

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 at Old Newton Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs J Miller (Chair), T Arnold, R Lawson, J Harbidge, M Reeve, M Clements (Vice Chair), K Baker, M Shave, K Price (Clerk), District Cllr J Wilshaw, County Councillor A Stringer and 3 members of the public.

1. **Chairman's welcome to the meeting and to receive any apologies for absence.** Cllr Ken Goudy has had a family bereavement this afternoon and therefore has sent his apologies. Cllr Andrew Stringer sends his apologies again he will be late as he has an earlier meeting to attend but will aim to get to us as soon as possible. Item 9 Cllr Stringers report to be deferred until Cllr Stringer arrives. All Cllrs present agreed.
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** Cllr K Baker declared an interest in the Planning appeal by Mr Luxford for a permanent dwelling and cart lodge for manager of pig unit at Colt Meadow Farm as there is a family link.
4. **To approve the minutes of the December meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017.** It was Proposed and seconded to approve the minutes and they were signed accordingly by the Chairman.
5. **Clerks Report**
  - Crier submission was submitted for January 2018 edition.
  - RTI submission was submitted for the month of December.
  - Nest Pension submission was completed.
  - All cheques for payment have been issued.
  - All information, minutes and agenda have been uploaded onto the village website.
  - Planning responses were issued to MSDC by the deadline for comments.
  - The Clerk has written to Mr Hill thanking him for the excellent maintenance of the “Downs Footpath”.
  - The clerk has made enquiries for village benches and they are circa £500 - £1,000 per bench dependent upon style. These can be funded from ring-fenced funds and possibly we could apply for a grant from MSDC and not out of the current precept to be applied for. Cllrs to meet to try and view the finished benches. Location can be identified later. Working party to include Cllr Clements, Clerk, Harbidge, Miller.
  - The clerk has also made enquiries with MSDC Planning (Tom Barker's Team) on the possibility of some bespoke training that we could possibly roll out by invitation to neighbouring villages. Clerk is awaiting response from Tom Barkers team if this is something they would consider. The Clerk has approached MSDC directly as the training received previously by SALC did not address the current issues and principles surrounding planning today.

**Police Report**

MONTH	DETAIL OF INCIDENTS / CRIMES
October 2017	Zero Crimes reported on the crime map
November 2017	Zero Crimes reported on the crime map
December 2017	Crime details not available at time of print on the crime map.

**6. Financial matters & Financial report**

The Precept is being put forward from the budget as £24,153.00. This would be paid in two instalments in April and then in September 2018 of £12,076.50 The forms have been proposed and seconded the recommendation of the finance committee accepted and the Clerk asked to submit the precept to MSDC by the deadline.

**Bank Account Balances:**

- Barclays December Statement Balance **£24,928.74** (29/12/17)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,377.69** (01.10.17)

- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£253.37** (01.10.17)

#### Accounts for payment – December 2017:

- KAREN PRICE - Salary December includes holiday pay, expenses and less tax & NI and pension = **£898.98**
- HMRC – PAYE NI & Tax – Employee £15.77, Employer £18.14 = **£33.91**
- NEST Pension Contribution **DDR** – employee £6.49, employer £8.11 = **£14.60**

#### Monies Received – December 2017:

- SCC – SID Upgrade £540.00 – Payslip 100099
- COOP – Cemetery fees Deryck Patient £50.00 – payslip 100099
- Cemetery fees Trevor Cobbold £200.00 – payslip 100099
- Cemetery fees Ethel Sutton £200.00 – payslip 100099
- Cemetery fees George Edwards £50.00 – payslip 100099

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

#### 7. Correspondence Received & Circulars:

- Data Protection Legislation Update
- Westcotec – Letter regarding possible fault with component of our SID unit.
- ONGAA Email – Regarding flooding of the allotments from the Anglian Water Pumping Station. Knowing we have potential significant development applications coming forward in the future this will have a potential impact. Clerk asked to contact Anglian Water attaching the photos and to also copy to MSDC Planning and ONGAA for information.
- SALC – Information regarding Cremation Amendments effective April 2018
- SALC – Royal Garden Party Invitation – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018. Chairman would like to be put forward.
- MSDC – A new council for the heart of Suffolk.
- Suffolk Legal – New procedures to receive road closure notices
- Letter received regarding planning application – Old Bells Farm DC/17/05524. Mr Iain Robinson has also offered to sponsor a couple of benches for the village and wants to fit into our community. He has also offered to look at the junction for the cemetery.
- Email received regarding planning application – DC/17/05765 on School Road also the letter received from Mr Lilley regarding the same application. Both letters were objecting to the application but the deadline for comments has now passed and this is for information purposes. Mr Lilley's letter was scanned and emailed to MSDC planning within the deadline for comments.
- Police Telephone Scam warning – Clerk to include in the Crier.

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

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

There is a **scam letter** going around which is going to many vulnerable people regarding incorrect banding of their house and if you pay £80 the company, **Shaw Claims Ltd**, will fight your case and take a percentage of whatever you win. The company are bona fide registered with Companies House, however, if you look on their website there are many complaints about them. I have contacted our legal department and they have contacted the fraud squad and all other necessary people. Please, if you receive a letter like this, ignore it. Clerk to include in the Crier

Mid Suffolk District Council has unanimously agreed to support the Government's proposals to introduce a **plastic bottle return scheme**. The Council pledged its support for initiatives being considered by the Government to reduce the amount of plastic waste and to make retailers pay more towards recycling the packaging in which they sell their products.

The Council backed the initiative to sign up to the **Woodland Trust's Charter** for tree, woods and people, which sets out people's rights to the benefits of trees, woods and forests. The charter's ten principles include planting more trees, a commitment to protecting irreplaceable trees and woods, sustaining landscapes rich in wildlife and using trees as the inspiration for cultural projects. Other pledges include planning greener local landscapes and combating threats to the ecosystems which each tree supports.

**Locality Award** there is still some money in the box for any clubs, associations, societies who would like some money to boost their finances for specific projects. Please contact Cllr Wilshaw directly for an application form.

## 9. **Broadband Update – Cllr Arnold.**

People who did not have fibre voice access at the December meeting still do not have fibre voice access. Cllr Arnold has received a letter from Jo Churchill MP inviting Openreach to visit our area. Cllr Arnold is drafting a letter detailing the frustrations we have experienced over the last 18 months. Cllr Arnold to provide the clerk with a copy of the letter to be sent on behalf of the parish council.

Funding for Broadband for the village hall has been approved for two years funding for installation and initial upkeep. The funds are ringfenced and awaiting request from the village hall committee. Cllr Baker to raise again with the village hall committee.

## 10. **MSDC Planning Applications Received**

- **DC/17/05830 – Householder planning application – Erection of first floor to garage to create annexed accommodation at The Gables, Sandford Road, Old Newton.** This was submitted about 9 months ago for a separate application. This is in addition to any previous works and the plans seemed to Councillors to be a little misleading - There are plans for raising the height of the garage and in the planning statement it is described as a “fairly historic” old farmhouse – The house however is not listed. The ridge height is planned to be raised to almost 7ft but mentions in the planning statement that the eaves height will be raised by only 600mm.

Councillors had concerns that this could be used as a separate dwelling. There was also concerns that the applicants are making the house bigger with an extra bedroom with facilities and not increasing the parking provision. It was felt that the current parking isn't enough as it is, this is a shared access and is not a lane that you can park on safely. Policy T10 refers.

It was agreed that if permission is granted by MSDC that it should only be authorised for the use of and occupation of the building to be permitted for purposes incidental and ancillary to the principle dwelling known as the Gables. The reason for this is the building constitutes a physically detached unit of accommodation that would not be acceptable to the parish council as a separate dwelling under adopted planning policy having regard to its countryside location. It was eventually proposed that the Parish Council should object to the application using the reasons outlined above. This was seconded – Upon voting there was 1 abstention all other Cllrs voted in favour and it was agreed to object to this application. Clerk to respond to MSDC.

- **APP/W3520/W/17/3183649 - Appeal by: Mr B Luxford - Erection of a dwelling and cartlodge for manager of pig unit at Colt Meadow Farm, School Road, Old Newton IP14 4PJ.** This was originally refused by MSDC under their reasons of protecting and preserving the countryside, they also stated that the applicants failed to provide evidence that the pig units had been operating for the last three years to provide a sustainable income. The mobile home had been acceptable to MSDC, and Cllrs felt that nothing has changed from the parish council perspective. In the interest of being consistent the parish council should again approve this application using their original reasons of this is obviously a sustainable business and would replace the existing mobile home currently in use. The proposed building is sympathetic to its environment including policy H10 – dwellings for key agricultural workers. It was proposed and seconded – All Cllrs voted unanimously in favour to re-submit the original parish council approval.

## 11. **MSDC Planning Decisions Received**

- **DC/17/04613 LBC – Condition 3 Details of Proposed Remedial Works at Old Newton Hall, Sandford Road, Old Newton.** MSDC have considered the remedial works and they are acceptable.
- **DC/17/05506 – Outline application of erection of detached dwelling and garage on land adjacent to Applewhite House, Finningham Road, Old Newton, Stowmarket.** MSDC Planning Permission has been granted.

## 12. **To receive County Councillor’s Report – Mr Andrew Stringer.**

**School Travel Consultation launched** - Despite parents, governors and councillors voicing serious concerns over proposed changes to the School Transport policy, Suffolk County Council has decided to move the process forward and go to public consultation. This was launched on Tuesday 12 December and will run until 28 February 2018. The consultation survey, along with more information on the proposals, can be found at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel).

A number of workshops have been organised, where the proposals will be discussed and questions answered. You will need to book to attend any of these events. The timetable for these has been forwarded to all Cllrs. In addition to the workshops, there will also be a *Have Your Say* event. This is an opportunity for members of the public to present alternative options to a panel.

Cllr Baker asked if possible for next year if we could pencil in to include provision for suitable bus stops for school children and people catching the bus services.

**Suffolk County Council signs the Woodland Trust's Tree Charter** - The Lib Dem, Green and Independent Group proposed a motion to Suffolk County Council on 7 December, asking them to sign the Woodland Trust's Charter for Trees, Woods and People. This received unanimous support. The Charter was launched on 6 November to mark the 800 year anniversary of the influential 1217 Charter of the Forest. The Woodland Trust is leading a call with more than 70 organisations from across multiple sectors, and hopes the Charter will bring the discussion of the importance of forests and trees back into public consciousness. There are ten principles which underpin the charter:

1. Thriving habitats for diverse species
2. Planting for the future
3. Celebrating the cultural impact of trees
4. A thriving forestry sector that delivers for the UK
5. Better protection for important trees and woods
6. Enhancing new developments with trees
7. Understanding and using the natural health benefits of trees
8. Access to trees for everyone
9. Addressing threats to woods and trees through good management
10. Strengthening landscapes with woods and trees

**Suffolk County Council to write letter in support of WASPI women** - Cllr Caroline Page, the Lib Dem, Green and Independent Group Spokesperson for Women, seconded a motion asking the Council to offer support to the 35,000 WASPI women in Suffolk who are suffering from changes in state pension age. Once again, this received unanimous support, and the Interim Chief Executive will be writing to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions calling on the government to reconsider transitional arrangements for these women. Women Against State Pension Inequalities (WASPI) is a national campaign, which highlights the unfair impact that state pension age changes have had on women born in the 1950s. Many women expected to receive a state pension at 60 and were not properly informed by the government of the age increase, leaving them stranded without income or forced to delay retirement plans. WASPI agrees with the equalisation of state pension age, but does not agree with the unfair way the changes were implemented – with little or no personal notice, faster than promised, and leaving no time to make alternative plans. If you would like more information, please visit: <http://www.waspi.co.uk/>

**Primary School application deadline approaches** - Parents and carers have until Monday 15th January to make their application to secure their child's place at a Suffolk Primary, Infant, Junior or Middle school for September 2018. Any child born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 is due to start primary school from September 2018. An application for a full-time school place must be made, even if a child is already attending a nursery class in an infant or primary school, a pre-school or a children's centre next to a school site. Information to help parents and carers make their application is available at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions).

- It was raised that the drainage / remedial issues on Chapel Road are working until the stop sign at the bottom of the road. Thanks to Cllr Stringer for all his work on this.
- Cllr Reeve reported Wassicks Lane, Station Road and Honeypot Lane are still being flooded when we have heavy rainfall. Clerk to forward these areas to Cllr Stringer, also to copy the email and photos received from ONGAA regarding the issues experienced on Station Road from the Anglian Water Pump Station. The water on the bend is a separate issue on Station Road to the issue with the pumping station.
- It was reported that the lane by the school was not gritted prior to Christmas. There is water pumping out at the ditch above the school which made for hazardous conditions and could have washed away any grit that had been left but it should have been on the gritting route. Cllr Baker thinks that this could be a water main problem – It has been reported previously.
- Cllr Clements mentioned that some time ago it was agreed once the remedial works on Chapel Road had been completed that the road markings and anti-slip painting by the school would then be done and this has not happened yet.

- 13. Village Noticeboards Update** – The village noticeboards should soon be completed, we are awaiting an installation date for the village shop noticeboard and the clerk has mentioned that the other two need to be made more secure when the latches and repairs are completed this will be looked at. Clerk to follow up.
- 14. Cemetery Review & Maintenance & Cemetery Policy** - The proposed policy has been re-issued and amended including the pricing for the additional 25 years exclusive rights changes and is submitted for adoption at the January meeting. Proposed and seconded – Approved. Clerk to circulate.

The Clerk has received a telephone call from a parishioner who is seeking to have his wife buried in the cemetery next week. He is extremely concerned that the proposed next in line plot appears to be in the rubbish area and feels this is not appropriate or respectful and is very anxious to be potentially burying his wife in this area. The clerk has promised to go back to Mr Dunn following the January meeting once Cllrs have considered the options. Chairman proposed that we leave the last two plots alone and move up to the top of the Cemetery opposite the pavilion to start at the gate / opposite the pavilion. This was seconded - All Cllrs voted in favour unanimously. Clerk to respond and inform Gary the Grave Digger.

- 15. School Parking / Infrastructure / Road Signage** – Cllr Baker has nothing new to report this month.
- 16. Highways / Speed Monitoring** – Cllr Clements is hoping to be able to provide a report for the February meeting.
- 17. Councillors Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council**
- Scams – highlight in the crier – two types of scams by phone and telephone – Pensions (post) Microsoft claiming to be able to assist. Parishioners warned to be vigilant and wary.
  - Parishioner asked why we don't have grit bins – Clerk to investigate costs and re-visit to report at the February meeting.
  - Observation about the planning applications. Good to see training possibly coming to fruition. Cllr Lawson felt that we were lacking in consistency at the last meeting and was finding it embarrassing at times in front of a significant number of members of the public. Clerk to ensure that the printed planning application information is available from 7pm at the meeting venue prior to start of the meeting. Suggestion that we have a plan of what we see as the vision for the future. We can look at this again when the local plan comes back to us for further consultation.
- 18. Public Forum** – Bacton Parish Clerk had some queries regarding potential broadband issues that Bacton may have and asked if they could share information. Cllr Stringer pointed out that if Bacton are having any issues could they please report it to him in the first instance.
- 19. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the February 2018 meeting.**
- Benches working party
  - Grit Bins - prices
  - Speed SID unit report
- 20. Date of the next Parish Council meeting** – The February Meeting will take place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

Meeting closed at 21.43hrs