

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th FEBRUARY 2022 at 7.30pm.

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

APOLOGIES:

Cllr M Rowley.

071/22: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

072/22: PUBLIC SESSION

One member of the public was present.

a) Questions/letters sent in by the public

None.

b) Reports from North Northants Councillors.

Cllr Rowley was unable to attend the meeting, but had emailed a unitary report with updates, conveyed to those present as follows:-

Firstly, I would like to question a comment made in the draft minutes of the planning meeting on the 31st January. It states "Only one school (KBA) will accept applicants from Geddington." Which is not true, the allocation policy of NNC has not changed and parents can choose any three schools as before. Could I therefore ask that this is changed before it causes confusion with the residents of Geddington. *(Note: this has now been corrected in the minutes of the planning meeting of 31st January 2022).*

In terms of the new signs and road makings on Newton Road / Newton entrance, I am told they aim to have these completed by the end of March. They are awaiting the new signs to be manufactured.

On the flooding front, there is quite a bit to report. I have learned that as the December 2020 floods were so severe in some parts of the County, a report has to be produced showing areas flooded and potential resolutions etc. I have spoken to the portfolio holder and director responsible to ensure Geddington and Little Oakley are not missed.

I have also had a long conversation with someone from the Environmental Team at NNC regarding the bund. It was the same person I spoke to just after the flooding, so he had good knowledge of what is in place and what happened. His view is that the best course of action is to see if Boughton would consider levelling / lowering the soil level north of bund to increase capacity. He does not agree with raising the bund level, his concern being that if it failed then there would be a lot of water flowing through the houses of Bright Trees Road and Wood Street.

The bund measurements are due in a few weeks so he will arrange for additional measurements to be made to see if it could be raised. If the Parish Council wanted to go ahead then the PC would have to pay for the upgrade plus maintain etc as NNC would not support it.

He did say that if it was being looked at now, a bund would not be the solution and he would have a look at other solutions and costs but as the bund was designed for a 1 in 20 event and he cannot remember seeing any reports of flooding via the notification system, it may be difficult to get funding to change.

Finally on street lights, I see that a lot of the lights I reported have now been fixed and Cllr Johnson now has the email to report any future. I will continue to report any I get notified about and monitor the situation.

ACTION 1: The clerk to circulate the unitary report to all councillors.

Councillors were reminded that it is better to report faulty street lights on the NNC Unitary web site .as the reports then do not get transferred to Balfour Beatty (as they do if they are reported via street doctor). The correct email address is streetlighting.KBC@northnorthants.gov.uk .

073/22: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

a) Approval of draft minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held 10th January 2022.

Cllr Goode proposed and Cllr Lomasney seconded that the minutes were a true record. Approved by all councillors present.

b) Matters arising; progress on outstanding actions

10.1.22, action 4: Kensigns car parking signs. Cllr Batchelor has spoken to Kensigns, but will contact him again as a polite reminder – for completion of the signs.

10.1.22, action 5: Parish Plan projects. The clerk to check back through the minutes to determine the champion for each project. The clerk reported that she would now have to check 2017 minutes as there have been plenty of references to each of the projects but she had not found a confirmation of who was leading on each of the three projects that have been under discussion.

It was stated that the previous champion for each project is not an issue – the proforma is the stage that will be used at the evaluation and costings stage. One project can be completed within the next few months, one other project can potentially move forward shortly, and Cllr Padwick has agreed to work with John Goodall to take the MUGA project to the next stage.

10.1.22, action 6: Level of HGVs using the A4300. Cllr Padwick will contact Highways. Cllr Padwick had contacted Highways via the NNC generic contact details. He will look at the information provided by Cllr Goode if he has to contact them again, or chase them for a reply.

10.1.22, action 7: Hiscox to be informed of the areas of responsibility by the clerk. Hiscox were happy with the information provided and although the invoice has not yet been sent , Hiscox have sent an email confirming that the public liability insurance is confirmed and is in place.

It was stated here that the insurance questionnaire should (next time) specify additional items or areas of responsibility including trees. A tree inspection should therefore be carried out as part of the risk assessment. This will be added as an agenda item for March.

ACTION 2: the clerk to action the above.

ACTION 3: Cllr Goode will look at the questionnaire again to insure that trees responsibility falls under the blanket cover.

10.1.22, action 8: The clerk to email Boughton Estates (for flood prevention updates). Boughton Estates asked for more information as to specific updates requested. This has been sent.

ACTION 4: The clerk to forward this information to Cllr Batchelor before the flood working group meeting.

10.1.22, action 9: Cllr Rowley to carry out the following action. (Additionally - the Environment officer 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).

Also noted at this point that the Parish Council still cannot understand why the Environment officer does not support the raising of the bund.

And -

10.1.22, action 10: Cllr Rowley will chase the Environment Dept of NNC again. (Relating to issues raised within the floods/ alleviation of floods discussion).

An update as to flooding issues was included in Cllr Rowley's North Northamptonshire's report (see 072/22).

10.1.22, action 11: Cllr Batchelor to arrange the Flood working group meeting. This will take place on 16th February.

10.1.22, action 12: The Flood working group to agree the response.

The response to the flood resilience survey can be completed by the Flood working group.

10.1.22, action 13: The clerk to recirculate the two letters that were received.

This was discussed at this point in the meeting. The council has been asked to state their justification for sending the letter.

ACTION 5: The clerk to send a further letter stating that further checks will be carried out by the Council. To be stated to the two residents that there is no intention of the Parish Council carrying out work to the ditches without further consultation and at the moment we are re-checking any information relating to this issue.

c) Approval of draft minutes for the Extraordinary Parish Council Planning Meeting held 31st January 2022.

Cllr Padwick proposed and Cllr Lomasney seconded that the minutes were a true record.

Approved by all councillors present.

d) Matters arising; progress on agreed actions

There were no matters arising.

A resident living in Newton Road had contacted the Chair thanking the Parish Council for their help and consideration of the application.

074/22: FINANCE

a) Bank statements.

Community account statement	as at 17.1.22	£56,124.84
Business Saver account	as at 17.1.22	£10,781.02

b) Accounts received

None

c) Accounts for payment: -

Richard Thurston (R & R Reclamation)	2 x pallets rocks	225.00
North Northamptonshire	Re-charge PC for uncontested election (May 2021)	124.38

Council		
Terence Bailey	Costs incurred relating to registration of the Stone Pit land with Land Registry.	162.53

The first cheque (made payable to Richard Thurston) was a replacement for the cheque written at the February meeting made payable to "R & R Reclamation" and hence signed and sent to the payee. The first cheque has been returned and cancelled, as it should have been payable to the owner of the firm, Richard Thurston.

Cllr Goode proposed that the payments be approved for payment, seconded by Cllr Batchelor, agreed by all councillors present, with Cllr Bailey abstaining.

There are still only two signatories for signing of the cheques. Cllr Goode agreed to start the process with Barclays bank to become the third signatory.

ACTION 6 The clerk will contact Barclays bank to ask what the process is now to add a signatory to the mandate.

....c) Village defibrillator annual insurance/maintenance/replacement fee – funding discussion required.

Cllr Buckseall noted that if the Parish Council agreed to fund the maintenance costs for the defibrillator, it should also agree to fund/help fund Little Oakley's maintenance costs for their defibrillator. It has been funded in previous years by village community groups, but no fundraising appears to have taken place this year. The invoice received is for £112.50.

Cllr Batchelor proposed that in principle the Parish Council will fund the maintenance fee. However, the clerk to contact First Responders to check if the maintenance is carried out by them now. If no answer comes forward within a few days or the answer is negative then the invoice for the yearly maintenance and calibration etc will be paid by the Parish Council. Pre-authorisation was requested for £112.50 in case it needs to be paid before the next meeting. *(This proposal was not seconded or agreed by other councillors so will be voted upon at the March meeting).*

ACTION 7: the clerk to contact the First Responders as above.

ACTION 8: Cllr Batchelor will contact the two defibrillator volunteers to inform them that this invoice will be paid, and to ask them if they wish the Parish Council to ensure that it is paid each year, or put them in touch with fund raising groups. He will also contact GVFB as to was a defibrillator being considered for Newton.

ACTION 9: Cllr Lomasney will speak to Brian Ward concerning the possible defibrillator for Newton.

ACTION 10: Cllr Bailey will also raise this issue in Little Oakley, as to the Parish Council are willing to contribute to their defibrillator maintenance expenses.

PLANNING

a) KBC Decision notices

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

Demolition of conservatory and erection of garden room

Approved

*NK/2021/0818: Mr J Sinclair, 48 Grange Road, Geddington.
Two storey side and single storey rear extensions. Approved.*

*NK/2021/0482: Mr J Hirst, The Old Nursery (land at), Grafton Road, Geddington.
Up to 10 dwellings with all matters reserved except access. Withdrawn*

*NK/2021/0601: Mr Riding-Felce, 1 Corby Road (land to North of), Little Oakley.
Change of use from agricultural to mixed use of agricultural and equestrian. Erection of
agricultural building. Approved*

*NK/2021/0850: Ms V Lyon, 29 Queen Street, Geddington.
Pave walled garden, re-point some stonework, repair roof tiles. Replace kitchen,
bathroom, water tank and flooring. Radiators to be replaced with Neos electric storage
radiators, repaint walls and ceilings. Approved.*

*NK/2021/0920: Mr G Hay, 18B Queen Street, Geddington.
Single storey rear extension. Approved.*

b) Planning Applications for consideration.

*NK/2022/0079: Mr & Mrs Overman, 20 Wood Street, Geddington.
Single storey side extension with timber cladding, to create a double garage
Full Application.*

*NK/2022/0052: Mr & Mrs T Skipper, Glebe House, 21 West Street, Geddington.
Partial demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension
Full Application*

c) Planning applications that have gone to appeal.

*NK/2021/0079: Mr A Foulke, 1 Grafton Road, Geddington.
Vehicular access and hardstanding including installation of two field gates within the
Wood Street boundary wall to provide vehicular hardstanding for No. 1 Grafton Road and
vehicular hardstanding and allotment garden area for No. 12 West Street*

*KET/2020/0878: Boughton Estates Ltd, Corby Road (barns South of), Little Oakley.
Demolition of existing agricultural barns and erection of two dwellings with new shared
vehicular access and new/replacement site boundary treatment
Conservation Area Consent
and*

*KET/2020/0877: Boughton Estates Ltd, Corby Road (barns South of), Little Oakley.
Demolition of existing agricultural barns and erection of two dwellings with new shared
vehicular access and new/replacement site boundary treatment
Full Application*

075/22: PARISH PLAN

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

a) an outdoor gym should be progressed as part of the current Parish Plan.

Funding for both agenda items a) and b) could possibly be obtained from other sources. Both of these projects could be looked at now rather than look at them in

the next Parish Plan. Councillors were reminded that there are not enough facilities in the Parish for children and young adults from the ages 15 – 20, and that adults would also use the outdoor gym.

It was also noted that the project proforma states that the cost benefit should be assessed, but that it would be hard to work out usage per pound spent: it would be another facility for the use of villagers.

An outdoor gym could cost between £10,000 and £15,000 depending on the number and type of items purchased, with six items being an average number.

This project would be comparatively easy to progress quickly.

b) a MUGA [Multi Activity Games Area] should be progressed as part of the current Parish Plan.

A MUGA could cost in the region of £107,000. It would have clear benefits for the community, with adult groups also using it. It would need to be available for use in the evenings and throughout the winter and be sited in the recreation area. Other village groups could possibly get involved with fund raising.

One councillor pointed out that both of these projects have been discussed over a long period of time, and he was convinced of their benefits.

There was a general agreement that the project proforma should be completed for both the outdoor gym and the MUGA, and that there should be discussions with other village groups including the school or Parents Association as well, particularly for the MUGA project.

This project needs to move forward for evaluation with the help of a working group, with the proforma acting as a guide for the group. It was envisaged that this could be worked on in the next two to three months.

Cllr Batchelor proposed that Cllr Padwick and John Goodall work on the outdoor gym project, with it potentially coming back to the March meeting with the draft capital project proforma. Additionally, a separate proforma for a MUGA to pull in some of the work that was previously carried out and documented together with some discussions with community groups. This will take longer as more work is involved. Seconded by Cllr Padwick, agreed by all councillors present.

c) New Parish Plan - programme to be agreed.

Cllr Padwick confirmed that work on the new Parish Plan was about to commence, with a draft questionnaire for all residents to be brought to the next Parish Council meeting.

076/22: FLOODING

To receive any updates following the January meeting and the meeting/imminent meeting of the flood working group, and discuss and determine next steps.

Cllr Batchelor confirmed that the flood working group was going to meet on 16th February. The tasks that are a responsibility for Cllr Rowley as a unitary councillor and the Parish Council will be separated out so that the working group will be able to see how they can support from a Parish Council perspective.

It was noted that the Pathfinder project report tells you where all the water comes from and where all the ditches are but does not give you a plan as to what actions need to be taken to stop the flooding from happening.

Responsibilities of local land owners will also be looked at again.

- a) **Innovative Flood Resilience Project Survey –completion by the flood working group.**

This will be dealt with by the flood working group.

- 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) – input needed by the flood working group.**

This will be dealt with by the flood working group.

077/22: INCORPORATION OF THE APPROVED & ADOPTED CODE OF CONDUCT, STANDING ORDERS & FINANCIAL REGULATIONS - to be added to the Parish Council web site, as previously agreed.

ACTION 11: The clerk to send an email to Cllr Johnson to find out if he can access the website or if there is another issue as to why they are not on the website. To copy to Cllrs Rowley and Batchelor.

078/22: NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS – SHOULD THE NUMBER FOR THIS WARD BE REDUCED? To discuss.

A broad agreement was needed as to the question above, with the actual number of councillors a secondary decision at this stage. NNC need to know if the Parish Council wish to have a community governance review as soon as possible.

A discussion followed whereby it was felt that nine councillors in total would possibly lead to more potential for an election, rather than councillors being co-opted. It was also added that it may put a resident off becoming a councillor if they have to stand for election. It was stated however that it is a more democratic process when an election takes place.

It was proposed by Cllr Goode that the clerk respond to NNC to inform them that this Parish Council would like to trigger a community review with a view of reducing the overall number of councillors as soon as it is possible. Seconded by Cllr Batchelor. Approved by all those present.

ACTION 12: The clerk to contact NNC to inform them of the requested community review.

079/22: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & CIRCULATED - to note or comment upon.

- a) **Email sent 24.11.21 concerning more vandalism in the Brickyard Garden.**

A short discussion ensued with the following being requested.

ACTION 13: The clerk to email the Brickyard Garden, expressing sorrow over the vandalism and encouraging the reporting of such anti-social acts. To also thank them for their continued work on behalf of residents, and to keep the Parish Council informed of such acts as it is appreciated. It can also be added that Geddington Newton and Little Oakley still do not have a Police Liaison Officer, a role that the Parish Council is trying to fill. This voluntary role as publicised in the village newsletter may be helpful with issues such as this.

080/22: GIGACLEAR - terms and conditions for a community broadband installation – for discussion and decision.

Cllr Goode had examined the Gigaclear contract document, highlighting that the partner would need to collaborate with Gigaclear for marketing purposes and the service provided is free for the Parish Council for one year, but a non-standard installation may not be free.

In summary, it was thought that there may be untold costs with signing the Gigaclear contract. The lines in the car park would have to be redrawn after the ground has been dug up and the cable buried as the trench would have to go across the width of the car park, the collaboration with marketing would not go down well for a good percentage of residents in the village as there was a lot of dissatisfaction with the Gigaclear installation in the village, plus a parish council would not be allowed to form such a collaboration, and is the internet needed in the village hall. If organisations wish to hire the village hall it is the village hall's responsibility to decide whether they wish to provide it, not the Parish Council's.

ACTION 14: Cllr Goode will take the Parish Council's thoughts back to the Village Hall Committee, that the Parish Council is not going to take the Gigaclear installation forward.

081/22: ENVIRONMENT.

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

This had been discussed – see 073/22b).

b) Stone Pit land leases – discussion as to expiry of leases.

Cllr Bailey said that the Stonepit land had now been registered as a title. However, Berrys have highlighted several points:-

1. Have the trees been checked? Are they dangerous?
2. Routes of the services have to be/need to be plotted.
3. New leases need to be thought about (the present leases have expired).
4. Notices have to be given to terminate the leases (6 – 12 month's notice)

Cllr Bailey identified another two or three items for possible consideration.

There would be costs involved with some of the issues raised.

A lawyer will be needed to draft the new leases.

ACTION15: Cllr Bailey will do some preliminary work on the 1954 Act for the next meeting relating to the two groups involved.

Noted that a working group could table information to move things forward.

c)Extension car park application –update?

No update was given.

c) Environmental areas for consideration, and update.

Cllr Lomasney is unsure of where to look and propose for planting of trees or other greenery. He was advised that it needs to be on Parish Council land – the dog walking area in the Meadows, the village green and the recreation area.

ACTION 16: This agenda item to be added on to the March agenda immediately after the minutes.

d) Asset mapping project (Ncalc) – to discuss

This was highlighted as an agenda item by Ncalc on 17th December, but the January agenda was too full for it to be added as December's agenda items were all added to the January agenda, with some priority having to be given. The asset mapping is the precursor to certain Unitary Council responsibilities to be allocated between unitary and parish councils as to their assets.

ACTION 17: Asset mapping to be added to the March agenda, again, high on the agenda.

082/22: Geddington Jubilee Celebrations - report back.

ACTION 18: This agenda item to be added on to the March agenda after the minutes

NEWTON.

No issues raised

LITTLE OAKLEY

No issues raised

AOB.

No issues raised

The meeting finished at 10.00pm.