

Wednesday 7th February 2018 at Old Newton Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Miller (Chair), T Arnold, R Lawson, J Harbidge, K Goudy, M Clements (Vice Chair), K Baker, K Price (Clerk), District Cllr J Wilshaw, County Councillor A Stringer and 2 members of the public.

- 1. Chairman's welcome to the meeting and to receive any apologies for absence.** Cllr Mike Shave and Cllr Mary Reeve have submitted their apologies for this evening and Cllr Andrew Stringer will be late as he has two previous meetings to attend to before coming to ours. Proposed that Cllr Stringers report to be held off until he 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.** None received.
- 4. To approve the minutes of the January meeting held on 3rd January 2018.** 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 February 2018 edition. The clerk also included the Waste collection dates 2018 in the Crier.
 - RTI and Nest Pension submission was completed for the month.
 - All cheques for payment have been issued.
 - All information, minutes and agenda have been uploaded onto the village website. The village website has been upgraded and moved over to a new but similar system. Same logins apply but the system was down for a few days and was updated as soon as it was live again.
 - Planning responses were issued to MSDC by the deadline for comments.
 - Bacton Parish Clerk has asked if we are interested in sharing some Planning Training and costs with them provided by LPCAS – Jayne Cole (Local Parish Council Advisory Service). Estimated cost of the training would be circa £250.00 each parish council. If agreeable in principle the clerk will make the arrangements and look at some dates. The Clerk is meeting with Bacton Parish Clerk on 26th February and can discuss further then.
 - DPO – Data Protection Officer will need to be appointed in May 2018. We have received information from SALC and the costs from their outsourced agency has been reduced considerably but is still £600 - year 1 and £300 – year 2. The Clerk does not believe this is the only option and is looking at Jayne Cole – LPCAS as her company could offer better value for money at a one-off fee of £300 for the year. This is possibly something we could look at for the first year and then we could review it. LPCAS also offer a training course that has been recommended as better than the SALC course we experienced a couple of years ago, giving better details and real information on how the new legislation is likely to affect clerks and the parish councils. Stowupland have decided to go with the DPO through SALC but at a lower category as they do not believe the higher categories were proportionate to them. This is something that Old Newton could look to do. Mendlesham and Bacton are both going with Jayne Cole.
 - Clerk was asked some time ago to report the roundabout at Stowmarket road. An update report has been received and this will be added to the list of sites to be worked once budgets become available.

Police Report

There are no new figures available for December or January. Cllr Arnold and the Clerk attended the parish liaison meeting on Tuesday 6th February. There is a new Acting Inspector at Stowmarket and they are now up to full strength although as reported previously this is still reduced significantly to what we once had. There is access to a newsletter that the Clerk will endeavour to print out and include in the crier moving forward. There was a lot of discussion around sharing of information through various agencies. There are also designated officers that are single points of contact that deal with youth and mental health issues. Big emphasis on reporting online and using 101 to ensure crimes are reported for evidence gathering and trend analysis etc. The police will only ever respond once threat, harm and risk to the public have been assessed and deemed appropriate to warrant an immediate response.

6. Financial matters & Financial report

The Precept has been submitted and has been accepted. £24,153.00. This will be paid in two instalments in April and September 2018. The precept gives the parish council tax band D amount of £53.87. This is an increase of 4.87% on 2017/2018 and these are the amounts that will be shown on the council tax bills.

Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays January Statement Balance **£23,970.07** (30/01/18)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,377.78** (01.01.18)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£253.38** (01.01.18)

Accounts for payment – January 2018:

- KAREN PRICE - Salary January includes holiday pay, expenses and less tax & NI and pension = **£817.11**
- HMRC – PAYE NI & Tax – Employee £14.28, Employer £16.43 = **£30.71**
- NEST Pension Contribution DDR – Employee £6.39, Employer £7.99 = **£14.38**
- CGM Grass Cutting at Village Hall – August invoice not paid and outstanding **£341.93**
- Adam Alexander – Cemetery Maintenance December & January - **£75.00**

Monies Received – January 2018:

- MSDC – Locality Grant Funding towards costs of village bench seats. £500.00. Thanks to Jill for her contribution – very much appreciated.

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

Village Hall Broadband. 40meg for 2 years – Plus net will do a 2 year contract for £680.00 + VAT. This is unlimited business fibre. We have ringfenced funds available that were agreed in July 2016. Cllr Miller proposed to pay for two years as this is a similar cost to the one year. BT have priced themselves out of the market. Cllr Lawson seconded. All Cllrs agreed unanimously. Awaiting Village Hall to organise and request funding from the parish council.

7. Correspondence Received & Circulars:

- MSDC – Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Expenditure policy meetings
- MSDC – Leader of the Council Letter – Views requested
- MSDC – Stowmarket Vision for Prosperity
- MSDC – Spring Clean Suffolk 2018
- Planning Training – Joint venture with Bacton Parish Council
- Open Gardens Committee – 10th June 2018
- CGM Group – Letter received
- B1113 speed consultation – Clerk to respond
- Suffolk Highways – Community Self Help – Have your Say. Clerk to respond.
- Suffolk Highways – Streetlights maintenance and energy
- Parishioner email – Footpaths leaflet once printed – Any ideas if anyone has a copy that can be copied again. Cllr Tony Arnold offered to assist the clerk.

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

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

It has been agreed to increase **Council Tax** in Mid Suffolk next year by 0.5% which equates to 81p per year for a Band D property.

The Post Office have confirmed that the Stowmarket branch is still going to be located in the same address (23 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, IP14 1AH), however, there will be a transfer of Postmaster on the 13th February 2018. The new facility is likely to only have one cashier which will possibly cause future problems.

Solo Housing Lodging Scheme has been set for single people who are struggling to find affordable accommodation are being matched up with householders with a spare bedroom in a pioneering scheme. More potential landlords are needed to get involved in the initiative to reduce homelessness. The councils will refer single people they work with to Solo Housing, while others may refer themselves or be put in touch by agencies. Solo Housing will carry out a detailed assessment of each person's circumstances and needs. Some people may be working but on very low incomes while others may have been through the breakup of a relationship or be homeless or at risk of becoming so. If the person is

suitable to become a lodger, Solo Housing will carefully match them to a landlord living in the area, whom they have visited to see the accommodation being offered and discuss any criteria the landlord is seeking in a prospective tenant.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk are hosting a free **Funding and Volunteering Fair** this February 13th at Cedars Park Community Centre between 9.30am and 3.15pm, for community groups looking to attract more funding and volunteers across the districts. The Fair is open to all parish councils, community groups, from sports clubs to village hall committees, and offers attendees the chance to tap into a wealth of knowledge and experience in fundraising and attracting volunteers.

Several workshops will be run during the Fair, which will be manned by experienced community support agencies including by Janet Perry of Community Action Suffolk and Angela Lee-Foster from Suffolk Prohelp. Guest Speakers include Barry Salmon of Stowmarket Men's Shed, a group supporting informal learning, individual pursuits and community projects in Stowmarket and David Blackburn, Stowmarket's Town Clerk, offering advice on securing town council funding for community work. Those wishing to attend the Funding and Volunteering Fair can book a place by calling 01449 724 654, or by [emailing Josephine Beever](mailto:Josephine.Beever@baberghmidssuffolk.gov.uk).

Communities in Mid Suffolk are now able to apply for a share of £225,476 funding to develop **Community Led Housing**. This empowers local groups to identify what housing is needed in their area, the best location for it and to work with partners to deliver those developments. The fund could be used to conduct a Local Housing Needs Assessment within a community, to cover legal costs associated with land purchase such as conveyancing, or to cover technical and professional costs associated with development such as site surveying. Any communities interested in applying for funding can contact the Community Housing Enabling Officer, who will walk applicants through the process, the benefits and the requirements of Community Led Housing. They can be contacted via: Elizabeth Ling, Community Housing Enabling Officer – 07808 201 939, or by [email Elizabeth.Ling@baberghmidssuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.Ling@baberghmidssuffolk.gov.uk). She can talk groups through the application process, or simply discuss the role of Community-Led Housing in meeting need and how a group can shape development in their area. The council will work closely with community-led housing groups and other stakeholders – such as the Community Land Trusts network and the Homes England – to put the right tools in place to ensure efficient delivery of new houses over the coming years.

Mid Suffolk District Council's Cabinet have voted to invest £2.56 million in the **Regal Theatre Stowmarket Improvement Project**. The investment, consisting of £1.56m in capital grant from Mid Suffolk District Council, and £1million in a loan to Stowmarket Town Council, will enable two new cinema screens to be added to the Regal. The building in Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, currently has a single auditorium which is used for theatre performances as well as to show films. These new 87 and 57 seat screens, plus the renovation of the existing auditorium and foyer, are predicted to increase attendance at the Regal Theatre by approximately 40% from around 63,000 people a year to 114,800. The increase in visitor numbers are expected to generate between an extra £500,000 and £1m annually for the local economy. The project is also expected to create between 10 and 20 new jobs. The Mid Suffolk District Council-owned Ipswich Street Car Park, which is next to the Regal Theatre, will be rearranged to improve its layout.

9. Broadband Update – Cllr Arnold.

One resident is still waiting and another in Brown Street area and Chapel and Sandford Road are also having issues being fed into the fibre. Better broadband for Suffolk are looking at it. There are also issues still at Gipping.

Cllr Arnold has copied the Clerk a letter he has sent to MP Jo Churchill. As a result of the letter Cllr Arnold was invited to attend a meeting with Mr Selley – Open Reach. They are learning as they go along and it would appear that Old Newton were the guinea pig for fibre to premises. Cllr Arnold was asked to be the point of contact. All Cllrs agreed that Cllr Arnold should continue working on behalf of the parish council. Chairman thanked Cllr Arnold for the enormous amount of hours and effort he has spent over the last year on this project.

10. MSDC Planning Applications Received

- **DC/17/06200 – Full planning application – Erection of two storey dwelling house and associated garage at Site Adjacent to Applewhite House, Finningham Road, Old Newton.** Cllrs felt that the proposed development was in keeping to the area and neighbouring properties and is supported by local residents. The access issues the parish council had previously have been addressed. The approval of the 40mph speed limit makes the whole area much safer and this application has been previously approved as an outline application by the parish Council. It was proposed and seconded to accept the application and approved by unanimous vote.

- DC/18/00422 - Old Newton Village Shop, 18 Finningham Road, Old Newton. Planning extension has been requested but if not granted a separate meeting will need to take place before the closing date of the consultation at the end of February. Clerk to action if necessary.
- Another application coming shortly that the village hall are submitting an application to cover the upgrade of the village hall. Provisional drawings and plans are available at the village hall.

11. MSDC Planning Decisions Received

- **DC/17/05761** – Outline Planning Application (Access to be considered). Erection of two detached dwellings at Land at Chapel Road, Old Newton. **MSDC have granted outline planning permission.**
- **DC/17/05765** – Outline Planning Application (Access to be considered). Erection of 5no dwellings and provision of extension to school car park on land at School Road, Old Newton. **MSDC Planning permission has been refused.**
- **DC/17/06277** – Non-Material Amendment to 2437/16 - North: Raising of staircase window to suit stair landing. South: Insertion of flue pipe. East: Creation of third gable to facilitate new bathroom at first floor level. Alterations to porch West: Addition of Solar panels to roof slope. Addition of French doors and glazed 'Juliet' balconies to first floor level. Change of ground floor study window to French doors. Location: Land At, Finningham Road, Old Newton, Suffolk. **MSDC amendment details have been approved.**
- **DC/17/05683** - Outline Planning Application (Access, Appearance, Layout and Scale to be considered) for the erection of two new dwellings at land Adjacent Oak House , Church Road, Old Newton. **MSDC outline planning permission has been refused.**
- **DC/17/05830** - Householder Planning Application- Erection of first floor to garage to create annexed Accommodation at the Gables, Sandford Road, Old Newton. **MSDC Planning permission has been granted.**

12. **Village Noticeboards Update** - The village noticeboards have now been completed. The installation of the shop noticeboard took place on Tuesday 6th February. The signs have also been installed and the glass has been replaced in the noticeboard at the school. The Clerk has asked for strength batons to be placed on the two double noticeboards to aid stability and the latches have all been changed over. The locks have been left to enable them to be locked if we need them to be.

13. **School Parking / Infrastructure / Road Signage** - Cllr Baker stated she was very disappointed with the planning refusal that would have given the school a car parking facility. The forthcoming works on Chapel Road are scheduled for the half term which for once is helpful. Cllr Baker has had a meeting with Cllr Stringer to look at the outdated travel plan. Cllr Stringer to investigate further with highways regarding the road markings. Moving into spring and when the weather is nicer the school are looking at implementing a walking bus from the village hall.

14. **Highways / Speed Monitoring** – Cllr Clements is struggling to obtain the information in a format he can report. He is working on it. Moving forward we would like to look at purchasing a second one that can be permanent at each end of the village.

15. **Benches – Working Party Update – Cllr Clements.** Cllr Clements has made enquiries for village benches. We applied to Cllr Jill Wilshaw for some of her locality budget and have been granted £500 towards the costs of the benches.

The Realise Futures benches have been looked at by Cllrs Clements and Miller. Approximately £390 each + VAT. Cllr Clements has approached highways regarding where these can be placed. As they do not impede sight at any of the junctions he is waiting for the green light from Highways. There are additional fixing costs of approximately £18.00 and Cllrs asked to consider purchasing concrete slabs to stand the benches on. Lead time for delivery from Realise Futures is 2 weeks from point of order. Agreed to approach Jon Hines regarding installation as he is the preferred contractor of the parish council for village maintenance projects. It was pointed out that the other quotes received are considerably more expensive by almost double in some cases.

Suggested Locations: Falconer Avenue on the grass segment by the footpath. Other suggested areas are Rookery Close or adjacent to the noticeboard on Finningham Road or by Greenacres. Cllr Clements to investigate if a licence is required for street furniture. Cllr Clements proposed that we purchase two benches with fixings from Realise Futures and ringfence £700 from parish council funds in addition to the £500 received from MSDC locality fund in order to allocate funds to pay for them. This was seconded by Cllr Goudy and unanimously agreed. Cllr Clements to make an update report at the March meeting.

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

Cabinet confirms budget proposals - On 23 January, the Conservative Cabinet at Suffolk County Council confirmed the final budget proposals for 2018-19. These proposals will be debated at a Council meeting on 8 February, where all councillors will vote on them. Along with the rest of the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group, I am very concerned by a number of the cuts proposed as part of the Conservative's savings plan. These are outlined below:

- **£12m cuts to Adult Care** - The adult care budget is already very stretched, predicting a £3.47m overspend on their current 2017-18 budget. Adult social care is currently facing immense pressures, including increased demographic demand, changing customer expectations and a stressed care provider market. Despite this, the council is proposing cuts of £12m to the budget in 2018-19. This is divided into an £11m cut from the care purchasing budget, and a £1m cut from the Sheltered Housing Grant.
- **£20,000 cut to Citizens Advice** - Cutting the budget of the valuable Citizens Advice service is a short-sighted decision, that will likely cost the council more in the long term. An analysis of the impact of Citizens Advice services shows that, for every £1 invested in 2016/17, £1.96 in savings to government and public services were generated. By intervening in problems early on, Citizens Advice helps to reduce the need for public services such as health, housing and out-of-work benefits, whilst also improving the wellbeing, participation and productivity of the people they help. The Council themselves acknowledge how important the Citizens Advice service in Suffolk is, stating "the return on investment for Citizens Advice is high and the service prevents demand reaching the County Council through its recognised contribution to mental health and wellbeing." Furthermore, our Citizens Advice services are reporting an increase in the number of people requiring advice and support. Now is clearly not the time to be cutting their funding.
- **£15,000 cut to Greenways Countryside Project** - The Greenways Countryside Project exists to protect and enhance the countryside in and around Ipswich and relies on volunteers to complete its valuable conservation work. Many of these volunteers gain a strong sense of purpose from being involved in the project, and the project is a valuable resource for promoting positive mental health and wellbeing. Greenways currently receives £15,000 funding from the County Council, which accounts for over 10% of the projects total expenditure. However, this funding will be removed entirely in the 2018-19 budget.
- **Rural transport cuts** - £150,000 will be cut from the sponsored bus services budget, which will result in a reduced number of rural bus services. I am concerned that this will target some of our most vulnerable residents and increase rural isolation. There is currently no more information on which services could be affected by this cut. However, the Council has pledged to work with local councillors on this and I will keep you updated.

Increased hourly funding rate for childcare providers - On 11 January, the Schools Forum decided that the base hourly rate for providers should increase to £4.00 (previously £3.87), whilst the amount retained by Suffolk County Council should reduce to 3.8% (6.3%). You may remember that, back in October 2017, my group supported a motion which called on Suffolk County Council to increase the amount of funding that was passed on to providers. We also criticised the lack of transparency over how the council was spending the £2m of funding that it retained centrally. Unfortunately, the Conservative majority refused to listen to the concerns of providers, campaigners and councillors, and voted against the motion in October. They made it very clear that an increase in funding was not an option. This change therefore is a complete U-turn by the Council and is a step in the right direction. However, childcare providers across the county have warned us that £4.00 an hour still is not enough to keep their businesses afloat and viable in the future. More will need to be done, by Suffolk County Council and central government, to support providers if the government's "30 hours free childcare" policy is to be a success.

SCC will be borrowing £21m to pay for road resurfacing - Suffolk County Council are planning to borrow an additional £21m over the next three years, to pay for road resurfacing. The plan is to resurface 1,000 miles of roads by March 2021. However, this accounts for only 25% of the road network in Suffolk, and so will only scratch the surface. It is also worrying to see that the Council are planning to cut the highway maintenance budget in 2018-19. In particular, they are proposing a cut of £300,000 to the winter maintenance budget by reducing the amount of gritting carried out in the winter months. There is little point in borrowing £21m to resurface Suffolk roads, if the Council are not willing to invest the necessary funding for road maintenance.

Final few weeks of school transport consultation - The school transport consultation will end on 28 February 2018, and I would urge you all to respond – the consultation can be found here: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel>. I am strongly against the proposals, and I am very concerned by the lack of financial evidence in the consultation documentation. A change in policy will harm rural families, it will increase congestion and pollution, and it could destroy some of our county's best schools. Please make sure you take this opportunity to tell leaders at Suffolk County Council what you think. There is also an online petition against the changes, which has received over 7500 signatures to date. It is one of the largest petitions received by the council, and it will be presented at a Council meeting on 8 February. If you have signed this petition, please also respond to the official consultation, as these are the only responses that Suffolk County Council will be analysing. If you would like any further information or want to discuss the implications of the new policy, please contact me by phone or email.

Planning approved for a new heritage centre in Ipswich - On 16 January, the Development Control Committee approved a scheme to build a new heritage centre near the Ipswich Waterfront. This will be known as "The Hold". It will house the bulk of Suffolk's archival collections and will also include teaching spaces for the University of Suffolk. The project is expected to cost £20m. Funding has been received from the county council, the University of Suffolk, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Wolfson Foundation. However, it is not yet clear what impact this will have on the Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds Records Offices. There is concern that all records could be moved to The Hold in Ipswich, preventing easy access to archives for residents in other parts of the county.

- The proposed works on Chapel Road is possibly for water mains.
- Cllr Baker thanked Cllr Stringer for his time and help on the school transport plan.

17. Grit Bins – Prices – Discussion

Realise Futures also do grit bins. There are several ideas that are being circulated. The Clerk and Cllr Clements have provided some samples of what is available. Cllr Arnold has purchased one for £60 to show the council. They could be removed during the summer time and stored as they stack inside each other. Proposal that the parish council reimburses Cllr Arnold and we purchase an additional 3 more. This was seconded and all Cllrs present agreed. Cllr Arnold agreed to place the order to be invoiced to the parish council via the clerk.

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

- Street name sign is falling down at the shoulder of mutton and also the street name sign on Silver Street reported.
- Cllr Baker reported that the open day at the village hall was well supported and attended.
- Footpath sign on Brown Street – Cllr Arnold has done a temporary repair on the one by the Neat House. Cllr Arnold will do a repair on the other one that is down on Brown Street.
- Confirmed that the bridal way towards Cotton is not our parish responsibility.
- Cllr Harbidge – temporary give way sign is still at the end of School Road.

19. Public Forum – Nothing to report

20. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the March 2018 meeting.

- Benches working party update
- Speed SID unit report
- DPO Update
- Planning Training Joint venture with Bacton

21. Date of the next Parish Council meeting – The March Meeting will take place on Wednesday 7th March 2018.

Meeting closed at 21.47hrs