

Wednesday 1st November 2017 at Old Newton Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Miller (Chair), M Shave, K Baker, T Arnold, R Lawson, J Harbidge, K Goudy, M Reeve, K Price (Clerk), District Cllr J Wilshaw, County Councillor A Stringer and 4 members of the public.

1. **Chairman's welcome to the meeting and to receive any apologies for absence.** Apologies received from Cllr M Clements (Vice-Chair).
2. **Dispensations:**
 - a) To consider any requests for dispensations – None received
 - b) To note existing dispensations. The standing dispensation for Cllr Clements in respect of the proposed development land between Silver Street and Finningham Road and Cllr Reeve in respect of the proposed development of the Greenacres Site.
3. **To receive any declarations of personal / prejudicial interest** - None received.
4. **To approve the minutes of the September meeting held on 4th October 2017 and the extra planning meeting on 11th October.** It was Proposed and seconded to approve both sets of minutes and they were signed accordingly by the Chairman.
5. **Clerks Report**
 - Crier submission was submitted for November edition. The December submission needs to be earlier this month.
 - RTI submission was submitted for the month of September.
 - 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 committees and working parties have been uploaded onto the village website, the notices for the noticeboards still need to be printed. Clerk to ensure this is done before the December meeting.
 - Planning responses were issued to MSDC by the deadline for comments.
 - The Clerk has requested the rent payment from Mr Roger Carter for the land owned by the FGBT. This has now been received and banked. The FGBT AGM will take place on Monday 13th November.
 - The Clerk has booked the meeting dates for 2018 with the Village Hall Booking clerk and the invoice is presented for payment tonight. The dates need to be published on the noticeboards and website at the earliest opportunity.
 - The Clerk is still to write to Yew Tree Farm, Ward Green to ensure they make good any destruction to the Green. This will be done as a priority this coming week. This has been tidied and top soiled and is as good as. Clerk to write and thank him for making good.
 - The footpath signage that is reported as down on Brown Street / Harry's Barn has been reported again to SCC Footpaths.
 - The roundabout at the end of the B1113 junction into Stowmarket has been reported to highways by the Clerk.

Police Report

MONTH	DETAIL OF INCIDENTS / CRIMES
August 2017	1 x Vehicle Crime – on or near Falconer Avenue 1 x Anti-Social Behaviour – on or near Falconer Avenue 1 x Crime other – on or near Falconer Avenue 1 x Burglary – on or near Knights Close 1 x Crime other – on or near Greenacres
September 2017	Not available at time of print

Reported that there are hare-courers about in Mendlesham and the police are sending emails out to those who are signed up to Police Connect that there have been some lead thefts and suspicious vehicles in our rural villages asking parishioners to be vigilant and report anything suspicious.

6. Financial matters & Financial report

Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays Statement Balance **£26,965.01** (30/10/17)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,377.69** (01.10.17)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£253.37** (01.10.17)

Accounts for payment – October 2017:

- KAREN PRICE - Salary October includes holiday pay, expenses and less tax & NI and pension = **£977.35**
- HMRC – PAYE NI & Tax – Employee £35.10, Employer £40.36 = **£75.46**
- NEST Pension Contribution **DDR** – employee £7.78, employer £9.72 = **£17.50**
- Adam Alexander – Cemetery Maintenance Oct 10hrs: **£150.00** + Old Cemetery clearance **£250.00** = **£400.00**
- CGM – Grass Cutting 7th and 25th September - **£341.93**
- CAS – One Suffolk Website Hosting **£36.00**
- Old Newton Village Hall – Room Hire 2018 meetings - **£157.50**
- Onwoods / ONEG Litter pick 3rd Qtr ending September 2017 - **£80.46**

Monies Received – October 2017:

- MSDC – Cleansing Grant qtr ending June 2017 - **£62.80**
- Hanchets - Cemetery Fees – Colin Bernard Sargeant (payslip 100097) **£50.00**
- Hanchets – Cemetery Fees – Trevor Dorling (payslip 100097) **£25.00**
- Fulchers – Cemetery Fees – Trevor Alan Newton (payslip 100097) **£200.00**
- Coop – Cemetery Fees – Raymond Long (payslip 100097) **£200.00**
- Coop – Cemetery Fees – Margaret Finbow (payslip 100097) **£80.00**
- Bierton & Woods – Cemetery fees – George Philip Edwards (not yet banked) **£50.00**
- Coop – Cemetery Fees – Ethel Sutton (Not yet banked) **£200.00**
- UKPN – Wayleaves (payslip 100097) **£12.48**
- Hanchets - Cemetery Fees – Tony Bridges (payslip 100098) **£50.00**

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

The Finance Review took place on 19th October and the minutes of that meeting have been presented for approval and circulated to all Cllrs for information. The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly. The year-end accounts and the audit were discussed as well as the cash book and half yearly accounts. The effectiveness of the internal audit was deemed highly beneficial and cost effective and the committee recommended that the parish council continue to use Trevor Brown for the internal audit and dependent on whether we qualify for an external audit to address this at the year end. This was agreed. Cllr Clements has submitted his apologies for tonight's meeting but has informed the clerk that he is happy to support the committee recommendations for the budget and finance review.

The risk assessments, asset register, insurance premium, budget and precept were also reviewed at the meeting on 19th October. The Minutes of the finance review meeting were agreed and approved as a true and accurate record and the Chairman signed the minutes accordingly. It was raised as to whether we need to have risk assessment in place for the cemetery. Cemetery committee to put this in place. It was proposed not to cover the dog bins on our insurance, but to include the new noticeboards once invoiced.

Budget Preliminary Papers – All Cllrs have received the budget papers' and this will be an agenda item for the December meeting. Any questions / queries please speak to the Clerk.

Cllrs Training Costs – SALC have confirmed costs are circa £100 per Cllr over a two-day training course.

Proposed and seconded. Proposal to budget £110.00 for training of our newly co-opted Cllrs, proposed and seconded all agreed.

7. Correspondence Received & Circulars:

- ONGAA – AGM meeting date Monday 20th November 7pm at the village hall.
- Parishioner Email – Broadband & Cllr Arnold – Item 12 on the agenda.
- CAB – Update following on from their AGM read to the meeting.
- Local Boundary Commission – Consultation closes on 11th December 2017
- Old Newton Primary School – Head Teacher Letter “Glow Day” – 9th November 2017. Item 13 on the agenda.

- Network Rail Suffolk Level Crossing Reduction Order
 - Parishioner Letter Re: Footpaths – Item 13 on the agenda
 - SCC – Minerals and Waste Local Plan Consultation. Deadline for correspondence is 11th December 2017
- Various circulars received for information purposes. File circulated during the meeting.

8. **Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Consultation.** Formulation of the parish council response to this consultation. Deadline for comments is 10th November 2017. Cllrs all received comments submitted from Cllr Tony Arnold who was unable to attend the public consultation meeting of 20th October 2017.

Cllr Lawson has had a parishioner come forward with potential opportunity for residential development on an area of farmland alongside B1113. This is not highlighted on the SHELAA or on the MSDC proposed joint local plan consultation document.

Summary of the public consultation for the local plan - The Chairman explained about the public consultation document. Cllr Jill Wilshaw was asked for her input. Cllr Wilshaw reported on the total occupied households overview, MSDC have a reported under occupation of 407 bedrooms and there is a need to look at the type of houses to be built for the future. MSDC have identified 4 potential sites in Old Newton – deliverable within 5 – 15 years. Old Newton has only built 8 houses in last 5 years. The idea is to have a five-year plan to stop all developments just being passed. Since the call for land has been identified there is another area at the top end of Chapel Road and adjacent to the school.

Presently there are 52 houses being put forward for consideration on the Finningham Road / Silver Street site. This is assumed to be phase 1 and future phases could produce an additional further 30 – 40 properties. The Finningham Road land is still felt inappropriate as it is next to a heritage moat and there are serious concerns regarding drainage and access. Considerable objections have been raised from parishioners.

Greenacres – This site was objected to by the parish council on grounds of density in small area and access was not acceptable, car parking spaces would be lost and this is already an issue for residents in this development. If this was to be developed more sympathetically to residents and access addressed this would still be the preferred site of the sites identified for the parish council although there was and is still some considerable objections from residents.

There is talk about a piece of land that has previously not been considered and this is behind the sports and social club. This is an obvious piece of land (27 Church Road) for infill building that isn't identified on this consultation.

It was also suggested that the land the other side of the playing field that is presently used as chicken sheds was identified as a brown field site but this was originally suggested years ago as a potential building site making this a more integral part of the village. In support of this area of land it was also put forward the small acre of land on the entrance to the chicken sheds.

Parishioner comments were that the village should look to build and develop around the centre as preferred options. The two packages of land near to the school and chapel road was felt that these would be ideal for smaller developments and self-build.

Types of housing and infrastructure development - Sheltered / elderly housing. Bungalows for downsizing. Mixture required to include bungalows and smaller family homes and starter homes to be considered. It was felt that Old Newton could accommodate a small number of sheltered housing.

Transport links are important to get to shops and doctors, Old Newton's bus service is not great. The service provided by DONG at times struggles to meet demands in the absence of regular bus services.

The School was also discussed and is getting bigger with the middle school closure the primary schools are now having to keep children for a further 2 years. The bigger the school gets it is feared that this will change the identity of the school. The school is now federated, and it is felt is in a stronger position. There are more and more children attending the school from outside the village and this is exacerbating the parking at the school. The parish council would hope to include with any further development in the village suitable footpaths to the school.

The general feeling was that infrastructure is key moving forward.

On the MSDC local plan consultation 18 points is designated as Core village – Some discussion and debate took place as to whether Old Newton is a core village. It was felt that Old Newton is very convenient to the A14 and

Stowmarket railway station and although Old Newton no longer has a post office there are plans in place to try and get the facility back in the village even if it is a mobile facility. If we are not a core village we do not have to allocate the same number of housing. The allocated number required is less for a hinterland village than a core village. Some Cllrs felt that Old Newton does not meet the criteria set by MSDC. There is no post office, the ATM and Newsagents are within the convenience store. Some Cllrs felt it would be beneficial to remain a core village. We are borderline and on the cusp. On MSDC evidence Cllr Arnold felt we should dispute this. Cllr Shave believes that we do have the relevant attributes and we were a secondary village previously but on the new criteria we are now just over the wire. The Chairman closed the meeting and asked members of the public to comment. Scoring system for the consultation is 20 points which includes a post office which we do not have. Score should therefore be 19. Looking at the evidence we are not clear as to whether we are a core village or not due to the ATM and newsagents being encompassed within the convenience store and the scoring system being open to interpretation. The Chairman brought the meeting back into session.

It was suggested that we should reduce the plots of land identified. Identified pockets of land accepted but turning down the Finningham Road / Silver Street site and include the 27 Church Road site, Greenacres is still the preferred land. Clerk to include the type of housing comments and contributions towards infrastructure i.e footpath to the school. And not to include any additional pieces of land other than the 27 Church Road site.

Hinterland village or core village – Cllrs voted whether to accept that Old Newton is designated a core village. Cllr Shave Proposed that we are happy to accept and believes that we are a core village, Cllr Harbidge seconded. Cllrs voted with 6 for and 1 against. Vote carried by majority vote.

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

Public Access Point - The new location of Mid Suffolk's Public Access Point was opened on the 17th October at 54 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket IP14 1AD, and will allow residents to access Mid Suffolk Council's services directly, without requiring appointments booked in advance. Residents will be able to visit the office any time between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Thursday, and 9am to 4.30pm on Fridays, bank holidays excepted. Mid Suffolk's staff will be able to help residents access council services directly. Residents will also be able to meet specific council officers there by appointment, ensuring all council services can be accessed easily within the districts.

The Councils' Public Access Strategy, adopted in September last year, is designed to ensure residents can access council services in the most convenient way for them. The Councils have therefore improved and introduced a new website, and single phone number for all customer enquiries – 0300 1234 000. However, the Council recognises that some residents will still need to access services face to face, and the new service in Stowmarket ensures they are able to do so. This ensures that residents in the district will continue to be able to access all council services in a 'walk in' center in the district when the council's meetings move to Endeavour House later this month.

Homelessness - I went to a conference on the new Homelessness bill coming in in April which is going to hit us hard as we will still be reeling I expect, from the introduction of Universal Credit in February. The Housing Bill has been brought in to get everyone off the streets and into some kind of accommodation. However, we have a problem because there is a huge lack of housing so the councils are relying on the private sector to house these people but, because Universal Credit applications are taking so long to come through, the private sector are pulling out of accepting any potential tenants who are on benefits because of the arrears it causes. With the introduction of this homelessness bill there has to be a combined effort from all the different stakeholders like Drs, social services, police, landlords, Citizens Advice, etc. to ensure it works as they are on the ground dealing with many problems. We have employed 4 more staff to tackle this problem and are training the Customer Services team up to handle the initial enquiry. This is a worry for all councils throughout England.

Locality Award - This is still on going until February 16th so any club or association which has specific projects they want some help in financing then please contact me and I will send an application form.

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

Motion to improve early years funding rejected by Council - At the meeting of Council on Thursday 19th October, our LDGI group supported a Labour motion which called on the Council to (1) lobby central government for more funding in Suffolk and (2) pass the full amount of funding received on to providers. Unfortunately, the Conservative majority refused to back the motion. Since September 2017, working families are entitled to 30 hours of free childcare, whilst all families are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare. Suffolk is one of only 37 local authorities which this year had a reduction in early years funding, receiving a total that equates to £4.41 per hour. However, childcare providers receive a base rate of only £3.87 per hour, and many are struggling to run their businesses on this low rate. The motion highlighted the difficulty faced by childcare providers across the county,

and questioned why the Council did not pass through a higher rate of funding to providers. Councillor Gordon Jones (Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills) stated that the Council only retains £2.1m, which is used to meet their statutory duties. He has yet to provide a full breakdown on how this money is spent.

Home – School Transport – Workshops Announced - In September, the LDGI Group successfully “called-in” the Cabinet’s decision to go to consultation on changes to the Home to School Transport policy. We questioned the nature of the pre-consultation period, and argued that more research needed to be done. The Scrutiny Committee agreed with us, and voted to refer the decision back to Cabinet for further consideration. It has not yet been announced when Cabinet will reconsider the proposals. Suffolk County Council has announced that two workshops will be taking place next month, to further discuss the challenge and help develop proposals for Cabinet to consider. However, invitations will only be sent to 80 randomly selected representatives. If you have not been invited, and feel that you should be a part of these workshops, you can contact either myself or schooltravel@suffolk.gov.uk.

School Admissions Consultation - Suffolk County Council is seeking views on its proposed admissions policy for the 2019/2020 school year. The consultation, which started on Monday 2 October, will run until Monday 13 November 2017. There are proposals to make some minor changes to the admission arrangements and co-ordinated admissions scheme for schools in Suffolk for the 2019/2020 school year. The amendments relate to:

- The sibling criterion
- The definition of “ordinarily resident”
- The offer of a school place when preferences can't be met
- The procedure for dealing with late applications

To view the consultation documents and to have your say on the proposals, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations. The governing bodies of voluntary aided, foundation, free schools and academies are responsible for admissions to their schools. If you want to view the arrangements for these schools' you should contact the school directly.

Suffolk Fostering Service launches first in a series of fostering recruitment campaigns. Suffolk County Council's Fostering Service will launch a series of campaigns over the coming months to encourage more Suffolk residents to become foster carers. 820 children currently live in care in Suffolk and there is an urgent need for more people to come forward to foster. The first campaign will focus on the need to recruit more foster carers for teenagers.

Suffolk Fostering Service will also be hosting pop-up events across Suffolk. In November, the events are:

- Saturday 11th November 9.30am - 12.30pm, Stowmarket Leisure Centre
- Saturday 11th November 12.00pm - 6.00pm University of Suffolk, Ipswich

More information can be found at: www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk

The Downs Footpath – Cllr Stringer has asked the officers to comment on the suitability of the surface treatment to the Downs Footpath, prior to the letter of complaint regarding large stones loose on the path. He will attend site tomorrow at 9.am and rake the larger stones to one side, this should address the immediate concerns. If the parish council feels the surface need more attention he will gladly help.

New developments coming forward – SCC response is that there are not any huge issues that will impact on highways, but they will be responding on how future planning applications will impact on schools.

11. MSDC Planning Decisions

- **DC/17/04613** – Application for listed building consent – removal of fireplace and associated fire surround in the sitting room and the installation of a multifuel stove with simple plain fire surround at Old Newton Hall, Sandford Road, Old Newton, Stowmarket. **MSDC listed building consent has been granted.**

12. Broadband Update – Cllr Arnold.

Letter received regarding Cllr Arnold and all his hard work within the village on broadband on Chapel Road has been received and read to the meeting. Cllr Arnold confirmed that Brown Street is still having issues and that the application process in some areas has had to start afresh. The Stow P33 network stops before Hundred Lane. The issues are with Open Reach. Cllr Stringer also looking into this on our behalf. The Gipping cabinet has had some work done on it and it is hoped it will get linked up very soon. The Chairman thanked Cllr Arnold for his comprehensive report and efforts.

13. Footpaths – Correspondence and complaints received

- Downs footpath and correspondence received. Cllr Stringer to look at it and rake the big ones to one side. The top bit is a little bit uneven. The nettles have been strimmed back on the wooden decking and on the bridge. The only possible solution would be to put some road plainings over the top. It is never going to be a pavement and we need to accept that it is a rural footpath. The weather has been exceptionally dry and the stones have not had chance to bed down. Cllr Harbidge suggested that he and Cllr Baker look at some other possible ideas and report back to the parish council with some alternative ideas for discussion / debate moving forward.
- Old Newton Primary School regarding Glow Day – 9th November. Request to assist with the tidying and strimming of the footpath to assist the use by the walking bus. The Chairman confirmed that the bottom part has been done but we are unable to touch the land at the top as this is privately owned.

14. Village Notice Boards – Update

The noticeboards are not quite there yet but this is a work in progress. They are looking to change the latch fittings and in order, to get the signage above - this is slightly more difficult than first thought as it is not cost effective to remove the noticeboards as the signage usually forms part of one piece of material and therefore would need to be re-made, Clerk has agreed for a possible solution to this in putting something over the top of the boards. They are yet to come back to the clerk to confirm when this can be completed and provide any revised costings involved.

15. Cemetery Review & Maintenance & Cemetery Policy

- The proposed policy is still a work in progress. The budget and finance review and the extra meetings that have taken place this month have meant this has not received full attention. The committee to be provided with a new draft as soon as possible.
- Adam Alexander has cleared the old part of the cemetery and his invoice of £250 in addition to his usual cemetery hours has been included for payment tonight.
- The reported fallen down tree on the memorial wall has been cleared and the gates should now have been made easier to open fully if required.
- The request for a lilac coloured memorial for the cemetery that was refused has been accepted due to a complaint received in that the old rules do not state a preferred colour and the new rules have not yet been approved or adopted by the parish council. There are also other memorials in the cemetery that have already set a precedent, and this will also form part of the review on the proposed new policy document.
- Adam has been instructed to ensure the cemetery and memorial areas are tidy in preparation for Remembrance Sunday.

16. School Parking / Infrastructure / Road Signage – Cllr Baker confirmed this is an on-going project, the roadworks, now complete, the road-markings still need to be re-installed. Cllr Baker to maintain focus and chase highways.

17. B1113 Speed restrictions / Mini SID Update – Nothing new to report, funding has not been received yet from SCC for the upgrade of our SID unit. The parish council is keen to consider the gated option for the speed signage into the village. Cllr Stringer confirmed that he has not received a quote for the new 40mph signage and as soon as receives and approves the quote the hardware can be ordered.

18. Councillors Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

Traffic signs on Station Road are totally engrossed within the hedge. SCC to be reported – signage is not visible for Silver Street. School Road / Sandford Road there used to be a give-way sign that has disappeared. Reported that you can't tell this is a give way as there is no signage either painted or signs. Clerk to report.

19. Public Forum - Nothing

- Cllr Baker thanked Cllr Wilshaw for the preschool grant funding received. This will make a real difference to the pre-school.
- Reported that Dog walkers are walking with no torches or high visibility clothing on the roads now that the mornings and evenings are darker. It is advisable to use and wear reflective clothing etc. Clerk asked to include a reminder in the next edition of the crier.
- There is a yellow line along Newton Road to Station road prohibiting parking. There is a problem with parked cars on this stretch that makes it dangerous – Clerk asked to write to the Town Council and report this problem.
- Remembrance Sunday – 10.45am at the Church, all are welcome.

20. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the December meeting.

- Cemetery Policy
- Broadband
- Budget / precept

21. Date of the next Parish Council meeting – The December Meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th December 2017. The Chairman invites you all to stay after the December meeting for some light festive refreshments.

Meeting closed at 21.51hrs