

Wednesday 3rd May 2017 at Old Newton Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs K Goudy (Chair), M Clements, M Shave, M Reeve, S Hill
K Price (Clerk), R Lawson, County Cllr Stringer, District Cllr Wilshaw and 2 members of the public.

1. To elect a Chairman of the Council and to receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office or, if not then received, to decide when it shall be received.

At last years AGM it was recognised that it is an honour to be chair and vice chair and the vice chair should be moved up to Chair after some time but we should look at next year moving the positions around. It was therefore discussed and it was mentioned that previously Cllrs had stated that this year we would look to rotate the positions on the parish council. Cllr Lawson mentioned this having read the previous year's minutes. Cllr Goudy stated that he was prepared to stand again as Chaiman, but it was proposed by Cllr Clements and seconded by Cllr Hill to put forward Cllr Miller as Chairman and Cllr Shave then Proposed Cllr Goudy to remain as Chairman but this was not seconded.. It was then suggested by Cllr Reeve to carry it over to the June meeting. Cllr Clements agreed and deferred his original proposal. All Cllrs then agreed to wait until the June meeting to appoint the Chairman.

2. To elect a Vice-Chairman of the Council and to receive the Vice-Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office or, if not then received, to decide when it shall be received.

In view of the comments received and discussed regarding the Chairman's role it was felt that a Vice-Chair could not be appointed until the June meeting following the decision and appointment of the Chairman.

3. Chairman's welcome and to receive any apologies for absence. Chairman welcomed everyone to the May meeting and read out the policy:- "The Parish Council welcome 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". The Clerk has received apologies for tonight's meeting from Cllr Jonathan Miller who is away on holiday and Cllr Kerry Baker and Mr Tony Arnold. Both Cllrs and Mr Arnold have provided the clerk with an email and comments regarding various issues on the agenda for tonights meeting. Cllr Stearn was absent from the meeting – no apologies have been received.

4. To receive any declarations of personal/prejudicial interest. None received.

5. To appoint representatives to outside bodies.

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| • Village Hall Committee | Cllr Baker |
| • SALC | Cllr Clements |
| • Suffolk Acre | Cllr Lawson |
| • Community Council | Cllr Miller |
| • School Representative | Cllr Baker |

6. To appoint committees, sub-committees and/or working groups.

The clerk has received a suggestion from Cllr Miller that we try and make the committees more robust and accountable for advising the full council, with a spokesperson from each committee providing a report at each monthly meeting, with this in mind and considering the letters of complaint received in December 2016 this was agreed moving forward.

The clerk confirmed that a committee cannot consist of only one member and suggested that each councillor has a minimum of two committees. Cllrs Baker and Miller have emailed the Clerk and have confirmed they are happy to continue on their current committees and Cllr Baker would be willing to take on the finance vacancy if required. The clerk also "suggested" that highways / Infrastructure / Parking and potholes be merged as one committee and Cllrs agreed to remove the streetlighting committee as this was now deemed to be redundant. The broadband committee was left alone as it is hoped that we may be able to make this committee redundant once our broadband issues have been resolved.

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| • Planning | Cllrs Miller , Goudy, Clements, Hill |
| • Housing Needs | Cllrs Shave , Goudy, Miller |
| • Footpaths & Environment | Cllrs Goudy , Lawson, Miller |
| • Cemetery | Cllrs Miller , Goudy, Reeve |
| • Finance | Cllrs Miller , Goudy, Lawson |
| • Employment | Cllrs Baker , Goudy, Miller |
| • Allotments | Cllrs Clements , Reeve, Goudy |

- Broadband **Mr Tony Arnold**, Cllr Miller
- Highways, Infrastructure, Potholes **Cllrs Goudy, Clements, Miller, Baker**

Cllrs in **bold** are the designated spokesperson to report at the monthly meetings.

7. To approve the minutes of the April meeting held on 5th April 2017 and the extra meeting held on 24th April.

The minutes were proposed and seconded and all agreed to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record. The chairman signed the minutes accordingly.

8. Clerks Report

- Crier submission was submitted.
- RTI submission was submitted for the month of April and Year End submission was completed.
- All cheques for payment have been issued.
- All information, minutes and agenda have been uploaded onto the village website. Clerk has also set up a page for the village hall and emailed login details to Kevin Swinburne.
- Planning responses were issued to MSDC by the deadline for comments.
- Clerk has issued links to the MSDC declaration of interest sites to both our new Cllrs – Cllr Baker has now completed hers and this has been published. Cllr Lawson is still to complete his declaration.
- Clerk has looked at the wording for the urns section and the memorial pathways but wanted to discuss with the cemetery committee and confirm a date for the prices to be reviewed for 2017. Meeting is still to be convened.
- Clerk has responded to the SCC – Proposed TRO 7.5t weight restriction Station Road and Windgap Lane – Haughley.
- Clerk has responded to the Network Rail – Suffolk Level Crossing Reduction Order.
- Clerk has responded to SCC highways regarding the Notification of temp traffic order – Road Closed. Re-routed round non eligible roads for HGV vehicles past the school and around corners that are totally inappropriate for the size of vehicles being diverted. The diversion should not have included unclassified roads.
- It was raised at the last meeting that the noticeboard outside the school is an embarrassment. Do the Parish Council wish for the clerk to obtain some quotes for a replacement for the June meeting. Cllr Clements mentioned that the other notice board by the old telephone box should also be considered for replacement and the one at the shop. In their current sizes with doors. Agenda item for June meeting.
- Police Report - The Crime Map latest information is for February and reports 1 x crime on or near the sports and social club and 1 x crime on or near Netherall Close. The information available is quite generic and obviously follows data protection laws.

9. Financial matters & Financial report

Internal audit is scheduled for 23rd May 2017. Trevor Brown is visiting the clerks home address to conduct the audit.

Bank Account Balances:

- Cheque account balance = **£27,577.08** (30/04/17)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,377.52** (01.04.17)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£253.35** (01.04.17)

Accounts for payment – April 2017:

- KAREN PRICE - Salary April = £708.25, Holiday Pay month at 12.07% = £85.49
- Less Tax & NI £13.65, Pension £6.35 = **£773.74** + expenses **£73.80** = **£847.53**
- HMRC – PAYE NI & Tax – Employee £13.65, Employer £15.70 = **£29.35**
 - NEST Pension Contribution DDR – employee £6.35, employer £7.94 = **£14.29**
 - Adam Alexander – Cemetery Maintenance April 2017 - **£225.00**
 - Onwoods / ONEG Litter Picking 4th Qtr 16-17 - **£95.40**
 - SALC Subscription 2017/2018 - **£412.70**
 - Moneysoft Payroll Software Annual Subscription - **£65.00**

Monies Received – April 2017:

- SCC – Andrew Stringer Locality Grant towards SID unit - **£2,675.00** (payslip 100089)
- Cemetery fees – Valerie Fay Edwards **£40.00** (payslip 100089)
- ONGAA – Allotments rent **£420.00** (Payslip 100090)
- Precept - **£11,405.01**

Proposed and seconded to pay the accounts. All Cllr's present agreed.

10. Correspondence Received & Circulars:

- MSDC – Parish Liaison Meeting – Moved date to 27th June. Cllr Clements, Clerk
- MSDC – CIL payments
- MSDC – Cllr Code of Conduct Complaint letter
- Email from Cllr Miller – Items to be raised at the various points on the agenda.
- Email from Cllr Baker – Items to be raised at the various points on the agenda.
- PCC Public meetings – The Stowmarket meeting is on the 25th May at Elmswell.
- Suffolk Preservation Society Letter

11. Various circulars received for information purposes. File circulated during the meeting.

12. To receive District Councillor's Report – Miss Jill Wilshaw.

As we currently have the County Council elections the Leaders of the 2 Councils have requested that the reports should not be discussed due to the pre-election moratorium. The Local Government Act 1986 defines publicity as “**any communication, in whatever form, addressed to the public at large or to a section of the public.**” The Act says that we should “**not publish any material which, in whole, or in part, appears to be designed to affect public support for a political party.**” The Code of Practice recommends that authorities should generally not issue any publicity which seeks to influence voters and that publicity relating to individuals involved directly in the election should not be published unless expressly authorised by statute.

Therefore the news I can tell you is that: This month Babergh and Mid Suffolk's Waste Team will be at Mill Meadow, Needham Lake on Sunday 8th May from 9am-3pm and Tesco car park in Sudbury on Sunday 14th May from 10am-4pm, giving away approximately 70 tonnes of locally produced compost. Trained 'Master Composters' will be on hand to provide advice on home composting and Waste Management officers will also be available to help answer queries on waste minimisation, recycling and the garden waste collection service.

The two events are open to all residents of Babergh and Mid Suffolk and operate on a 'first come – first served' basis. To make sure there is plenty to go round, no one will be allowed to shovel compost directly into vans, trailers or pickup trucks. Oliver Faiers, Corporate Manager for Waste Services said, “Our 'Shovel it Yourself' events are a great way for us to say a huge 'thank you' to our residents for the way they have supported our brown bin scheme over the last ten years. As a result of their fantastic efforts we have been able to repay them by giving away almost 575 tonnes of compost since 2007. Composting is a great way to cut down on the amount of waste going into refuse bins, as well as providing a nutrient rich soil improver for our gardens.”

Report refuse service – they have been left out for three days in some cases. We accept this is partly due to the bank holidays. Issues have been found in Stowmarket.

13. To receive County Councillor's Report – Mr Andrew Stringer

Broadband - We are now officially taking orders for Broadband in Brown street chapel road and Ward Green and Silvers Street, As forecast the ability to get a connection up and running is a hit and miss affair at the moment, with some residents getting orders processed correctly while others are being given the run around. It is vitally important when this happens that if residents have difficulty in placing and completing orders, please let me know, as I have reported before there can be issues arising with any deployment, and the past has shown that these problems, if they occur, are normally localised and can be very varied. The current differing information given by BT regarding ordering, is being escalated as I write.

Highways - The order for an 7.5 tonne HGV weight restriction along Station Road Haughley has now been tabled for consultation, and the traffic count has begun. The conclusion to pursue this line has been drawn up after much discussion and thought as to how to reduce HGV numbers on rural single track tributaries, as well as try to stem the amount of HGV incidents in this area, at the end of last year we even had an example of a lorry striking a listed building causing £1000's of pounds worth of damage.

Old Newton also suffers from roads such as Chapel road and Sandford road being used as “rat runs”, only last week I followed an HGV delivering animal food coming off at Junction 49 (tothill) then going into Haughley turning up Station road crossing the B1113 at the Shoulder of Mutton, then travelling up Chapel road turning right then left into Gipping, then it turned left into Mendlesham Green where the lorry turned into a Chicken unit, I checked the routing, and this journey saved .4 of a mile over the official route, but this cost the driver more time and emissions as well as the danger and inconvenience to local residents on our narrow roads. if this restriction is upheld existing businesses can still use the route for access.

Speed limit extension - The proposed speed limit extension to the north and south of Old Newton along the B1113 has still not been heard by the Speed Limit Panel, the police did send some information in at the 11th hour. The Police are at the moment objecting to the proposed extension, this does seem ironic as the lack of Police enforcement is the main reason for embarking on this course.

Cllr Clements has been asked by a resident about broadband connection at Gipping. We are not clear yet as to when the Gipping box is going live.

Cllr Lawson – Asked about why the police have objected and it is apparently due to the longer the speed restriction the more in their op

14. Broadband Update – Mr Arnold.

As far as a Broadband update is concerned, many residents have made an application to B.T. etc. for connection and it would appear that those connections for Broadband are being made. There is, however, an apparent difficulty with the fibre optic cable being used, as was promised in June 2016, for ‘voice’ communication, in other words for a telephone service provision. B.T. Openreach have apparently made a decision that a voice service through fibre optic cable will be provided only to newbuild premises – Cllr Stringer interjected that and NOT to premises which have an existing copper wire service.

Mr Arnold advised the Parish Council that at the meeting in June 2016, chaired by our Member of Parliament, B.T. Openreach explained that the reason for providing a fibre to premises service in Chapel Road and Brown Street, was to ‘kill two birds with one stone’ – it would provide a Broadband service but also resolve the very poor telephone signal that we have to struggle with. Mr. Peter Ingram, Better Broadband for Suffolk, is continuing to discuss the situation with B.T. Openreach. There have been several residents that are struggling to get the promised package as there is something missing in the connectivity between Chapel Road and Brown Street.

15. Planning Applications Received

1595/17 - Erection of a single storey detached building with music room and stables at West Barn, Dagworth Hall Barns, Dagworth Lane, Old Newton IP14 3QN

Cllrs Bakers comments were read to the PC. Councillors felt that the overall plans have been sympathetically designed to fit into the setting (policy GP1, c12 refers), and in principal the parish council have no objections to a new building.

Councillors did have concerns however regarding the design and layout, there are three stables shown on the plans and according to the limited measurements shown on the plans provided these would be smaller than the minimum size recommended by the British Horse Society which gives a minimum of 10ft sq for a pony. The standard size when designing and building stables has for many years been 12ft x 12ft.

There were also concerns about the roof and this appears to be overly well insulated for livestock and Cllrs questioned whether this would affect ventilation. Well structured and planned drainage (Policy SC4 applies) is crucial within a stable unit to ensure stable waste can drain away - how this will be achieved is not clear on the plans. Cllr Shave had concerns regarding the standard of the road for Dagworth and the property as this is already poor and the increased vehicle movements to include horse boxes and delivery vehicles would only deteriorate the road further.

Cllrs voted to object to this application on the grounds stated. It was felt more detail was required in order to consider this application as it stood. All Cllrs present voted unanimously to object to this application.

16. Planning Decisions from MSDC

3814/16 – Land between Silver Street and Finningham Road, Old Newton. Application has been withdrawn by the applicant.

17. School Parking / Infrastructure / Road Signage. Cllr Baker has nothing to report regarding the work by the Highways department, they have still not responded to her correspondence. Measurements and details have been taken for the proposed parking area, which Cllr Baker hope’s to be able to report on with diagrams at the Parish Council meeting in June.

18. B1113 Speed Restriction / Mini SID Update – Cllr Stringer has reported the status with regard to the speed restriction that has now been postponed to May. Cllr Stringer will report at the June meeting.

£350 for an upgrade. Bluetooth upgrade will be an addition £100.00 = £450.00. Cllr Clements already changes the batteries every three weeks and is happy to connect to the system which would save £100. Cllr Shave thanked Cllr Clements again for his hard work on this but wondered whether we should pay for the Bluetooth for future proofing. Cllr Lawson asked about the other local SID's in operation. Our unit will only do one way or it could compromise the data being displayed.

Cllr Shave proposed that we wait until the next meeting and may be able to tap into the County Cllrs locality budget.

19. Footpaths Update - Clerk has reported the list that Mr Arnold provided at the last meeting to SCC Footpaths.

20. Assets of Community Value - Clerk has looked at the information regarding community assets and can confirm that this is not a legal requirement but a community led process. The Parish needs to be aware that this act gives the community the right to have 6 months to gather together the money to bid, it does not bind the owner to sell to the community, indeed many owners choose to not sell to the community that has halted a sale for 6 months. No asset should be registered unless the community is deadly serious about owning and running such a facility. Many areas are already covered by planning restrictions. The problem is exaggerated when we look at how do you value a church? when many churches have been gifted to parishes at nil cost. A village organisation does not need to be existing for an asset to be registered, 21 members of a parish can sign for an asset to be registered. The list would need to be submitted to the local authority who in turn would decide whether an asset can be listed. This is not necessarily a parish council led project but part of the localism act and forms part of government legislation. The clerk has printed out a guidance leaflet (33 pages) from the government web pages. Each asset has to have its own full justification at submission. It was proposed and seconded that we respond to ONCE and forward the link to the government website that explains what is required.

21. Councillors matters to be brought to the attention of the council.

Cllr Shave – Following a recent visit to the old Cemetery in the Church Yard, Cllr Shave reported that this is not in a good way, some work has been done but more is required. Suggested that when we come to budget meetings we should look at putting some money aside to assist the church.

Cllr Shave also raised that at the parish meeting last week it was disappointing that there were certain organisations that didn't attend.

Cllr Lawson – Wanted to thank Cllr Shave for showing the boundaries and educating him on our village...

Cllr Hill has been asked by an elderly couple who wanted to use the village hall car park during the day in order to catch the bus. Cllrs agreed that the Carpark is the responsibility of the village hall and the couple be advised to contact the village hall committee directly. This resident has also expressed a desire to exhibit at the flower show and advised to contact Libby Brooks.

The pot hole in honeypot lane has now caused damage to Cllr Hills vehicle. Cllr Stringer has reported a pothole on honeypot lane that has been fixed. On the junction on the B1113. It has been reported but Cllr Stringer will report again.

Cllr Reeve felt disappointed that no-one mentioned Mrs Luxford and what she has done for the village over the years. She was on the FGBT for many years and was on the committee for the village hall. Tom Borley was what many used to call Mr Old Newton and it was felt that Mrs Luxford was many would have called Mrs Old Newton She always did more above and beyond and often worked in the background of so many of our village organisations. Clerk asked to put something in the Crier in recognition of her efforts for many within our parish. Could this be raised for future discussions regarding keeping the memory of such selfless and serving individuals within the village. It was mentioned that using the names for new street names etc was one suggestion that has been used before and could be used again.

22. Public Forum -Nothing to report

23. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the June meeting.

24. Date of the next Parish Council meeting – The June Meeting will take place on Wednesday 7th June 2017.

Meeting closed at 21.32 hrs