

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th NOVEMBER 2021 at 7.30pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors C Buckseall, T Bailey, P Goode, J Padwick, M Rowley, D Lomasney

APOLOGIES:

Councillors N Batchelor and P Johnson.

Cllr Goode as the Vice Chair took the Chair in the absence of Cllr Batchelor.

050/22: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Rowley declared an interest for agenda item "Planning – b) Applications for consideration" (NK/2021/0818).

051/22: PUBLIC SESSION

One members of the public was present at the meeting.

a) Questions/letters sent in by the public

John Goodall had asked via a letter if Nene Valley motorhomes could have the use of the Youth Club car park on 18th-20th March 2022. Additionally, Clarity Security Training would like to hire the Youth Club for a training session plus approximately 12 small one-man tents to be set up on the grass behind the Youth Club building on the 4th, 5th and 6th February 2022.

It was queried as do the GVFB know of the two proposals as there may be a clash of events. John Goodall was asked to liaise with the GVFB to check that no other events had already been arranged for the car park area. The security group will only need the use of the hall, but the motorhome group will use the car park as well.

It was queried as to should any payment from the motorhome group using the car park land be forwarded to the Parish Council as the car park is the Parish Council's land. It was asked if the Parish Council is happy for the payment to go to the Youth Club.

It was also queried as to insurance, and does the Motorhome group have insurance. The Parish Council has its own public liability insurance that covers events that the Parish Council is involved with or has organised.

Cllr Rowley proposed that the Parish Council have sight of both the motorhome group's insurance and Clarity Security Training's insurance before they agree for the event to go ahead. Seconded by Cllr Bailey, agreed by all councillors present.

ACTION 1: The clerk to confirm this request by email to John Goodall.

b) Reports from North Northants Councillors.

There was no report for this meeting. Cllr Rowley was asked if there was any update as to vacancies to fill shortages of staff (local interest being Castle Gardens). This however is an operational matter.

052/22: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

a) Approval of draft minutes for the Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting, held 27th September 2021.

Cllr Padwick proposed and Cllr Lomasney seconded that with one amendment the minutes were a true record. (Action 1 to be re-worded as a quotation had not been requested from the Unitary Council). Approved by all councillors present.

b) Matters arising; progress on agreed actions.

Noted that there is no specific reference to reviewing “matters arising” of the previous month’s minutes within the revised Standing Orders. It was decided that the proper officer included the item on the agenda and therefore it was a legitimate item for consideration. The Standing Orders could be amended for subsequent meetings.

11.10.21, action 2: (Gigaclear contract) - The clerk to add this item to the November agenda and circulate the terms and conditions in advance of the meeting agenda.

This was discussed briefly with it being added to the December agenda.

John Goodall was asked at this stage if the stolen items from the Youth Club had been recovered. Very little had happened so he had written to the County Police and Fire Commissioner, and an officer rang him and said somebody was looking at the details.

It was reiterated that the Parish Council are trying to secure a “Police Liaison” person from the community, but what is happening with numbers for and support from full time Police?

As no Police personnel had replied to the clerk concerning her query as to the Kettering Rural Neighbourhood team, Cllr Rowley advised her to contact Inspector Scott Little (Corby Rural Neighbourhood team) who will be able to relay the information.

ACTION 2: the clerk to action the above information.

11.10.21, action 14: (Cllr Goode to liaise with the Village Hall concerning the Parish Council response to the Polka dot road race). Cllr Goode conveyed the Parish Council response to the Village Hall prior to the race being called off.

c) Approval of draft minutes for the Parish Council Meeting, held 11th October 2021.

Cllr Rowley proposed and Cllr Padwick seconded that the minutes were a true record. Approved by all councillors present except for one abstain (absent from the meeting).

d) Matters arising; progress on agreed actions

11.10.21, action 1: The Clerk to contact NNC again to ask for an indicative time scale (new Housing Needs Survey could be initiated). The clerk to chase this (again) with Leanne Hunt: it has been chased but no reply has been received.

11.10.21, action 3: The clerk will add a chase to the entry on Street Doctor as it still does not say when the work will be carried out. (tree/ foliage overgrowth on the east side, entrance to Geddington, within the village boundary.

ACTION 3: The clerk will put another chase on the Street Doctor website.

11.10.21, action 6: The clerk to enquire of Sam Rees if he knows who owns the two fields to the west side of Stamford Road. The clerk will chase this.

11.10.21, action 10: Cllr Batchelor will liaise with Kensigns for completion of the car parking signs. Cllr Batchelor was unable to attend the meeting so it is not known if this has happened.

ACTION 4: This action check to be carried over to December.

11.10.21, action 14: (Community Speedwatch) Cllr Goode will get in touch with the other people that had been involved before Covid halted the scheme plus one new person who has expressed interest with helping with the scheme. Cllr Goode updated that Community Speedwatch had been contacted and the Parish Council has been re-registered. He has also contacted all the residents who have expressed an interest except for one.

e) Approval of draft minutes for the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting, held 1st November 2021.

Cllr Rowley proposed and Cllr Buckseall seconded that the minutes were a true record. Approved by all councillors present except for one councillor abstaining (absent from the meeting).

f) Matters arising

No matters arising.

There was a short discussion on the nominal numbers of councillors.

ACTION 5: The clerk to add this item to the December agenda.

053/22: FINANCE

a) Bank statements.

Community account statement	as at 15.10.21	£58,348.85
Business Saver account	as at 15.10.21	£10,780.75

b) Accounts received

None

c) Accounts for payment: -

Information Commissioner's office	Data Protection fee - (Pd by DD annually)	35.00
Geddington Village Hall	Hire of lounge, Aug 21 to yr end	157.50
CommuniCorp	Clerks and Councils direct – Local Councils Update	75.00

Approval of payment of invoices proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Padwick, approved by all councillors present.

d) Revision of Financial Regulations

i) Approval of the Financial Regulations proposed by the Finance Committee to be approved and voted upon.

These had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Rowley that they be accepted, seconded by Cllr Lomasney, agreed by all councillors present.

e) Further discussion concerning projects for 2022 - 23.

It was stated that councillors need to look at the principle of maintaining the precept at the current level and that the Parish Council needs to spend some of the money - to decide on and progress some the projects. Other issues that will need to be factored in to the budget are the extension car park and flooding – surveys/ equipment. Newton entrance has not been able to progress and the MUGA project is also still under consideration together with access and availability if it was a school – based project. The MUGA project and provision of outdoor gym equipment was declared urgent five years ago. These projects are still outstanding from the Parish Plan and should take priority.

A discussion took place concerning the feasibility of plans and projects for 2022 – 23. It was noted that the Asset proforma for capital projects was not completed. Also noted that Newton Road and the car park were the priorities. Other projects were still just as important but they hadn't been able to be worked upon and progress.

The discussion concluded with Parish Plan issues to be discussed at the relevant agenda item at this meeting.

ACTION 6: It was not known who was responsible for championing the individual Parish Plan projects. The clerk to check back through the minutes to determine this.

PLANNING

Cllr Rowley did not take part in this part of the meeting.

a) KBC Decision notices

NK/2021/0387 - Mr James Ferne, 1 Stamford Road, Geddington.

*Conversion of detached garage to a habitable room with associated works
SNMSNMS.*

Approved.

b) Planning Applications for consideration.

NK/2021/0818 - Mr J Sinclair, 48 Grange Road, Geddington, NN14 1AL

Two storey side and single storey rear extensions. EEEEEEE.

Noted that: -

-It will not affect any neighbour unduly as it does not overlook anyone.

-It will become a five-bedroomed house.

-The owners will render the side facing on to Grange Road to blend in with surrounding properties.

Cllr Buckseall proposed that there be no objection to the application, seconded by Cllr Lomasney, agreed by all councillors present except for one abstention.

NK/2021/0855 - L Blenkinsop, 4 Bakehouse Hill, Geddington.

Demolition of conservatory and erection of garden room. ACACACA

It was noted that it would be more visible from the neighbouring property than the existing structure.

Proposed by Cllr Buckseall that there be no objection, seconded by Cllr Bailey, agreed by all councillors present, with the exception of one councillor who abstained.

a) Parking Survey – update from the Working Group - next steps and actions.

An update was given for the purchase of boulders for the River Ise slipway. Boulders that were knee height but not granite were under £200 for one pallet. The bigger boulders were £2,500.00 for five, and eight would be needed. The Parking Survey working group recommendation was for the first option to be purchased. After a short discussion Cllr Bailey proposed that the recommendation by the working group be followed. Seconded by Cllr Rowley. Agreed by all councillors present

The deadline for requests for double yellow lines on roads to be submitted to NNC has been missed. As per the consultation that has been carried out with residents in Queen Street and Bridge Street, the recommendation will go forward at the first available opportunity for the narrowest part of Queen Street, but not for the other areas. The working group will up-date residents as to what will happen.

b) Parish Plan report.

The current Parish Plan was circulated and adopted in 2015/16. The six main areas of concern were traffic, street lighting, flooding and drainage, dog mess, facilities for teenagers and adults and securing superfast broadband in Newton.

Cllr Padwick had pulled together a draft report, partly from comments by the working group, partly from parish councillors, to show the recommendations that had been made. A colour coded system was then used: those issues in red – no action had taken place, amber – action had been taken, and green where the issues had been resolved. There were 26 actions colour-coded in this way. 16 where action have been taken or resolved, and 10 where no action had been taken. It was acknowledged that John Goodall had chaired the working party and put in a considerable amount of time and effort to try to move forward some of the issues.

The red actions needed a decision to be made as to was the Parish Council going to be taking action on the red issues, or to state that they are not achievable.

As part of the public session. John Goodall made some comments relating to the fact that comments made by some councillors that an outdoor gym would not be highly used bears no justification. He said it is hard to statistically verify its use. The Parish Council were never expected to pay for the whole of the project as fund raising would take place, with the Parish Council being asked to part fund only. In answer to a question concerning price, the outdoor gym would cost approximately £12000 and the MUGA £80,000 - £100,000. He said he was looking for guidance as to did the Parish Council see these two items as important.

Cllr Padwick added that as a result of the next questionnaire, it may well form part of the Parish Plan again, if facilities for young people are still seen as a priority.

Cllr Rowley added that it needed to be determined what had been completed on the present Parish Plan. Were councillors satisfied that enough had been carried out to the 2016 Parish Plan to justify starting a new Parish Plan?

Cllr Padwick then went through the traffic light system of what had been actioned or otherwise on the draft document, with input from the other councillors present.

Cllr Padwick concluded by adding that a line needed to be drawn under what had been achieved and what is outstanding. The Council then need to decide if they want to go forward with the outstanding items and if so which items.

Noted that street lights in the village have not had an annual inspection for over two years.

ACTION 7: Cllr Padwick said that Highways will be asked for the level of HGVs using the A4300.

Dog mess - An update was given as to the NNC wardens – they will not go on to the recreation ground, but if it is a public amenity they will come and observe.

Reiterated that outdoor gyms and facilities for teenagers and adults were identified on the present Parish Plan, and if it was identified as such on the new Parish Plan going forward the level of financial input as well as other matters would need to be examined, included perceived levels of use.

The discussion concluded with Cllr Padwick being informed that as he was driving the Parish Plan forward, he could decide whether it was an item that should be looked at again on the present Parish Plan, by (for example) adding it to the next agenda as an item, or whether to wait and see what the consultation showed was a priority for the next Parish Plan.

It was decided that there would be an agenda item on the December agenda as to “should the two issues for facilities for teenagers and adults be examined again on the present Parish Plan, or see what the priorities are on the consultation for the new Parish Plan”. Noted that this should be two separate agenda items.

c) To set a working party to form a draft for the new Parish Plan.

This was not discussed.

055/22: FLOODING – updates and next steps.

The meeting was informed that there were no updates as the meetings were taking place later in the month. Cllr Rowley wishes to obtain advice and suggestions from the officers attending the meeting before an update is given next month. Cllr Goode reiterated that if any help and assistance was needed from other councillors or members of the public who had shown a willingness to help, to please use them. The amended report that Cllr Rowley has written can be forwarded out to any interested parties.

056/22: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND CIRCULATED – to note or comment upon.

ACTION 8: Cllr Padwick will circulate a copy of the poppy wreath email/invoice.

Cllr Rowley apologised in advance as he will not be able to attend the Remembrance Day ceremony.

057/22: ENVIRONMENT.

a) Stone pit land – update.

Cllr Bailey hoped that the current work with Land Registry would be completed by the next meeting, but he could not guarantee it. He explained to John Goodall that

the fact that the land was not registered to the Parish Council did not mean that they did not own it; thousands of people in the country own their property but are not registered with Land Registry. The Charity Commission vested the land to the Parish Council in 1976, and the Parish Council are the Trustees – they own it for the benefit of the community. He reiterated that vested means it is owned by.

He added that once the land is registered it makes no difference, but it keeps the paperwork in order.

b) Extension car park application.

The formal approval of the planning application has been received, with one condition attached to it. The assistant archaeological adviser had no reservations concerning the work but if anything was uncovered, it needs to be documented and stored. Cllr Goode has asked for a discharge of condition that has to be submitted to them on a formal application and there is a charge of £116.00 to be paid.

A fresh costing and a fresh valuation exercise need to be carried out now and revisit the proposal to move it forward. Cllr Goode asked if an additional councillor would like to be involved with this so that numbers are more equal – the Chair of the Village Hall Management Board and the representative from the Bowling Club were previously on the working party together with Cllr Goode. Three sites will shortly be visited – Rockingham Castle, Wicksteed Park and a site in Wellingborough so that different surfaces can be assessed. An invitation was given for another councillor to join them.

c) i) Gigaclear – terms and conditions for a community broadband installation – for discussion and decision.

ii) application form for a community broadband installation.

The Gigaclear contract keeps being sent out with the name of the clerk as the second party in the agreement. The terms and conditions are locked and not able to be opened a day after they are sent out. There were also one or two concerns as to the terms and conditions that were included in the contract.

ACTION 9: The clerk has now copied and pasted them when they were able to be opened and will circulate them.

d) Environmental areas for consideration.

Cllr Lomasney moved that a discussion took place concerning a more urgent Newton matter. This was allowed.

ACTION 10: The original agenda item to be carried forward to the December meeting.

NEWTON

Cllr Lomasney informed councillors that a resident informed Cllr Lomasney on 21st October that he was shutting the footpath that runs through his property as family members had covid. The resident and Cllr Lomasney emailed the Local Access Forum and received a reply saying the email would be passed on to the Rights of Way officer. Local Access Forum advice says footpaths must not be closed due to covid. The resident acknowledged that it was a Right of Way but had blocked it by putting three rubbish bins to block the access gate.

A few days previous to this meeting he had informed Newton residents by email that he was shutting the footpath again as he had had two radiators stolen from the driveway. He locked the gate and has said that it will be locked through the hours of darkness and opened up when the school run is completed.

Cllr Lomasney was informed that this is not something the Parish Council could deal with; it is a unitary council issue.

Cllr Rowley asked for the latest information to be forwarded on to him as he may be able to alert the right officer more quickly.

The discussion concluded by stating that the resident's actions are illegal in closing the footpath, but it has to be dealt with at unitary level.

LITTLE OAKLEY

No issues raised.

AOB

The clerk informed the councillors of an email received from a resident whereby Balfour Beatty replied to a lighting query and said it was the Parish Council's responsibility.

ACTION 11: The clerk will forward the email to Cllr Rowley upon his request, as Balfour Beatty have been told that this Parish's street lighting is not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

There being no other business, the meeting finished at 9.55pm.