

Wednesday 5th July 2017 at Old Newton Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Miller (Chair), K Goudy, M Clements (Vice-Chair), M Shave, K Baker, T Arnold
K Price (Clerk), R Lawson, District Cllr Wilshaw and 12 members of the public.

1. **Chairman's welcome to the meeting and to receive any apologies for absence.** Apologies received from Cllrs Mary Reeve, Sue Hill and County Cllr Andrew Stringer who are unable to attend this evening. Cllr Lawson may be late as he is trying to get back from London.
2. **To receive any declarations of personal/prejudicial interest. None received.**
3. **To receive Cllr Clements request for dispensation when discussing the Finningham Road Site proposed development.** Cllr Mark Clements has requested dispensation to discuss the Finningham Road outline planning application for 56 houses for tonight's meeting and any future meetings to discuss this application. Cllr Clements does not have a pecuniary interest in the application. His home is adjacent to the proposed land but he does not own the house. Cllr Clements has remained neutral and has not got involved in any groups either for or against this application and would like to be able to make and receive representation and have the ability to vote on this matter moving forward. This was noted with no objections received and this is approved moving forward.
4. **To approve the minutes of the June meeting held on 7th June 2017.** 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.
5. **Planning Applications Received**
 - **2437/16 - Appeal by:** Mr Kevin Swinburne. **Proposal:** Application for Outline Planning Permission for the erection of one two storey dwelling & separate garage with access (appearance, layout, landscaping and scale are reserved matters). **Location:** Land At, Finningham Road, Old Newton. The Chairman closed the meeting to allow Mr Swinburne to speak to the council whereby he explained his reasons for going to appeal. Chairman bought the meeting back into council. The original reasons for refusal of this application by the parish council were that the exit from the site was a potential hazard and the second being that the plot is outside the village boundary. The original application was refused but this was not unanimous and received refusal from the Chairman having the casting vote. Further-more the response from SCC Highways was received after the parish council meeting and therefore the contents were not made available to the parish council at the time of voting. The parish council have looked at the access to this site again and can confirm that access to and from the site and visibility is considerably better than other neighbouring properties. The property is still outside the official envelope of the village but given there is already a small community in this area Councillors now feel that this development will not be detrimental to the other properties in any way. The Officers Delegated Report provided as part of the decision-making process by MSDC stated "The design of the proposed dwelling and layout of the site are considered to be acceptable as submitted. The highway authority have no objection subject to conditions and there is no adverse effect on residential amenity". Taking the above reasons into account Councillors felt that the original reasons given for refusal were no longer valid.

Cllr Clements was not at the original meeting but could not see any reason why this should have been refused. Cllr Baker also concurred with these thoughts. Cllr Shave felt that it was unfair to compare with the Chapel Road development as each were given due consideration and debated on an individual basis. It was proposed to support the appeal and revoke the parish council's original refusal. This was seconded and all Cllrs present agreed unanimously. Clerk to respond to MSDC accordingly.
 - **1866/17 - Proposal:** Outline planning application with Access, Landscaping and Layout to be considered for the erection of up to 56 dwellings with vehicular access from Finningham Road, Old Newton. Appearance and Scale to be the subject of a Reserved Matters application. **Location:** Finningham Road, Old Newton, IP14 4EG, The parish council were invited to comment on this application in November 2016 and the parish council's views on this application on the whole have not changed from their original submission. The application is for three houses less than the previous application and is still significantly over what our housing needs survey has identified as being required in our village. There are other more appropriate and available sites for housing development to be brought forward and this site is still sitting within the curtilage of a listed building and moated farm house with significant and special regard. The Chairman allowed a group that live around the site to speak through a

spokesperson. The Chairman closed the meeting to allow the spokesperson to address the Parish Council. As a group they have been advised by three independent planning developers that this site is not suitable for development. It fails both national and local planning policies. The site is firstly outside the boundary and the yellow application notice is not displayed. The deadline for comments is 13th July and MSDC planning won't close until August so there is still time for the notice to go up although not before the public date for consultation has closed. It seems unfair that the notice will go up after the opportunity to submit comments has closed. Rookyard farm is a listed building with special regard due to the moated farmhouse and its uniqueness. Preservation = Doing no harm. Significance is defined with the setting. The farm is several centuries old and the present owners are applying to have the moats listed. It is proposed that the new development does not affect the setting which parishioners do not agree with. They have tried to address the issue with the green spaces provision but they have also placed flats very close to the moat site. The application overshoots the need identified with the housing needs survey conducted by the parish council and the group feel that the harm this development will cause is un-justified and not necessary. The planned development may well be 100 meters from the listed farm house but is not 100 meters away from the moats which are deemed to be more important and have been put forward as scheduled monument listings. It was also raised that the traffic survey they have done was five days before Christmas and did not include weekends or was a fair representation of how busy the road actually is.

Chairman brought the meeting back into session. Cllr Goudy was concerned about the amount of traffic that would be coming onto the B1113 from the proposed development and the drainage from Falconer Avenue that has had issues previously without any new development adding to the strain. The bottom of Silver Street cannot take more traffic as this is a very narrow road and although the new proposed application no longer offers an exit from the development onto Silver Street there are still plans to build properties facing Silver Street that Councillors felt would encourage new residents to park as close to their property as they can i.e. Silver Street. The landowner of the fields on Silver street regarding the run off water going down to Haugh lane has also lodged his concerns as he feels this is not sustainable. There is a footpath onto Silver Street and another from the development onto Falconer Avenue where the ownership is uncertain and would need to be clarified and addressed and should not be assumed.

Cllrs still feel that Rookyard Farm holds the key to this site being refused Cllrs felt that this site is not suited to flats, flats are not in-keeping with the village and existing properties in the area and should not be included in the mix of properties being proposed to bring forward. Cllrs suggested that a footpath alongside Silver Street within the boundary of the development would hopefully take away the possibility of cars being parked on Silver Street. Acoustic screening adjacent to existing development and removal of any proposed windows that overlook the Falconer avenue properties was also suggested. It was not agreed that a footpath should come through onto Falconer Avenue. A better visibility splay that the one suggested would be required coming out of Falconer avenue to match modern day requirements. Screening towards Falconer Avenue and Rookyard Farm would also be advantageous. Cllrs believe that a donation should be made so that a metal footpath can be made from Silver Street to the Shoulder of Mutton cross roads and Cllrs would like to insist that the pond be well fenced and if the site is progressed Cllrs would like to ensure that street lighting and footpaths need to be taken into consideration and should be planned for as part of any new development for the village as standard.

The density of the houses is significant and residents have valid concerns that MSDC need to take seriously and into consideration. Drainage is a serious concern. The School and infrastructure in place at present will not sustain such a significant increase in numbers. It was proposed and seconded to refuse this application on the points raised.

Comments to be checked by the planning committee before issue to MSDC.

6. Planning Decisions from MSDC

- **1595/17** – Additional information received by MSDC in connection with the erection of a single storey detached building with music room and stables at West Barn, Dagworth Hall Barns, Dagworth Lane, Old Newton IP14 3QN. **Planning permission from MSDC has been granted.**
- **0292/17** – Erection of a dwelling and cartlodge for manager of pig unit – Colt Meadow Farm, School Road, Old Newton, IP14 4PJ. **Planning permission from MSDC has been refused.**

7. To Review the Committees and Working Groups

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 |

To appoint representatives to committees and working groups.

- Planning **Cllrs Miller**, Goudy, Clements, Hill
- Footpaths & Environment **Cllrs Arnold**, Lawson, Miller, Goudy
- Cemetery **Cllrs Miller**, Goudy, Reeve
- Finance **Cllrs Miller**, Goudy, Lawson, Clerk - RFO
- Employment **Cllrs Baker**, Goudy, Miller, Arnold
- Allotments **Cllrs Clements**, Reeve, Goudy, Lawson
- Broadband **Cllrs Arnold**, Miller
- Highways, Infrastructure, Potholes **Cllrs Goudy**, Clements, Miller, Baker

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

8. Clerks Report

- Crier submission was submitted. – The letter regarding the Local History Recorder and subsequent inclusion within the crier was not true. The clerk has received a letter to be read as correspondence from Judi Barnes who has not resigned her position as the local history recorder for Old Newton. The clerk would like to issue a re-traction in the next edition of the crier and offer our sincere apologies. Judi is understandably very upset. I the parish council defence though we had no reason to doubt the integrity of the letter received reporting Judi’s retirement. Disappointed that no mention of the post office van possibly coming to the village. Clerk apologised and will include in the next edition.
- RTI submission was submitted for the month of June
- Nest Pension submission was completed.
- All cheques for payment have been issued.
- All information, minutes and agenda have been uploaded onto the village website. The Clerk is still waiting for information from Cllr Arnold to update the “Know our Cllrs”. Cllr Shave has now completed 50 years service.
- Planning responses were issued to MSDC by the deadline for comments.
- Clerk has issued links to the MSDC declaration of interest sites for Cllr Arnold but this is proving more difficult than it would appear. Clerk has also emailed a hard copy version that we can complete and scan /return. Clerk has reported the difficulties being experienced.
- Clerk and Cllr Clements attended the parish liaison meeting at Needham Market on Tuesday 27th June. –The discussion points were about the update on the public access by Arthur Charvonia and planning current and future activities by Tom Barker. The slides from Arthur Charvonia presentation are printed in the circulars file and have been issued to Cllrs on email.
- The Good Councillors Guide has been received from SALC, invoice has not been received yet. Two copies are available for Cllrs to borrow.
- Clerk was asked to obtain some quotes for new dog bins. A suggestion has been put forward to purchase an additional dog bin for the other end of the downs footpath by the church. The last bin we purchased cost £86.52 from Glasdon. Roadware can offer a similar product at similar price of £83.95. Agenda item for the September meeting.
- Clerk was asked to update the phone numbers of the parish councillors – This has now been done. I am still wanting a paragraph from Cllr Arnold to update the “know our Cllrs” information page and for Cllrs to approve before I re-issue. It was agreed that a number should be provided even if its only a mobile number. Clerk to include Cllr Wilshaw and amend accordingly.

Police Report

MONTH	DETAIL OF INCIDENTS / CRIMES
February 2017	1 x crime on or near sports and social club 1 x crime on or near Netherhall Close.
March 2017	1 x violence / sexual offence on or near Lodge Close 1 x violence / sexual offence on or near Greenacres
April 2017	1 x violence / sexual offence on or near Sandford Road

- As always the crime statistics are approximately 6 weeks out of date.
- The Clerk attended the police liaison with Cllr Arnold on Thursday 29th June at Stowmarket Police Station. The main message is that they are now reliant on the public to report incidents and be the eyes and ears of the police in the absence of any uniformed officers on the beat. The police are really up against it in terms of numbers of

officers available to them and will only react if there appears to be a problem by continued reporting of issues. Obviously if there is an immediate issue 999 is the number to call but for anything else they are wanting parishioners to report it online or call 101.

- Raised question about the nature of the offences – the auditing that is done does not allow them to give more detailed information.

9. Financial matters & Financial report

The audit documents were issued by post to BDO for our audit date of 26th June. Proof of posting was obtained. The official audit notice is displayed at the shop notice board. As in previous years the Clerk would like permission to pay any bills that are presented for payment for August for things such as the clerks salary, cemetery maintenance etc and all invoices / timesheets will be provided for approval at the September meeting. Proposed and seconded and approved.

Bank Account Balances:

- Cheque account balance = **£24,268.70** (29/06/17)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,377.52** (01.04.17)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£253.35** (01.04.17)

Accounts for payment – June 2017:

- KAREN PRICE - Salary June = £652.19, Holiday Pay month at 12.07% = £78.72
Less Tax & NI £6.11, Pension £5.85 = £718.95 + expenses £52.35 = £771.29
- HMRC – PAYE NI & Tax – Employee £6.11, Employer £7.02 = **£13.13**
- NEST Pension Contribution **DDR** – employee £5.85, employer £7.31 = **£13.16**
- Adam Alexander – Cemetery Maintenance June 2017 - **£330.00**
- MSDC – Dog waste and litter bin emptying 17/18 - **£390.00**
- CGM – Grasscutting 8th May, 22nd May - **£341.93**

Monies Received – June 2017:

- Nothing banked in June but 2 x cheques have been received for cemetery fees that will be reported in July.

Proposed and seconded to pay the accounts. All Cllr's present agreed and the cheques were signed accordingly.

10. Correspondence Received & Circulars:

- Email correspondence from Mr Ben Hughes – Gooseneck Cottage, Ward Green. Cllrs accept this track as the responsibility of the new owners and are in agreement for the apron off the road to be dug out, the element of the track closest to the road and create a reinforced "apron" to prevent this bit of the track being churned up every winter. Cllrs will not approve the works to be reinforced with concrete and all works need to be sympathetic to the surroundings.
- Coddham Parish Clerk – Training for new Cllrs
- David Fawcett – highways correspondence regarding detour complaints. The road sign is still on and has failed to be removed. Plus the two skid signs towards Haughley have also been left.
- Judi Barnes Letter to SLHR / Parish Council – Clerk to print an apology and write to Mrs Barnes.

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

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

The independent **Local Government Boundary Commission for England** is asking local people for their help to draw up a new pattern of council wards for Mid Suffolk District Council and Babergh District Council. The consultation is the first stage of an electoral review which will re-draw ward boundaries across both districts. The Commission has also announced that it is minded to recommend that each council should have fewer councillors in future. For Mid Suffolk, that means 34 councillors should be elected to the council in future: a reduction of six. And for Babergh, 31 councillors should be elected to represent the area in future: a reduction of twelve from the current arrangements. The Commission now needs information from local people and groups to help it to produce a new pattern of wards to accommodate councillors across both districts. You can take part by visiting the [Local Government Boundary Commission's website](#). In drawing up new boundaries, the Commission aims to deliver electoral equality for voters in district council elections so that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters. The review also aims to ensure that the new council wards reflect, as far as possible, the interests and identities of communities across the districts.

New Pre Application Service For Planning - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are committed to delivering a high quality pre-application service which provides a thorough professional response to customers and have reviewed the service we offer. The result is a new service which started on the 1st July 2017, providing a more in-depth response, with target response times to provide greater certainty. This will enable the delivery of responses in a timely fashion, providing greater detail and advice, subject to the type of advice requested and the complexity of the proposal. In addition, it includes a combined service, offering Highways, Floods, Heritage, Landscape and Ecology, if requested and relevant to the site or enquiry. Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003 MSDC now charge a fee for this service. The intention is to recover the cost of providing the service and not to deter applicants and their agents from engaging in pre-application discussions. The purpose of this service is to encourage pre-application discussions and offer helpful professional advice, within a target timescale. MSDC shall provide clear advice about whether it is likely that your proposal will be granted permission or consent. If MSDC consider it unlikely the proposal would be supported they will give reasons for their opinion and work with applicants to resolve issues.

Locality Awards - Mid Suffolk District Council's Locality Award programme is now open and is welcoming applications until Saturday 30 September 2017. This is the same award that Cllr Wilshaw gave out last year however she has been given more money £6,250 that can be used to award to projects or organisations that have a direct impact on Mid Suffolk communities. Funding awards can range from £250 upwards and she can support up to 15 projects. Applicants selected for an award must be able to demonstrate that their project, event or group meets one or more of Mid Suffolk's Strategic Priorities and where relevant should be able to demonstrate its sustainability over the coming years. Awards may be made for a wide range of activities including BUT NOT LIMITED to: Sports tournaments, sports equipment, play equipment, pavilion updates, hearing loops, defibrillators, start up lunch club, pop up cafes, coffee mornings, energy efficiency projects, promoting exercise and outdoor activities in rural areas, walking leaflets, walking festivals, dance classes, exercise classes, older peoples exercise, one off celebratory events recognising national or regional events. Contribution towards installation of WIFI in rural areas, enhancing local nature sites, training for volunteers, first aid, H&S safeguarding, fire safety training, group leader training, speed watch campaigns, anti-social behaviour and associated prevention activities. The offer closes on the 30th September and will be awarded by the end of October. Awardees should provide a copy of a "Final Account" after the purchase of the item or at the close project which should be sent to Josephine.beever@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk Any community groups wishing to apply for a share of the funding can do so by contacting Cllr Wilshaw.

Planning Office – Cllr Shave wanted to praise the service he received from the MSDC planning office – He was told if he could get to the Needham office before lunch they would print copies of a planning application for him. Cllr Shave stated that this was fabulous service and wanted Cllr Wilshaw to feed this back.

12. **To receive County Councillor's Report – Mr Andrew Stringer.** Cllr Stringer was absent from the meeting and the clerk could not access the report. Agreed that the report to be emailed to Cllrs and included in the Crier.
13. **Broadband Update – Cllr Arnold.** Cllr Arnold to report to better broadband for Suffolk. List of ten problems that were sent and the majority are being addressed. There is still a problem with the telephone lines. Voice service via fibre - Cllr Arnold has applied and has been told that he should be live by 4th July. This is not live yet. The saga continues and it is known that two people do currently have fibre voice.
14. **Cllr Shave – Motion to approach the Post Office to provide a mobile facility to the village –** Cllr Baker did approach Stowupland to ascertain if this would be something that they could look into and include within their existing routes. Cllr Baker has reported that this is not possible at the moment. The clerk has officially requested the post office to investigate this for us and has received a response to complete an application form which has been done but nothing has come back yet. Stowupland did give us a number to call but this is no longer recognised. Clerk will provide further updates as received
15. **Village Notice Boards –** Clerk has provided the preferred supplier for the noticeboards with the exact measurements for a firm quote as the one by the shop needs to fit in the gap exactly. This has now been received and the clerk would like to confirm and place the order. Proposed and seconded to purchase the noticeboards. All cllrs were in favour and approved the clerk to officially order the new noticeboards. The notice boards will then all become a parish council asset and will need to be included on the asset register for the next audit.

- 16. Cemetery Review / Report** - Cemetery committee met at the cemetery on Thursday 29th June at 3pm and then convened a meeting at Cllr Millers home address. The rules and the pricing were discussed and the policy document from Stowupland was agreed to be used as a template to create our own new policy document. Clerk has received confirmation from Stowupland Clerk that we are ok to use her policy as a template. The draft document has been issued to the cemetery committee and will be put forward for approval by full council at the September meeting. Agreed to issue all Cllrs the new draft policy for approval at the September meeting and ratify the fees applicable tonight. Discussion took place regarding the still born grave and the clerk will issue the old rules and a covering letter and our caretaker will then remove. Chair wanted Cllrs to vote on the charges – The exception of the plaque change is now in parity with other stone markers. Proposed and seconded to accept the new prices.

Agreed that Adam Alexander is doing a good job – Identified a number of plots that have sunk and some need levelling. Clerk to ask Adam to move some of the pots to the headstone area. Kerb stones existing – Notice advising that it is our intention to remove them but this may need to be put on hold. Need to look at the maintenance of the old cemetery. Ask the grass cutting company and Adam to quote for the maintenance 3 or 4 times a year.

- 17. School Parking / Infrastructure / Road Signage.** The Chairman and Cllr Baker attended the school for a meeting with Jo Churchill MP. The clerk has written a letter to the school thanking them for the excellent behaviour of the children, they apparently had prepared really well for the meeting and had some good ideas and requests regarding the footpath to the school. Children were advised to use the footpaths for cycling which is not ideal. Cllr Miller spoke to Mr Hill who duly cut the grass on his side of the footpath. This was then set fire to by some local teenagers. This has been reported and the police are involved.

The parking at the school is not really moving forward but there may be some money from government that may be able to assist us. On Tuesday there was a big funeral and this caused additional chaos at the school pick up time.

It was reported that the footpaths have been done by SCC about three weeks ago.

- 18. B1113 Speed restrictions / Mini SID update** – SCC Meeting was cancelled. Cllr Stringer to still be asked for funding towards upgrading the SID unit to enable us to capture data that would prove useful moving forwards.

- 19. Councillors matters to be brought to the attention of the council.**

- Long Meadow footpath, the ditch is clear but there are a couple of places for old tree stumps and there is a build up of external wood. Also further down there are old gas bottles fly tipped. Long meadow is owned by Wrinch. But the length of the river is owned by river authorities responsibility. Clerk to complain and raise it with them.
- Footpaths have been cut – verge cutting is apparently no longer SCC responsibility. Cllr Goudy to ring highways
- Gipping potholes – Report again. Cllr Clements.
- Potholes – Falconer avenue to be reported again.
- The signs – Cllr Shave does not like the advertising on the new signage, however this was approved by both village hall and sports and social club and did have an impact on the cost savings achieved.

- 20. Public Forum**

- Kevin Swinburne asked about log in details for the village website for the village hall and cricket club. Clerk advised that this has been provided but would re-issue.

- 21. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the September meeting.**

- SID - Upgrade
- Cemetery Policy
- Additional Dog bin

- 22. Date of the next Parish Council meeting** – The September Meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th September 2017.

Meeting closed at 21.57 hrs