.

**022/22: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND CIRCULATED, to note or comment upon.**

- a) Police Liaison Representative scheme – update as to Geddington representation.
- b) Email from resident concerning Stone Pit Land – car parking area.
- c) 74<sup>th</sup> Northants CALC Conference & AGM – bookings deadline is 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021.
- d) Email from resident concerning road markings request – east end of West Street.
- e) PC comments regarding road signage for Hall Close - request from NNC. (*decision made, as per below*).
- f) Public Consultation on NNC Draft Summary Corporate Plan Consultation – expiry date for comments is 3.10.21.

*The above correspondence will be carried forward to a further Parish Council meeting to be held in September, the date to be decided (time limitations).*

022/22 e): PC comments regarding road signage for Hall Close - request from NNC. This item was discussed with the following decision made. Cllr Rowley proposed that the road signage be given Parish Council support. Seconded by Cllr Batchelor, agreed by for councillors, with one councillor against the proposal.

**023/22: POLKA DOT ROAD RACE – re-scheduled to April 2022 – discussion.**

A short update was given at 017/22b). A discussion is needed however.

*This agenda item will be carried forward to a further Parish Council meeting to be held in September, the date to be decided (time limitations).*

**024/22: ENVIRONMENT.**

a) **Parking on the slip roads to the ford – update.**

b) **Extension car park application /Cricket Club update/.**

*Cllr Goode*

c) **Stone pit land – to consider progress, next steps and whether assistance or answers are needed for Cllr Bailey.**

d) **Environmental awareness and plans:** climate; greener villages; Jubilee tree planting, policies. - Commencement of discussion required.

*Cllr Lomasney*

- *These agenda items will be carried forward to a further Parish Council meeting to be held in September, the date to be decided (time limitations).*

**025/22: Public Consultation - Draft Summary Corporate Plan Consultation**

*This agenda item will be carried forward to a further Parish Council meeting to be held in September, the date to be decided (time limitations).*

**NEWTON**

**LITTLE OAKLEY**

**AOB**

*The above three agendas item will be carried forward to a further Parish Council meeting to be held in September, the date to be decided (time limitations).*

*The meeting finished at 10.00pm.*