

**GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021 at 7.30pm.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**APOLOGIES:**

None.

**005/22: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) Cllr Rowley: agenda item "Planning Applications for consideration" - NK/2021/0512.

**006/22: PUBLIC SESSION.**

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

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

No questions had been submitted.

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

- Cllr Rowley commented that two new officers had commenced working in Planning.
- The telephone system is not yet working correctly: customers are being advised to email wherever possible.
- There appears to be some confusion still over street light responsibility, with the thought that if your parish is not on the PFI Balfour-Beatty contract, then you must be responsible for the lights. This is untrue however, as the responsibility was with the County Council, and therefore now the unitary authority. Cllr Rowley has explained this to the relevant person. He added that it would cost at least £100,000 to bring the Parish's lights up to the level that Balfour Beatty would accept. Lighting provision cannot be passed to the Parish Council without their agreement.
- **ACTION 1: Cllr Rowley will enquire at unitary level what is happening as to a Rural Forum.**

**007/22: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**a) Approval of Parish Council Annual Meeting minutes, held 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Cllr Goode proposed and Cllr Lomasney seconded that the minutes were a true record. Approved by all councillors present except for one abstention (the councillor was not present at the May meeting).

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

*17.5.21 action 1: Training for Flood Wardens (email notification) to be forwarded to Cllr Johnson and Richard Broughton.*

The training notification was forwarded to them.

*17.5.21 action 2: Register of Interests. The clerk to send the link to the Register of Interests form out to all councillors. This will then electronically go to NNC when the form is completed.*

Completed.

Cllr Batchelor reminded councillors at this point that as regards to election expenses, even if there are nil returns, the form must be sent back to Heather Jackson.

*17.5.21 action 3: Adoption of Standing Orders. Proposed by Cllr Rowley that they be approved for three months on condition that new standing orders are then brought to the table for approval.*

*Seconded by Cllr Goode, approved by all councillors present.*

*Added to 9.8.21 agenda for approval.*

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

Noted that if the relevant section of the old Code of Conduct is replaced by the new Code of Conduct and that is inserted in the Standing Orders, then the action can be signed off. The up-to-date template for the Standing Orders will be needed for the Annual meeting in 2022.

**c) Approval of Parish Council monthly meeting draft minutes – held 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**

Approval proposed by Cllr Padwick, seconded by Cllr Goode, approved by all councillors except for one abstention (not present at the June meeting).

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

*14.6.21 action 2: The clerk to resend the request to Housing. (Relates to 17.5.21 action 8: “The clerk to send an email to James Wilson, the Interim Head of Housing to ask if a new Housing Needs Survey could be initiated. This was sent, but to Customer Services to be forward to James Wilson. A reply had not been received as at 14.6.21”.*

**ACTION 3: To be resent, but to Rob Harbour**

**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. This relates to what they receive that the Parish Council actually pay for, as opposed to a list of all the services that Ncalc provide.**

*14.6.21 action 4: The clerk to chase Gigaclear as to installing a connection in the Village Hall. This has not yet happened. The clerk advised that the request had been sent, she will chase if no answer is forthcoming.*

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

*14.6.21 action 5: Cllr Goode will ask TJ Electrical Ltd for a key to the padlock (for the lights by the Cross).*

Cllr Goode is in the process of obtaining the keys. The clerk and Cllr Johnson will have copies of the keys.

*14.6.21 action 6: The clerk to contact Fortus.*

Fortus has been contacted and have apologised for a paper error.

*14.6.21 action 7: Completed - Cllr Rowley added that NNC are still exploring the option to form the Rural Forum.*

*14.6.21 action 8: the clerk to convey the attendance request to First Responders.*

First Responders will attend the September Parish Council meeting

14.6.21 action 9: Cllr Bailey asked to be reminded to chase this with Land Registry. Cllr Bailey informed councillors that evidence was needed of the Stonepit land and the Charity as its predecessors. Statements of Truth are needed, and searches against the Council in its previous name have to be carried out.

He added that there are time limits to sending the information, but he will inform them that they have had the submitted form since January 2021.

**ACTION 6: Cllr Bailey will set out who needs to do what to ensure that the workload is spread evenly.**

14.6.21 action 11: (Proposed road race for 30.8.21). Cllr Rowley will email the relevant officer to query why it is being allowed to go ahead.

Cllr Rowley reported that he had not yet had a response for the email sent.

14.6.21 action 12: The Clerk will write to Highways as above.

The clerk reported that she had not yet had a response for the email sent.

14.6.21 action 13: The clerk to write to Polka dot expressing the same concerns, and ask how are they going to manage the event.

The clerk reported that she had not yet had a response from the email sent.

It was stated that this would close off the entire village. A formal objection to the granting of a temporary road closure needs to be submitted.

**ACTION 7: The clerk to find out the relevant NNC person under whose remit this would fall, and contact them to inform them of concerns of the Parish Council previously sent to the race organisers, and to state the problems that it would generate in the village.**

**008/22: FINANCE**

**a) Bank statements.**

Community account statement	as at 17.6.21	£62,999.73
Business Saver account	as at 17.6.21	£10,780.48

**b) Accounts received**

None

**c) Accounts for payment: -**

	Geddington Village Hall	Hire of main hall 17.5.21, to correct error on invoice 6550.	10.00
	Geddington Village Hall	Hire of main hall 12.7.21	35.00
	Fortus Midlands Ltd	Financial statements for yr ended 31.3.21	540.00

Proposed by Cllr Rowley that the payments be approved for payment, seconded by Cllr Batchelor, approved by all councillors present.

## **PLANNING**

*Cllr Rowley abstained from taking part in this Agenda item.*

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

*NK/2021/0098 & 0097. Mr P Frampton, 48 West Street, Geddington.*

*Replace 8 no. box sash windows and erect hazel hurdle fence to front. ABSNABS. Approved.*

*NK/2021/0365. Mr & Mrs Hardy, The Manor House, Access Road To Manor House, Newton.*

*ACACACA. Withdrawn.*

*NK/2021/0367. Mr & Mrs Hardy, The Manor House, Access Road To Manor House, Newton.*

*Erection of porch. BAABAAA. Withdrawn.*

*NK/2021/0309. Mr Jonathan Hall, 13 New Road, Geddington.*

*Single storey rear extension. ESNESNE. Approved.*

*NK/2021/0444. Mr Barley, 7-8 Access Road To Newton House, Newton.*

*Change of use of land to residential garden. Approved.*

*NK/2021/0206. Mrs R Askew, 16 Queen Street, Geddington.*

*Single storey annex within the side garden of the existing dwelling, with solar panels*

*ACACACA. Approved.*

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

*NK/2021/0512: The Udder Pre-School, Cobley Lodge Farm, Stamford Road, Little Oakley.*

*Single storey side extension to nursery. ESNESNE.*

After discussing the application, it was proposed by Cllr Batchelor and seconded by Cllr Padwick that there be "no objection" to the planning application. Agreed by all councillors present except for one abstention.

Councillors also wished to convey that they looked favourably on the idea of it creating more employment in this particular area.

*KET/2020/0369: Larkfleet Homes, Stamford Road (land off), Geddington.*

*26 no. dwellings and all other associated infrastructure including access, drainage and public open space. Full Application*

There was no update for this application. Plan 2 is back from the Secretary of State with minor amendments. Plan 2 can therefore now be used as a planning consideration.

A short discussion took place as to the affordability criteria for homes

There is nothing that can be done as to this application at the moment.

**ACTION 8: Cllr Rowley will speak to the relevant NNC Director, Rob Harbour as to what the status of the application is at the present time.**

**ACTION 9: The clerk to send an email to the general email customer service address, expressing considerable concern as to no updates as to this application and any still missing documents.**

**009/22: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND CIRCULATED, to note or comment upon.**

Two requests for cut back to overgrowth on the A4300 had been sent out: one firm did not have the capacity at the present time to carry out any more work, the other company contacted had not yet replied. However, Cllr Rowley informed the meeting that the cut back of growth (Geddington going towards the Weekley roundabout) was Boughton Estate's responsibility. But the trees in question stand on the verge inside the village boundary and it was agreed that these are Highways' responsibility.

**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.**

**010/22: PARISH PLAN**

- a) Queen St/ Bridge Street parking issues - progress update by working party, and
- b) Parking consultation.

Cllr Padwick reported that he has written a letter which has been circulated to councillors. Signage upgrades will now also be included in the letter. Cllrs Padwick, Goode and Johnson will meet to work out a process for the actions that need to be taken. There are approximately 70 – 80 houses that will be included in the consultation process. He also added that the Village Hall car park upgrade will now also be included in the letter.

Cllr Padwick said that approval of the letter was the next step, and it would be desirable to circulate the letter within the next couple of days.

Cllr Batchelor proposed that the letter be approved, seconded by Cllr Rowley, agreed by all councillors present.

It was reported that there had been some trouble relating to the ford, use of the berm and resulting car parking issues. It was suggested that boulders may be a good idea to stop vehicles parking on the slipways, both sides of the ford, but a Fire Service vehicle must be able to get through. Cars tend to park half on the verge, half on the path.

If this option to stop vehicles parking on the slipways is approved, a builder's merchant will put them where they are required, so an ordinance survey map is needed, or a map of Geddington - bridge area. Cllr Rowley suggested delegating a working party to decide where to position the boulders and how much could be spent if this option is approved by the Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Batchelor to delegate a working party of up to three people to spend up to £1000 and to use a map to decide where it would be best to position the boulders. Seconded by Cllr Rowley. All councillors present were in favour of the proposal.

Cllr Padwick concluded the Parish Plan agenda item by stating that a new Parish Plan needs to commence, as the last one started in 2016. It was noted that a report needs to be written to show what has been achieved since the last Parish Plan.

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

**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.**

**011/22: ENVIRONMENT.**

- a) The ford - popularity issues. Discussion to include whether to secure the access to the area, bin removal and requesting NNC wardens to attend.

Questions asked and comments made: -

Do we lock the gate to the berm?

Do we lock it just at significant times (such as school holidays)?

Locking the gate will result in people climbing over it.

A lot of villagers walk their dogs in the berm. Noted that it was dog walkers who requested to the Environment Agency for the berm to be allowed to be opened up.

No one has mentioned locking it.

One forum has asked about locking it, but it has not been raised on Face book.

It is too draconian a measure.

Does insurance cover the Parish Council down to the river itself?

Litter is the main concern

Parking and the attitude of people is the bigger problem.

**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.**

Noted that parking enforcement can only be carried out by wardens if there are restrictions in place.

Cllr Batchelor proposed that the wardens and the Rural Sergeants be requested to view the area at an appropriate busy time, and also to attend a Parish Council meeting if they would like to hear first-hand the parking issues.

Also noted that reporting parking issues via the 101 telephone number does not appear to work.

#### **b) Village Hall car park.**

Some residents have asked when the Parish Council will install gates at the car park entrance. It was reported that cars and scooters race over the bridge, into the car park and back again. It seems that the noisiest cars appear to be used when this happens at night.

However, it was pointed out that the Parish Council are trying to get people to use the car park.

Cllr Goode added that this issue was discussed at the last Village Hall meeting. A letter had also been received last month suggesting the gates should be locked at night. The Parish Council had replied to the letter saying they were not in favour of it. The Village Hall Committee were also not in favour of installing gates and then locking them in the evening. Questions had been asked including who is going to be responsible for locking the gate every night and then unlocking it in the morning? What happens if a car is locked in? And what time would any such gates been locked? It was pointed out that when the hall is hired a band is often hired as well, so locking up times could not be early. Residents want to help if they can.

**ACTION 14: Cllr Rowley to invite residents to the August meeting .**

#### **c) Labosport UK/Cricket Club update.**

There was no update.

As a general update, the meeting was informed that there was a large cricket event held recently which had taken place without any major problems occurring. Netting (from the nets) had been erected, plus nets on wheels were also used. Signage was in place for parking, informing drivers of additional parking space in the Youth Club area.

It was noted that the Cricket Club need to inform the village beforehand when a major event will be taking place, plus they should also ask permission of the Parish Council.

#### **d) Update on flooding issues.**

Cllr Rowley will send a response to the resident enquiring as to any updates.

#### **e) Stone pit land – progress?**

This was discussed at 007/22.

**012/22: DECISION ON WHETHER MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> AUGUST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IS HELD.**

It was proposed by Cllr Batchelor that it would be held, but it would be a smaller meeting, to try and finalise some of the previous agenda items. Seconded by Cllr Rowley, all councillors present were in favour with one abstention.

**NEWTON**

Cllr Lomasney noted that the planning application for numbers 7 & 8 Newton had been withdrawn, and a new planning application would be submitted.

**LITTLE OAKLEY**

No issues raised.

**AOB**

*The meeting finished at 9.52pm.*