### Minutes of Old Newton with Dagworth & Gipping Parish Council

**Wednesday 22nd June 2016 at Old Newton Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs K Goudy (Chair), M Shave, M Reeve, M Clements, A Mole (Vice Chair), S Hill, R Stearn, J Miller,

K Price (Clerk), District Cllr J Wilshaw, County Cllr A Stringer

and 12 members of the public.

1. **Chairman's welcome to the meeting and to receive any apologies for absence.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. No apologies received. The chairman read out the policy regarding welcoming public opinion but it should be noted that verbal and or physical abuse will not be tolerated, the Chairman of the meeting has the right to have anyone repeatedly causing a disturbance removed from the proceedings.
2. **To receive any declarations of personal/prejudicial interest.** None received.
3. **To discuss correspondence received regarding Footpath 52 – Known as “Downs Footpath” to the school / SCC Update.** The planned SCC works are due to be started imminently. The footpath has been cut by SCC contractor but the grass is so long and has not been cleared this is still causing issues especially for anyone with a pushchair. It was suggested that we ask for tenders to contract to cut this path perhaps 3 /4 times per year to ensure the length of the grass is never too overgrown. The path from the church to the bridge is also very slippery and there are overgrowing branches that are restricting. Suggested to approach the three landowners as a matter of urgency to cut the grass / verges so it can be used as best we can in the first instance before incurring extra costs for the parish council. Mr Arnold offered to cut this path on our behalf free of charge if necessary, this was gratefully accepted. The Chairman agreed to visit and speak to the three landowners this week and report to the next meeting. It was commented on that the Parish Council is trying its best to sort this out for the good of the village and hopefully we can now move this forward. Following lengthy discussions regarding this footpath a Parishioner thanked the parish council for their efforts and stated that there is now a wider understanding of the parish council stance.
4. **To discuss correspondence received regarding Footpath 17 – Sign resurrected that is incorrectly positioned.** SCC have confirmed this will be corrected or replaced as necessary.
5. **To discuss correspondence received regarding Footpath 67 – Obstruction of footpath and decimation of trees for “Operation Mud to Grass”.**

Letters and emails received – The work has been done by a group not by one individual in isolation. The work has been done under guidance from The Woodland Trust. Trees have been cut down in line with advice to thin the trees out, there is nothing different being done on this footpath that is not recommended on other woodland areas elsewhere. Cllr Miller was involved in a similar project in January and February and confirms this is common practice. The work has been done by volunteers and has not been well publicised and it is accepted that this has perhaps caused concerns and inconvenience.

Cllr Goudy and other members of the public have been down the footpath on a number of occasions in the last week and moved an obstruction from the footpath to find two days later the obstruction was back. This is unacceptable. Several members of the pubic have also cleared the path on several occasions. The goal seems to be to widen the footpath but this has not been clearly explained. It was confirmed that insurance would be provided by the working groups pubic liability insurance or the land owner not the parish council as the work that has been undertaken has not be done on behalf of either the county council or the parish council.

Concerns were raised as the footpath appears to go down the side of the field and the footpath has been diverted through the woodland and now a second path using the second gate has appeared. Apparently the charity commissioners have already refused a diversion. It was confirmed that The Village Hall approved the second gate. The minutes reflect that the chairman had asked the land owner but the landowner has not given approval. Cllr Goudy informed the meeting that Mr Wrinch has asked that all work ceases. A request for the area to be tidied and left in a useable state after work has been done is no longer applicable as the landowner has clearly stated that no further work should be continued. Mr Wrinch has confirmed he has spoken to someone from the working party to this effect.

The facts are that we have a footpath that needs drying out. It was suggested that Mr Wrinch be asked if possible to put down some woodchip. Cllr Stearn felt this was an unnecessary spend.

Mrs Pearson understands and accepts that there is not enough information and description of the work that has been done on this footpath and asked if the working party could pull together a report and proposal for agreement by the parish council and the land owner to move this project forward. It was agreed that the Chairman would ask Mr Wrinch if he is agreeable to get some woodchip quotes for the path and whether he would also be agreeable to the parish council arranging a meeting between himself and representatives from ONCE. Can we also ask ONCE to ensure that the gates are not blocked moving forward.

It was also requested by members of the public if possible can we order some more dog fouling signs to be placed along all of the footpaths of the village and can a notice be included again in the village crier reminding dog owners to “clean up after their dogs”.

**Footpath 44** – The stile is still not useable, can we ask SCC to look at a better place for positioning of this stile. Also complaints have been received regarding the horses in the field on footpath 44 as they are apparently quite aggressive to people using this footpath.

1. **Planning Application**

**2358/16 –** Erection of general purpose agricultural building at Dagworth Farm, Silver Street, Old Newton, IP14 4HF. Deadline for comments 01/07/16.

No comments have been received by members of the public. It was confirmed that no additional access is required. The application was proposed and seconded - all Cllrs present agreed unanimously in favour of this application. Clerk to respond to MSDC by the required date for comments of 1st July 2016.

1. **Public Forum**

* Footpath signs missing or knocked over. List to be provided to the Chairman.
* Footpath from Chapel Farm, Gipping to the bridge. One side has not been done. The other side has been done. Clerk to report to SCC as this was done both sides last year and is apparently on the scheduled list with SCC.

1. **Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the July meeting**

* VAS/SID Update & decision moving forward – Cllr Clements
* Broadband provision – 1yr funding from the Parish Council
* Rail crossing meeting – Drawings / update from Cllr Miller
* Cllr Stearn would like to be considered again for the Footpath Warden.

1. **Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 6th July 2016.**

Meeting closed 20.45pm