

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th JANUARY 2022 at 7.30pm.

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

APOLOGIES:

None

058/22: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Rowley declared an interest for agenda item "Planning".

059/22: PUBLIC SESSION

Two members of the public were present at the meeting plus NNC Cllr Elliot Prentice.

a) Questions/letters sent in by the public

None.

b) Reports from North Northants Councillors.

Cllr Elliot Prentice explained that he represented Ise ward together with Cllr Lloyd Bunday and Cllr Rowley.

Cllr Rowley reported that the budget was under consultation for NNC, plus the Police, Fire and Commissioner's budget.

He also explained that Dr Monks was one of five people prosecuted by East Northants Council in 1997 -98. Some officers had been discredited in court, and a compensation claim had gone through the Leader who had made an apology in court. Unitary Councillors were told about it in June 2021. The leader of East Northants Council had told the leader of the Shadow unitary but had said that it would be sorted and paid by East Northants Council before vesting day. The compensation of £4 million will be paid out of public reserves.

The historic claim has now been sorted out and concluded.

The entrance to Newton.

NNC will be writing to landowners asking to cut the hedges back. That is all that they are able to do. New road markings and road signs will be put into place, with "slow" signs on the road at two or three stages. Cllr Rowley was asked if there is any legislation against landowners (for suitable splay areas), but it is not thought that there is.

Street lights.

Several street lights in the village are not working. Cllr Rowley has submitted a list of lights that he has noticed are not working and Cllr Johnson has also notified of the lights he is aware of that are not working. Balfour Beatty are still adamant that Geddington are the lighting authority. Cllr Rowley will be speaking to the relevant portfolio holders again to ask them to intervene with this issue and also with the Rural Forum Chair. This issue is also a problem for other Kettering villages

ACTION 1: Cllr Rowley will action the above in his role as a Unitary councillor.

Cllr Rowley added that the Parish was in the same position for lighting as it was under KBC. Cllr Elliot Prentice added here that he had nothing else to add.

Cllr Padwick stated at this point that the signs are obscured by vegetation between the end of Newton Road and Newton.

ACTION 2: Cllr Padwick will report this to Street Doctor.

060/22: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

a) Approval of draft minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held 8th November 2021.

Cllr Goode proposed and Cllr Rowley seconded that with three amendments the minutes were a true record. (052/22b to be amended, and 054/22c to read "To set a working party to form a draft for the new Parish Plan. Action 1 to be amended to include "Clarity Security Training"). Approved by five councillors present, with three councillors abstaining (not at the above meeting).

ACTION 3: The clerk to contact John Goodall to ask for "Clarity Security Training" insurance as well.

A discussion took place as to could matters arising be discussed. The overall opinion was that the Parish Council needs to keep track of actions outstanding from the last meeting to ensure that progress can be checked at the next meeting.

b) Matters arising; progress on agreed actions

8.11.21 action 2: Police Rural Team contacts.

The clerk to re-circulate the information as to whom information should go to in the Police Rural Team.

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.

The Clerk was advised to leave it two months before it is chased again, as the officer is currently trying to secure a budget.

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.

Cllr Batchelor has confirmed sizes to Kensigns.

ACTION 4: Cllr Batchelor will speak to him again as to are the new signs near completion.

8.11.21, 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.

ACTION 5: The clerk to carry on checking through previous minutes to find this information.

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

ACTION 6: Cllr Padwick will contact Highways.

c) Approval of draft minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held 13th December 2021.

This meeting was unable to be held as the meeting was not quorate.

d) Matters arising; progress on agreed actions

See above.

061/22: FINANCE

a) Bank statements.

Community account statement	as at 17.12.21	£57,586.35
Business Saver account	as at 17.12.21	£10,781.02

b) Accounts received

None

c) Accounts for payment: -

Royal British Legion	Remembrance Day wreath £17.00 plus donation if agreed (<i>£33.00 decided at this meeting</i>)	£17 plus agreed donation, total £50.00
Berrys	Appraisal of Stone Pit Land for Land Registry.	150.00
R & R Reclamation	2 x pallets rocks	225.00
Northants CALC	Off to a flying start -David Lomasney	44.00
North Northants Council	Discharge of condition fee (for KET/2020/0199 car park extension application. <i>(No invoice or receipt sent yet)</i>)	116.00
Anita Curtis	1/4ly salary Oct – Dec 21	1106.85
Anita Curtis	1/4ly PAYE Oct – Dec 21 (already pd by ac's own account)	276.70
Anita Curtis	1/4ly agreed depreciation Oct – Dec 21	60.00
Anita Curtis	1/4ly expenses (ink cartridges) Oct – Dec 21	17.96
NNC	Recharge PC (uncontested) election – May 2021***BEING QUERIED***	<i>124.38</i>

It was decided that the donation to the Royal British Legion would be £33.00. The NNC payment for £124.38 is currently being queried.

Cllr Goode proposed that a donation of £33.00 be added to the RBL invoice of £17.00 for the wreath. Seconded by Cllr Bailey, agreed by all those present.

Cllr Batchelor proposed that that payments except for the NNC invoice for £124.38 be approved for payment, seconded by Cllr Bailey, agreed by all councillors present.

d) PC budget for 2022-23 – for approval and sign off.

Discussions have been previously held for the budget and projects relating to spend for the next financial year. No figures have been added for any projects as costings are not at this stage available.

Amendments to be made to the budget: -

- A budget of £500 to be built into each year's budget to allow provision for election expenses to accumulate for the 4- 5-year election cycle.
- £500 to be added for Parish Plan
- Donations to be adjusted for up to £50.00.
- The total budget that is allowed for 2022 – 23 financial year spend is £22,510.

With these changes, it was proposed by Cllr Goode that the budget for 2022 – 23 be approved, seconded by Cllr Bailey, agreed by all councillors present.

e) Precept for 2021- 22 - decision to be made.

The clerk advised that previous advice given by the former councillor with the Lead for Finance was that a cost-of-living increase should be built into the precept. A comparison form from Ncal for villages in this area has pointed out how low this Parish's precept is. A surplus for capital projects is still needed, as the car park will have to be paid for, plus a MUGA and outdoor gym are still possible projects. Additionally, items may need to be purchased to help to alleviate the risk of flooding. Cllr Batchelor advised that it should be considered that this is the last year that a build-up of surplus should be taking place without definitive plans in place.

Cllr Rowley noted at this stage that the Jubilee celebrations plus the agenda item 068/22e) may also generate extra expenditure.

It was proposed by Cllr Rowley that the precept be £22,000 for 2022 – 23, seconded by Cllr Batchelor, agreed by all councillors present.

f) Insurance - Pre-Renewal Questionnaire to be completed.

The clerk explained that the insurance company will default to what was stated previously if the pre-renewal questionnaire is not completed or no changes are notified to them. The discussion highlighted:—

- the document says the Parish Council are not responsible for a playground, but it is. The Parish Council are also responsible for street furniture, youth shelter, fencing in the recreation field and the bus shelter, but the Parish Council may not require cover for all of these.
- Cllr Rowley added that councillors previously decided that it was not worth insuring the benches.
- Cllr Goode added that previous insurers said that the youth shelter would be covered under street furniture (with Came & Co).
- Cover is not needed for playground equipment, but it does have responsibility for the playground. The insurers to be informed that the Parish Council own the playground.

- The Parish Council has responsibility for the river between the north and south bank, with the boundary line for the river down the centre. and the Parish Council is also responsible for the dog walking area by the river (the berm).
- The area north of the recreation ground where the bike track can be found is also an area of responsibility.

Noted that the area of high concern is the river and the dog walking area, and of medium concern is the "beach".

Action 7: Hiscox to be informed of the areas of responsibility by the clerk.

Cllr Rowley proposed that if the insurance for 2022-23 is under £750 that the insurance is agreed, and to pay this if it has to be paid before the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr Bailey, agreed by all councillors present.

Councillors also had their attention directed to a statement within the insurance documents stating that the insurance is invalid if any of a list of clauses apply to councillors. Cllr Batchelor proposed that if anyone feels uncomfortable about any of the clauses to approach him on a confidential basis as this was a public meeting. If a statement about any particular councillor is needed, it can be added to the documentation by the Chair and the clerk in confidence. Seconded by Cllr Goode, agreed by all councillors present.

PLANNING

Cllr Rowley did not take part in this agenda item.

a) KBC Decision notices

b) Planning Applications for consideration.

No planning applications for consideration were listed.

062/22: PARISH PLAN

Facilities for young people and adults: decision whether the proposals for: -

- an outdoor gym
- a MUGA [Multi Activity Games Area] should be progressed as part of the current Parish Plan.
- New Parish Plan - programme to be agreed.

This item to be deferred to the February meeting (lack of time).

063/22: FLOODING

To receive update from December meeting, and discuss and determine next steps.

Cllr Rowley had a meeting on 21st November with three officers from Highways, but unfortunately (although invited), no member of the Environment Dept of NNC was present. They looked at the bridge and the outlet pipes from the water flow, and they confirmed that when the pipes are covered with water that they are effectively blocked. They suggested putting a non-return flap over the ends of the pipes to stop the water from going back up the pipes, and the pipe from Bridge Street used to have a flap but it appeared to have broken off. Some engineering work would be needed to one of the pipes. It was thought though that if one of the flaps has been taken off that it may have caused additional problems.

The lip on the slip road on Queen Street side – The Highways officer believes that the higher level has been caused by tree roots therefore they will not touch it.

Newton Road area – most of the properties have dropped curbs so no work can benefit this area. The officer added that if the proposed new development for 20 homes was approved, a condition could be requested for drains to be installed at the entrance to Stamford Road. A drain here would not be a normal drain.

Little Oakley – There appears to be nothing that can be done to numbers 20 and 21. A raised kerb would go over the level of the damp course.

The drains and ditch that comes down the field to the Corby relief road area which drains into the small pipe that goes underneath the road – the compulsory purchase order for the land for the Corby relief road has not been signed yet, and Boughton Estates have not yet been paid. Highways and Boughton Estates are talking to the Transport Agency lawyers. Transport may pay for the work to be carried out to alleviate the problem in this area, and Boughton Estates may carry out the work. A wider culvert pipe would be needed diagonally across (and under) the road and extend it down to the river. Both Highways and Boughton Estates believe that if this work can be carried out that it will alleviate the problem.

Cllr Rowley concluded the discussion by saying that it was good news for Little Oakley, but Geddington will have to rely on alleviation and on-the-spot mitigation when flooding does take place. He suggested that a working group meeting takes place between the Fire Brigade and the flood wardens to agree the equipment that is needed such as high volume (2000 litre pumps) and proper flood defence equipment for the Queen Street area, plus a trailer.

The public session was opened at this stage.

It was said that there was no mention of the bund, but Cllr Rowley explained that this was because there was no Environment Dept of NNC officer present at the meeting, and Highways had no responsibility for it.

Clear and level the land by the bund - Boughton Estates was going to speak to the leaseholder as he does not believe this would help. They cannot be told to carry out the work, only to agree to do it.

The public were informed that Boughton Estates have started to clear the ditches starting at the top of Clay Dick where ditches need clearing. It is unclear how far this has progressed.

Boughton Estates was going to look at the possibilities of an attenuation area however and speak to the leaseholder about reinstating it. Cllr Rowley added that he had discussed with Highways how an attenuation pond should be considered for size etc.

An update is needed from Boughton Estates as to where work has reached to alleviate the problems that emanate from Clay Dick/ the Chase and the surrounding fields.

ACTION 8: The clerk to email Boughton Estates.

Cllr Batchelor said that Cllr Rowley had made good progress but felt that it would help him if others could help with writing letters to find out if things had moved forward or other points that could be chased such as time scales.

It was noted that the farmer has not ploughed the lower part of the field adjacent to the bund.

The bund has been surveyed, and it appears that there is a level of reluctance to increase the height as it may create an area of greater run-off down Wood Street. Cllr Goode felt that as the bund was approximately one metre below the road, an increase to the bund of 500mm, or the field lowered, would allow for a further retention of water of approximately 8 million gallons. Reducing the level of the field would be very expensive as approximately 4000 cubic metres of soil would need to be moved.

Cllr Rowley confirmed that this is still being pursued. The Environment officer who looked at the area after the floods had suggested that it would be better to lower the ground north of the bund and would not support increasing the height of the bund. Additionally, he would look at funding (a grant) to pay for the work to be carried out. Cllr Rowley will contact the portfolio holder to try and chase this.

ACTION 9: Cllr Rowley to carry out the above action.

It was asked as to what help could be given to help to move this forward but it was felt that an NNC email might produce a more ready response.

One member of the public said that at the October meeting it was agreed that professional advice was required. It was explained that this is why a meeting was set up in November but then Environment did not attend. The member of the public added that flooding was a big issue within the village, there is a surplus of funds, and twelve months on from the last flooding, independent advice could be sought. The member of the public was informed that a report was commissioned which stated what needed to be carried out to alleviate flooding in the village, but up to this year nothing the report advised had been carried out.

At the present time large amounts of water are lying in an area of the Chase. It was queried that if landowners have a legal obligation to clear the ditches why have they not already been cleared? It was asked why the Parish Council is not ensuring that this happens. The meeting was informed that Boughton Estates have been informed of this hence why they have started the work in the Chase.

It was observed that the Environment Dept of NNC failed to turn up when invited, and if they have not responded since the November meeting that is a long time. He was informed that they have not been contacted again yet through lack of time. Cllr Batchelor stated he wished to split the load so all the work does not fall on one person. Cllr Rowley will pass the issue to Cllr Elliot Prentice as it is a NNC level issue, not a Parish Council issue.

Cllr Padwick stated that as a Parish Council we have the responsibility to tell the NNC officers that we are not happy with the progress that has been made and can the Parish Council have a report as to progress and an officer to attend the Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Rowley gave the Path Finder report to the Clerk and then put it on the table to show that the Parish Council had done nothing with it since receiving it in 2016. He said that it shows all the drainage ditches in the outlying area and lays out what needs to be carried out to alleviate flooding in the village. The document was shared between the flood wardens at the time it was completed.

It was stated that the working group should meet as the Parish Council need to contact NNC relating to certain issues.

Cllr Rowley can chase as an NNC councillor. But the Parish Council also has a responsibility to chase NNC.

Also stated that water running off the land has multiple place and areas it can go though, each with their own owner.

In answer to a question, the bund was funded and built by KBC, not as the owner but as an alleviation for a 1 in 20 event.

ACTION 10: Cllr Rowley will chase the Environment Dept of NNC again.

A flood working group meeting needs to be arranged between the GVFB and the flood wardens to sort out the equipment needed. The flood wardens are Cllr Paul Johnson, Cllr Terry Bailey and Richard Broughton.

Noted that the working group have two roles – looking at the strategic long-term solutions and then the alleviation of flooding.

Cllr Rowley stated at this point that it sounded like he had not made enough progress and he wished to resign. He added that he will have the discussion with Cllr Batchelor later.

The member of the public added that the observations are not to criticise the work that has been done at all. Help is being offered.

Cllr Batchelor proposed that the Flood working group needs to try to meet before the next meeting, under Cllr Rowley's chairmanship if he agrees, if not Cllr Batchelor will be the interim Chair. The group to include Cllrs Padwick, Bailey, Buckseall and Richard Boughton/Clive Curtis or both, and with Cllr Batchelor or Cllr Rowley as Chair.

Seconded by Cllr Bailey, agreed by all councillors present except for one abstention.

ACTION 11: Cllr Batchelor to arrange the Flood working group meeting.

a) Innovative Flood Resilience Project Survey – for completion.

This item to be deferred to the February meeting (lack of time).

c) To agree a convenient date to convene a meeting of the Flood Working Group

This topic was included in the discussion above.

064/22: STANDING ORDERS - there is no specific reference to reviewing “matters arising” of the previous month’s minutes within the revised Standing Orders. – amendment decision required.

This item was discussed within the “matters arising” (060/22) at this meeting. The majority opinion was that if an agenda item is to discuss matters arising then it is on the agenda and can be discussed along with other agenda items.

065/22: INCORPORATION OF THE APPROVED & ADOPTED CODE OF CONDUCT, STANDING ORDERS & FINANCIAL REGULATIONS - to be added to the Parish Council web site, as previously agreed.

This item to be deferred to the February meeting (lack of time).

066/22: NOMINAL NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS FOR THIS PARISH – discussion.

This item to be deferred to the February meeting (lack of time).

067/22: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & CIRCULATED - to note or comment upon.

a) Email from NNC 8.12.21- Additional Sites for On-Street Electrical Vehicle Charging Points

b) Email from Louis Greco 17.11.21, an Emergency Planning officer (Improving community and property resilience to flooding in Harpers and Wootton Brook catchments).

Noted that this is a person that the flood working group(s) should be speaking to.

Cllr Batchelor proposed that the flood working group(s) can agree an appropriate response to both “Innovative Flood Resilience Project Survey, for completion”, and 067/2211b) Email from Louis Greco 17.11.21, an emergency planning officer (Improving community and property resilience to flooding in Harpers and Wootton Brook catchments)

Seconded by Cllr Goode, agreed by all councillors present.

ACTION 12: The Flood working group to agree the response.

b) Email sent 24.11.21 concerning more vandalism in the Brickyard Garden.
This item to be deferred to the February meeting (lack of time.)

068/22: ENVIRONMENT.

a) Clearance of ditches in Stamford Road – clarification required for residents as to their responsibility of ditches.

This item to be deferred to the February meeting (lack of time).

ACTION 13: The clerk to recirculate the two letters that were received.

b) Stone pit land – update.

Cllr Bailey stated that a revised application was submitted in November

Land Registry appear to have lost it, Cllr Bailey sent a detailed letter on 5th January explaining the whole of the background to the application, a fresh application was submitted, and a standard acknowledgement was received. He spoke to an officer today and it is now being dealt with as a complaint, but he wants the Parish Council’s permission to refer it to the Member of Parliament if he does not get a satisfactory reply in a reasonable time. The permission was given.

c) Extension car park application – update.

The cheque to be sent to NNC Planning for the discharge of conditions has been signed within the meeting. This can now be sent off with the discharge form.

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

Cllr Goode stated that he has looked through the Gigaclear document: the Parish Council need not do anything now, it can be left for one or two months.
This item to be deferred to the February meeting (lack of time.)

Cllr Rowley left the meeting at 9.43pm.

e) Environmental areas for consideration, and update.

The March date has been missed for trees or hedging, but it opens up again for applications later in the year. Cllr Lomasney will speak to other people in the village to find out what suggestions they put forward.

Charge points in the car park - if they are installed in the car park it must be owned by the local authority. It was clarified that the existing car park up to the wall is owned by the Parish Council. If the electric charging points are installed at the side of the road the path needs to be two metres wide.

Noted that the above item covers item 067/22a) as well.

Cllr Lomasney asked if anyone would like to join him in a working party to move this item forward. As there were no volunteers for this, he stated that he was happy to sort it out himself.

f) Cutback of dangerous branches and boughs on trees in the recreation field – for update and discussion.

A quotation was sent by Dawn Hughes (NNC) in November – for £500 minimum, £700 maximum for 7 trees in total including the removal of one tree which is not safe. This quotation only covers making safe the footpaths.

It was asked as to have Boughton Estates been contacted and asked if they are willing to carry out the work, and there is no answer within a week, for the order to be placed with Dawn Hughes.

ACTION 14: the clerk to carry out the above. Proposed by Cllr Goode, seconded by Cllr Lomasney, agreed by all councillors present.

g) To discuss whether to approve the annual winter pond partial clearance.

Phil Berry has contacted Cllr Batchelor as to the annual pond clearance. Councillors were happy for this to go ahead as long as he contacts the Wildlife Agency and the Environment Dept of NNC and invite the community. He has carried out the work very well on the previous occasions. Proposed by Cllr Batchelor, seconded by Cllr Goode, agreed by all those present.

ACTION 15: Cllr Batchelor will contact Phil Berry to inform him of the decision.

NEWTON

No issues raised

LITTLE OAKLEY

No issues raised

AOB

No issues raised

The meeting finished at 9.58pm.