

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

Present: Cllrs J Miller (Chair), T Arnold, M Reeve, R Lawson, J Harbidge, M Shave, K Goudy, M Clements (Vice Chair), K Baker, 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.** Cllr Stringer needs to leave the meeting early to be able to attend Mendlesham's parish council meeting. Chairman proposed that Planning Applications and Cllr Stringers report be brought forward to point 5. 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 Lawson – Planning for Applewhite House, as he has already submitted his comments he has agreed to leave when the Parish Council discuss this application.
4. **To approve the minutes of the February meeting held on 7th February 2018.** It was Proposed and seconded to approve the minutes and they were signed accordingly by the Chairman.
5. **MSDC Planning Applications Received**

- **DC/18/00422** – Erection of 2No flats over existing shop – Old Newton Village Shop, 18 Finningham Road, Old Newton.

Meeting closed to allow a member of the public to speak to the parish council. Mr Howard – neighbouring property owner had concerns that his bedroom window will be staring at a brick wall approximately 12ft away. This will reduce the light coming in to Mr Howards room. Mr Howard was also concerned that the foundations may not be suitable. With regard to the foundations MSDC Planning will have this covered under building regulations. Mr Howard and Mr Patel have agreed that Mr Patel will honour the agreement to move Mr Howard's window and pay for any remedial works. Parking is deemed acceptable as far as Highways are concerned. The main comments from residents are lack of privacy and car parking. The application has not submitted any car parking. Mr Patel confirmed that he has not requested parking as he already has space for 4 / 5 vehicles which is adequate.

The shop has to be kept as a viable business and Cllr Baker felt the parish council should support this. A S106 agreement would need to be served if parish council are to request a condition to ensure Mr Howard's property has the light and window alterations and any remedial works to be paid for by the applicant as verbally agreed. Cllr Clements proposed to accept the application with the S106 served regarding Mr Howards request for window alterations. Seconded by Cllr Baker, 1 abstention, all other Cllrs were in favour – Application approved by majority vote.

- **DC/18/00599** – Outline Planning Application. (Access and Appearance to be considered) Erection of 2no detached dwellings Location: Land Adjacent To Apple White House, Finningham Road, Old Newton.

Cllr Lawson left the meeting. Cllrs identified anomalies within the plans and drawings from the no of bedrooms and block plans and Holly Lodge wrongly identified as another recently approved site for development so the maps and drawings were deemed inaccurate. Cllrs pointed out however that the parish council are at this point only considering the outline planning application for access and appearance and any finite detail could be dealt with at the time of full application. The access has been an issue raised previously in relation to this site. In addition, the site shows the B1113 as a straight road and in actual fact this application is on the bend and this is a blind corner. A total of 6 on-site parking spaces were identified on the previous application also there was garage and turning space but nothing has been identified on the new application. The proposed access is going to be immediately opposite a new site that was given on appeal with the understanding of the need of a turning space within the curtilage of the site. Cllrs felt this needed to be addressed with this application too. As an outline application the Parish Council are being asked if Cllrs agree this piece of land is suitable for two dwellings – The parish council could agree providing there is adequate turning space but Cllrs also felt that the site previously supported by the Parish Council for one property could possibly be cramped with two properties and the splay for the new access is deemed not suitable and could be potentially congested with

multiple entrances onto the road. It was proposed and seconded that the parish council should refuse this application as it seems that the road alignment restricts highway visibility splays to distances which are significantly below that required. Intensification of use would have a severe impact on existing highways safety contrary to the NPPF and the development plan policy T10 refers. All in favour with 1 abstention. Application Refused by majority vote.

- Re-consultation of **DC/17/05524** – Planning Application- Change of use to B1 use with ancillary storage and stationing of portacabin as office - Old Bells Farm, Wassicks Lane, Haughley.

The property is in Haughley with the access via Old Newton. There has been a lot of activity online regarding this application. The work currently being undertaken does not take into account that the applicants workforce do not work directly from the applicants address. Parish Council concern is solely relevant to the access. Cllrs previous comments with regard to this application are still valid. It was acknowledged that vehicle movement with reference to the applicants' business is small and that Haughley PC have rejected this application regarding concerns over access. Many complaints are regarding safety concerns due to lorries potentially using the site. If the planning permission is granted it is in place for whoever owns / uses the property moving forward. Cllrs proposal to stick with Parish council original submission, however an amendment to include point 19 of the applicants own planning statement restrictions to be put in place. Prevention of Class 1 HGV articulated vehicles visiting the yard, limit the number of Class 2 lorries to a maximum of 6 per week and no more than 15 per month; limit lorry movements to 07.30 - 17.00 Monday - Friday and 07.30 - 13.00 on Saturdays with no working on Sundays or Bank Holidays with a vehicle log to be kept of all lorry movements and all companies be sent an access route plan with no access permitted via Silver Street. (Para 19 conditions adhered to). The proposal was to approve the application if the vehicular restrictions were adhered to and with this amendment the application was seconded. 5 Cllrs voted in favour, 3 abstained. Application was approved by majority vote but only if the above restrictions are adhered to otherwise the Parish Council were against this application.

Possible request for Mr Robinson to install some signage if approved by MSDC to address no access via Silver Street.

- **Re-consultation on 1866/17 – 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.**

The clerk read a letter received from LSK who are advising the Stearn family. Although the site is not the parish council preferred site for housing development within the village area and sufficient houses to meet the villages needs could be constructed on more appropriate and available sites and yet the site is still progressing. The applicants have adapted their plans to accommodate some of what has been requested. They are retaining the views, the trees, they are protecting the Moat and the heritage site. They are looking at putting bungalows on the back of Falconer avenue to avoid current residents feeling overlooked. Cllr Shave felt that our points that have been made previously have been somewhat addressed.

Cllrs felt that the setting of this farmhouse and the moats is the most important aspect of this particular piece of land. This was strongly felt previously and Cllrs still felt that it should be preserved.

The application of 56 houses is still significantly in excess of our housing needs survey. The suggested changes to the application are appreciated by the Parish Council but the planned movement of houses on the site towards the Silver Street end of the land has increased the density per useable area and will not address the fear that Silver Street will be used for parking by residents who will live adjacent to that road. This will cause potential obstruction of an already narrow lane and highways safety risks.

The latest period of wet weather has highlighted the current water drainage problems in the Silver Street / Station Road area and this housing development can only worsen that drainage problem.

Increased traffic movements on the B1113 because of the proposed development site causes concern and the current infrastructure, including the small size of the village school is insufficient to deal with a development of this magnitude and there will therefore be a need for substantial upgrade of infrastructure facilities were this application to be granted.

It was felt that there is insufficient evidence that the new housing development will do no harm to this setting. On voting this application was proposed and seconded to object using the outlined points. There was one abstention, all other Cllrs voted in favour. Application objected by the parish council. The wording to be submitted to MSDC to be

discussed at a separate meeting to enable the meeting to move forward. Closing date for comments to MSDC is 16th March 2018.

- **DC/18/00622** - Planning Application - Erection of extensions to the east and west of the hall and a new entrance porch with internal layout changes - Location: Old Newton Village Hall, Church Road, Old Newton.

The plans appear to be mainly internal changes and the extension of the village hall and porch are to modernise and create better facilities for use by parishioners and for the parish as a whole. It was mentioned that there will be a loss of some car parking spaces, but it was felt that there is still the overspill car park that will accommodate the requirements of the village hall and Cllrs felt the parish council should support the proposed changes.

It was proposed and seconded to support the application and Councillors voted in favour by majority vote. 4 voted in favour, 3 abstentions and 1 objection. Village hall representative asked to feed back that the gate will need to be more accessible and lighting may need to be addressed.

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

Budget for 2018-19 confirmed - On Thursday 8 February, the Council met to debate the budget proposals for 2018-19. As Cllr Stringer explained in his previous report, the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group were concerned by a number of the proposed cuts. These included a £12m cut to adult care, funding reductions for Citizens Advice and Trading Standards, and cuts to rural bus services and therefore felt unable to support the budget. An amendment by the Labour group, which focused on reversing minor cuts, was voted down by the Conservative administration. The budget proposals were subsequently passed in full, but were not supported by any opposition councillors. The budget for 2018-19 includes a 4.99% increase in council tax.

Concerns raised over accountability and transparency of Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Board - The Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Board (SPSLB) is made up of council leaders and chief executives from across Suffolk, as well as the PCC, Chief Fire Officer and representatives from Suffolk's Clinical Commissioning Groups. The SPSLB controls a large pot of money, made up of £7.447m from the Suffolk business rates pool and £3.23m of central government funding received as part of the Transformation Challenge Award. The Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group are very concerned about the accountability and transparency of the SPSLB. Their meetings are held in private with no minutes and neither residents nor councillors are made aware of the group's decisions, financial or otherwise. Given the vast amount of money they control, this secrecy is very concerning. At the end of January, a meeting with the Interim Chief Executive at Suffolk County Council to query why there is so little accountability within the SPSLB. Cllr Stringer has been informed, due to the queries raised that the SPSLB will be reconsidering its governance arrangements. Cllr Stringer will keep the parish council informed of any further updates.

Next phase of "Raising the Bar" strategy announced - The Cabinet has approved the Raising the Bar 2018-20 strategy. This is the third phase of the programme, which began in 2012 and is focused on improving educational standards throughout Suffolk. The new strategy will focus on three priorities:

1. Exceptional leadership and governance across the education sector
2. Excellence in teaching and learning, driven by system led improvement and innovation
3. The best opportunities for every child and young person

The strategy also includes the very ambitious goal to place the education system in Suffolk among the top 25% nationally. No other "shire" authority has achieved this, and the report acknowledges that it would likely take several years to reach this goal. Cllr Stringer is concerned that no new funding has been allocated to this phase of the Raising the Bar programme. The goals of the strategy are ambitious and will not be achievable without adequate investment, and so Cllr Stringer is questioning whether the Cabinet are fully committed to improving educational outcomes in Suffolk.

Suffolk to set up an outcomes-based contract to support adolescents on the edge of care - Suffolk's Cabinet has agreed to set up a new outcomes-based contract, to provide intensive therapeutic support for adolescents at the edge of care via a private service provider. The idea is to reduce the need for and costs of adolescents coming into the care of Suffolk County Council, by providing intervention services that seek to keep children safely with their families. Payments will only be made if children are not taken into care or are returned to their families. The contract will be funded by a Social Impact Bond: this means that private investors will provide the start-up capital and running costs for the service and will receive a return on investment if the service is successful at keeping children out of care. A similar contract and service exists in Essex, and a small number of local authorities across the UK are beginning to implement similar contracts. Cllr Stringer is concerned about the use of a payment by results contract when vulnerable children are

involved, given the risk of putting profit ahead of the wellbeing of these children. Suffolk County Council have assured him that the authority's team of social workers will oversee the service and prevent this from happening, but the administrative costs of doing this properly could be substantial. The contract is due to be awarded in Summer 2018, with contract mobilisation from Autumn 2018.

New drone technology for managing blue light service incidents - On 15 February, it was announced that emergency services across Suffolk would have access to two Small Unmanned Surveillance Aircrafts. The technology, commonly referred to as drones, has been developed and funded by Suffolk Resilience Forum for use across the county. As part of a multi-agency Air Support Unit, the drones will be used by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue and Norfolk & Suffolk 4x4 Response. The drones will provide a range of aerial surveillance options to support these emergency services and voluntary organisations.

- Gritting – When the snow started last Tuesday the school was closed and could not open as the road was not gritted. Cllr Stringer requested that should this happen again that he be informed immediately so that any remedial actions can be put into place immediately rather than waiting for the next meeting to report it.
- Falconer avenue – Pot holes are not deep enough to qualify for repair at present, however Cllr Stringer is very aware of the state of the road and will continue to lobby for this to be repaired on our behalf.
- Silver Street – Water and drainage issues – Cllr Stringer will continue to focus on this on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Cllr Stringer updated the Parish Council on the progress on the school transport issues and confirmed that it has been called for the council to act in an assembly to make a resolution for the cabinet to take account. A motion has been made for a debate on the issue. Cllr Stringer will continue to update the Parish Council.

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

Silver award – Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils were awarded the silver award for Council of the Year and the Working Together award in London last night for their outstanding work on the All Together programme. The awards celebrate the best in local public services

ComRes have now completed their survey, councillors will be briefed at the end of March. There is good evidence of support for the merger from Mid Suffolk residents.

Boundary Review- This has come back again for a further consultation as they have moved wards around a little from last time as they made an error with Haughley and Stowmarket. Cllr Wilshaw hasn't had too much time to look at the review document but if Councillors would like to make any further comments please go to the website – local government boundary commission for England.

Laxfield - MSDC have just completed 6 new affordable homes in Laxfield which are having their grand opening on Friday.

Resident involvement – Because of a study into the Tenants Forum and the Joint Housing Board which have both been disbanded because nothing was happening with it. There has been a consultation going on with residents of Mid Suffolk and Babergh to get them involved in the management of the landlord service. The proposals of this will be completed next month.

Merger – Babergh have made a binding referendum but have not agreed to pay for it.

8. MSDC Planning Decisions Received – None to report

9. Clerks Report

- Crier submission was submitted for March 2018 edition.
- RTI submission was submitted for the month.
- 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 village website has been upgraded and the Clerk has spent some time updating some of the information available including notice regarding the open gardens event in June and update of the cemetery policies and fees, minutes and agendas and upload of Cllr

Baker's photo onto the "Know Your Councillor's" document. There appears to be an issue with the calendar and how it is displaying but this has been referred back to CAS for assistance.

- ONEG / ONWOODS have failed to cash the cheques issued by the parish council over the last 12 months and have returned them asking for a new cheque to be issued for the total value. Apologies have been received and moving forward they have put plans in place, so this does not happen again. Cheque submitted for replacement at tonight's meeting for the value of £366.46.
- Clerk has been receiving road works notification emails that have been forwarded to all Cllrs on email. There are scheduled road works for Church Road, Old Newton, Suffolk 12 March — 19 March **Delays possible** Traffic control (multi-way signals) Works location: O/S 23 Works description: EXCAVATION ON BROKEN SEWER PIPE IN C/WAY CAUSING BLOCKAGES.... Responsibility for works: Anglian Water Current status: Advanced planning Works reference: AD037SM54427346.
- Planning responses were issued to MSDC by the deadline for comments. There was a slight misunderstanding regarding DC/17/06200 as this was assumed during the meeting that this was the full application for land owned by Applewhite house, this land was in fact owned by a neighbour, the submission was edited slightly in order to make sense and submitted as below:

Please use this consultation comment submitted on behalf of the parish council. The original comment would have been relevant to the outline planning application already approved by the parish council DC/17/05506. There appeared to be slight confusion following discussions as Cllrs were not fully aware that this was a different application. The general comments remain unchanged.

This application was discussed at the February parish council meeting on 7th February 2018. Cllrs felt that the proposed development was in keeping to the area and neighbouring properties and is fully supported by local residents. The approval of the 40mph speed limit makes the whole area much safer and a similar application for the neighbouring plot of land has been previously approved as an outline application by the parish Council, there was no reason for objection or refusal. It was proposed and seconded to accept the application and approved by unanimous vote.

- **Police Report**

January 2018	1 x vehicle crime on or near Knights Close 1 x vehicle crime on or near Falconer Avenue 2 x violence and sexual offences on or near Greenacres
February 2018	February Data not available at time of print. As usual the crime statistics are approximately 6 weeks out of date.

10. Financial matters & Financial report

Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays February Statement Balance **£20,415.83** (27.02.18)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,377.78** (01.01.18)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£253.38** (01.01.18)

Accounts for payment – February 2018:

- KAREN PRICE - Salary February includes holiday pay, expenses and less tax & NI and pension = **£808.61**
- HMRC – PAYE NI & Tax – Employee £12.80, Employer £14.72 = **£27.52**
- NEST Pension Contribution **DDR** – employee £6.29, employer £7.87 = **£14.16**
- Mr Tony Arnold – Grit bin purchased as sample - **£80.39**
- Gritbins.net – 3 x additional grit bins - **£215.96**
- Karen Price – Avast Antivirus for Parish Council Laptop **£39.99**
- MSDC – Annual service charge for garden waste collection – Cemetery **£50.00**
- Realise Futures – New Noticeboards **£2,138.40**
- ONEG / Onwoods – Litter Pick Hrs – replacement cheque **£366.46**

Monies Received – February 2018: None banked (Feb)

- COOP Cemetery Fees – Tony Pinner £50.00 (Payslip 100100 paid in March)
- Andrew Bingham Cemetery Fees – Wendy Elaine Dunn £200.00 (Payslip 100100 paid in March)

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

Correspondence Received & Circulars:

- Parishioner letter regarding large lorries on Chapel Road. Chairman has spoken to the resident and explained that the lorry movements were for a farmer regarding sugar beet.
- Local Government Boundary Commission
- Mid Suffolk CAB Letter
- War Graves Event – 8th November 2018

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

- 11. Broadband Update – Cllr Arnold.** Email received from BT Open Reach have now noted the complaints Cllr Arnold has previously put forward.
- 12. Data Protection (DPO) Update –** A Data Protection Officer still needs to be appointed for May 2018. We have received information from SALC and the costs from their outsourced agency has been reduced considerably but is still £600 yr 1 and £300 yr2. The Clerk does not believe this is the only option and is looking at Jayne Cole – LPCAS as I believe on this occasion 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 least for the first year and then we could review it. It is likely that things will change as we move through this new legislation. Stowupland have decided to go with the DPO through SALC but at a lower category which is £220 yr 1 and £100 yr 2 as they do not believe the higher categories were proportionate to them. This is something that we could look to do. Mendlesham and Bacton are going with Jayne Cole. Clerk to have comparable information for the April meeting.
- 13. Training – Joint Planning Training with Bacton Parish Council –** Jayne Cole has offered us 25th and 26th April as suggested dates for the joint planning training with Bacton PC. 25th April is the scheduled date for the Annual Parish Meeting – awaiting a second date. The training will take place over two evenings. Clerk to inform all Cllrs once dates / venues are confirmed.
- 14. School Parking / Infrastructure / Road Signage -** Lack of gritting. Meeting to discuss the school travel plan and still no feedback from SCC regarding the replacement road markings that were promised.
- 15. Highways / Speed Monitoring –** Cllr Clements gave an update regarding the speed camera. Over 2000 sheets of data – A total number of 101,611 vehicles have been recorded over a 14 week period. The police use an average percentile speed and for Old Newton it is registered at 34.5 Average speed of 27.6m/phr. Vehicles coming from Stow are slower than those coming from Bacton and the highest was 80mph recorded late one evening and nothing has been recorded at 70mph or 60mph. It has now been turned off but it is still recording to see if the sign flashing makes a difference. It will be interesting to see comparison data when its available. The Chairman thanked Cllr Clements for his continued work on this project.
- 16. Benches – Working Party Update – Cllr Clements.**
Cllr Clements reported that he is waiting for the green light from highways for confirmation that the parish council are ok to site two public benches within the village. Extra £290 quote received to put the concrete bases in-place. There will also be an additional £30 delivery charge. This was accepted by Councillors. Suggested Locations and Cllrs preferred options are Falconer Avenue on the grass segment by the footpath and the area by the village sign. Other suggested areas are Rookery Close or by Greenacres. Full decision to be made at the April meeting.
- 17. Councillors Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council**
 - Thanks to everyone who went out of their way to keep our roads clear and the excellent community spirit showed during the bad spate of weather we endured last week. Clerk to report this in the Crier.
 - Village support for involvement with summer Fair in July. Village Fete requires help on the day for Summer Fete, all offers of assistance will be gratefully received. Clerk to include in the Crier.

- Consistent problems with dog fouling again – complaints from Village Hall Committee and also from the Pre-school. Warden for dog mess was used and within 24hrs it had been cleared. Cllr Baker asked if we could possibly get some signage perhaps some more amusing signs etc. Timing of offenders seems to be late in the evening and during darker hours. Request for some signs and pricing to be included as an agenda item for the April meeting.
- There is presently an issue with car parking at the village hall and there will be some signs going up asking parishioners to please respect the facility is a private car park and the Village Hall Committee can't continue to allow the use of the car park to be abused.
- Pre-school are doing a collection for bags to schools. Cllr Baker has some bags if anyone would like some.
- Cllr Arnold – has made some enquiries regarding an original footpath leaflet to no avail but Cllr Miller thinks he may have one that we can copy and re-issue.
- Chairman has apologised for the lateness of the meeting and thanked everyone for their contributions.

18. Public Forum

- Observation made that members of the public gallery can't always hear when Cllrs are speaking. Noted by Cllrs.

19. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the April 2018 meeting.

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

20. Date of the next Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 4th April 2018. The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 25th April at 7.30pm. Clerk to invite all village groups and organisations to provide a report for the meeting. Clerk to provide light refreshments for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Meeting closed at 22.12hrs