

Wednesday 4th April 2018 at Old Newton Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Miller (Chair), T Arnold, M Reeve, R Lawson, J Harbidge, K Goudy, M Clements (Vice Chair), K Hall-Price (Clerk), District Cllr J Wilshaw, County Councillor A Stringer and 0 members of the public.

- 1. Chairman's welcome to the meeting and to receive any apologies for absence.** Apologies received from Cllr Mike Shave and Cllr Kerry Baker for tonight's meeting. Cllr Stringer will be late as he has Mendlesham's meeting to attend first. Chairman proposed to leave Cllr Stringer to the end of the meeting or when he arrives, this was seconded and 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 February meeting held on 7th March and extra meeting of 16th March 2018.** It was proposed and seconded to approve the minutes and they were signed accordingly by the Chairman.
- 5. Clerks report following previous meeting.**
 - Crier submission was submitted for April 2018 edition.
 - RTI submission was submitted for the month.
 - Nest Pension submission was completed.
 - All cheques for payment have been issued.
 - The Clerk has submitted a VAT re-claim for the amount of £1,658.67.
 - The Clerk has also submitted the request for payment for the Cleansing Grant Litter pick hrs for Qtr ending March 2018 for £117.75.
 - All information, minutes and agenda have been uploaded onto the village website.
 - Planning responses were issued to MSDC by the deadline for comments.
 - The letters, emails and notices are done inviting village groups to the Annual Parish Meeting on 25th April.
 - **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	1 x violence and sexual offence on or near Greenacres 1 x Burglary on or near Netherhall Close
March 2018	March Data not available at time of print. As always the crime statistics are approximately 6 weeks out of date.

Update Crier – Police information and village websites with the SNT newsletters.

There has been a series of burglaries / attempts in Brown Street during the night of 26th March / morning of 27th March 2018. Attempts to break in garages and outbuildings with some damage caused.

Police have issued information regarding ATM ram raid offences in Suffolk. Offenders are ramming stores with stolen vehicles / JCB's and dragging the ATM machines away. They have targeted COOP stores in Long Melford, Rickingham, Great Cornard, Lavenham and Debenham. Other offences have taken place in Great Barton, Lakenheath and Trimley St Martin. Police are working closely with the Crime Prevention and Eastern Region Serious Organised Crime Unit (ERSOU) and have made three arrests.

Police are appealing for witnesses to a serious sexual assault in Stowmarket over the weekend. Detectives are appealing for anyone who was in the vicinity of the Recreation Ground on Sunday 1st April between 1.30am – 2.30am to contact them.

The latest newsletter has been printed for Cllrs information and can be found on the Stowmarket SNT website.

- 6. Data Protection Officer - DPO** – Data Protection Officer still needs to be appointed for May 2018. Clerk attended a clerks' networking training day on 22nd March where this was a hot topic. As long as the Parish Council have appointed a DPO and can prove working towards compliance, this is acceptable. The Jayne Cole option is still an unknown package to us as we are not currently doing any business with Jayne Cole. The SALC option does appear to be extremely comprehensive. The clerk has looked into the various packages and we can downgrade the level of cover being offered through the DPO offered through SALC to a category 2 level of cover for £220 for the first year with reduced costs for the second year. This is a two-year option that the Parish Council would be signing up for. This is what Stowupland PC have done and will still provide a detailed audit and prove compliance in terms of the new legislation. This is also cheaper than the cover offered by Jayne Cole £250 - £300 for the year. The issue is the level of cover and the Clerk believes that we will not need the top level of cover but if we do require additional cover we could always upgrade if that becomes evident. If agreement to go ahead with DPO the Clerk will be invited to attend a training session with other Parish Councils to implement the changes / recommendations for the Parish Council. Proposal to go with the offer from SALC at the lower category 2 level - seconded and all in favour.
- 7. Financial matters & Financial report** - The new finance audit pack with the dates for completion has arrived. We will need to have our accounts signed off at the June meeting at the latest to keep us within the timescales set by PKF – Little John Auditors. There is some confusion over the dates set as one set of dates are 2nd July – 13th July and the other is 4th June – 13th July. If the latter dates are correct we will need to move these dates as the public rights dates have to be after the accounts have been finalised and approved at the parish council meeting scheduled for 6th June and 4th June will render us non-compliant. Clerk has been in contact and is awaiting clarification. Work will commence on the year end accounts with immediate effect and the Parish Council will be kept fully updated over the next parish council meetings and the finance committee will meet following the conclusion of the internal audit. Trevor Brown, our appointed internal auditor has been approached for an internal audit date in May – Date to be confirmed.

Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays March Statement Balance **£17,748.09** (29.03.18)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,377.78** (01.01.18)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£253.38** (01.01.18)

Accounts for payment – March 2018:

- KAREN PRICE - Salary March includes holiday pay, expenses and less tax & NI and pension = **£931.22**
- HMRC – PAYE NI & Tax – Employee £25.77, Employer £29.63 = **£55.40**
- NEST Pension Contribution **DDR** – employee 3% £22.01, employer 2% **£18.34 = £40.35**
- Suffolk County Council – Streetlight maintenance and energy costs **£1,216.89**
- Scarff Farms – Allotment land rent **£420.00**
- SALC – Clerks Network Training Day **£19.20**
- Cllr A Arnold – Grit Bins – replacement cheque. £80.39

Monies Received – March 2018:

- 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)
- COOP Cemetery Fees – Raymond Long **£50.00** (Payslip 100101)
- COOP Cemetery Fees – Harold Sutton **£50.00** (payslip 100101)
- COOP Cemetery Fees – Ethel Sutton **£50.00** (payslip 100101)
- COOP Cemetery Fees – Florence Sutton **£50.00** (payslip 100101)
- COOP Cemetery Fees – Alfred Sutton **£50.00** (payslip 100101)
- MSDC – Cleansing Grant money owed from 2017 **£283.80** – we owe ONWOODS £107.94 of this for the qtr ending December 2017.
- ONGAA – Allotment rent received £420.00 (payslip 100102 – paid in April)
- COOP Cemetery Fees – Trevor Cobbold **£50.00** (payslip 100102 – paid in April)

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

8. Correspondence Received & Circulars:

- **Local Boundary Commission** – Electoral Review of Mid Suffolk – Consultation closes 30th April 2018
- **Letter received from Parishioner** – Reference to complaining about installation of mobile phone antennae. The name on this letter was not legible and therefore the clerk can't respond.
- **Phone call** – Request from parishioner if there are any objections to planting of some bulbs and plants around the village sign. Clerk to respond. Proposed and seconded – Yes.
- **SCC** – Parishes of Haughley and Old Newton – Station Road, St Mary's Avenue and Windgap Lane – prohibition of heavy commercial vehicles over 7.5 tonnes order 2018

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

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

No official report submitted, Cllr Wilshaw asked if there were any questions from Cllrs. The Boundary Review consultation has come back out as an error was made with the boundaries of some parishes. They are listening to comments' so it is worth submitting your views and opinions.

MSDC and Babergh working together is still not sorted. Babergh called a referendum but have no money available to pay for it. MSDC are waiting for a decision to be able to move forward – The two councils are currently already working as virtually one council but MSDC have stated that they will not be bailing Babergh out.

Highways – Cllr Wilshaw has made official complaints and has had a go regarding the state of our roads and the fact they fail to respond to Cllr Wilshaw's email complaints'.

Needham Market Council Offices are consulting on the way forward for this piece of land. The listed part will be converted to residential flats, there are options to build some homes and a care home or a supermarket and some homes. MSDC have held two public consultation events.

10. Broadband Update – Cllr Arnold.

Two outstanding situations to resolve. Apparently two properties have been connected to the wrong network. Still on-going. BT Open Reach database appears to be out of date. Frustrating.

11. Planning Applications Received

- **DC/18/01165** – Householder Planning Application - Erection of side conservatory at 31 Church Road, Old Newton. Confirmed no comments received from parishioners. Proposed to accept this application. All Cllrs in favour.
- **DC/18/01030** - Householder Planning Application - Erection of two storey rear extension (following demolition of existing single storey extension) at 1 Farfield, Brown Street, Old Newton. It will be a much more substantial property and will be symmetrical with next door. Proposed to accept seconded and all Cllrs in favour.

12. Planning Decisions from MSDC

- **Appeal Ref: APP/W3520/W/17/3183649 – Colt Meadow Farm, School Road, Old Newton, Suffolk.** The appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted for the erection of dwelling and cartlodge for manager of the pig unit at Colt Meadow Farm, School Road.

13. School Parking / Infrastructure / Road Signage -

Cllr Clements has been doing some research. Frustrated with highways. Drainage has been completed but the anti-slip, safety barrier and signage has still not been done. Cllr Clements has officially made a complaint. Should have a response by the May meeting.

Parking at the school was discussed with what was offered which was deemed not enough to make enough of a difference. It was discussed if a different piece of land could be offered. It was agreed to wait until Cllr Baker is here and look at how the Parish Council move forward with the School. The Parish Council would be looking to get a much bigger piece of land. There are 45 cars regularly parking around the school. The Parish Council need to establish where the school are and have all the facts before speaking again with any land owners.

The Downs footpath is very muddy down to the boardwalk, complaints of dog mess again. Clerk to speak to Glen French regarding possible signs for dog mess on footpaths. Look at including the email address from Cllr Baker on the village website and in the Crier for reporting Dog Fouling that needs to be cleared.

14. Highways / Speed Monitoring –

Switching the sign off and back on again – The data will be available for the May meeting. It is working and slowing people down. Once the 40mph is enforced on B1113, this will enhance

slowing people down. Highways have not done anything – Cllr Stringer was going to push the order and will hopefully get this sorted sooner than later.

15. **Benches – Working Party Update – Cllr Clements.** Permission has now been granted for the suggested positioning of the new village benches. Once the pads are done the benches can be ordered and we should have our two new benches by the end of May. First one is 6.5yds from Falconer Avenue and the second is approximately 10 yards from the corner of Station Road. These are the sites that Highways have approved. It may be worthwhile looking to purchase waste bins and providing budgeted funds for next year. It was proposed and seconded to accept the positioning and to instruct Jonathan Hines to complete the preparation works.
16. **Tree Warden – Representative.** Roger Stearn is wishing to stand down from the position. Clerk has received some information regarding the Spring Forum which will take place on Saturday 14th April at Denham, Eye. This can be a member of the Parish Council or can be offered to a member from ONWOODS. Agreed to offer to ONWOODS in the first instance. Chairman to speak to Philip Groom.
17. **Grit Bins – Update.** Cllr Arnold has now taken delivery of a further three grit bins and they will be stored with Cllr Arnold until they will be deployed for the autumn.

18. To receive County Councillor’s Report – Mr Andrew Stringer

Councillors denied the chance to debate final school transport proposals - On 22 March, the Conservative majority at Suffolk County Council voted against a motion that would have allowed all councillors the chance to debate and vote on the final school transport proposals, before the Cabinet makes a decision in June. The cross-party motion, proposed by Labour and seconded by the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group, called for an extraordinary Council meeting to debate and hold a non-binding vote on the final proposals. This would have given councillors who represent the most affected areas, from across the political spectrum, the chance to have their say and raise their concerns.

Cllr Stringer is deeply disappointed that this motion did not receive the support of the council. It is very strange that Conservative councillors have denied themselves the opportunity to fully represent those who elected them. From the very beginning, the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group have fought against these proposals. There is deep concern that a change in school transport policy will not achieve any significant savings, whilst causing untold harm to rural educational outcomes.

New Chief Executive announced - Suffolk County Council has appointed a new chief executive, Nicola Beach, following a unanimous recommendation by the authority’s Staff Appointments Committee and decision by the full council. Nicola, who is currently executive director of infrastructure and environment at Essex County Council, will join SCC this summer. Sue Cook will continue in her role as Interim Chief Executive until this time, when she will return to her role as corporate director of health, wellbeing and children’s services.

Respublica commissioned to examine options for public sector reform in Suffolk - Cllr Noble, Leader of Suffolk County Council, announced that he has commissioned Respublica to look at public sector reform in Suffolk. The think-tank will examine the current arrangements for public service delivery in Suffolk and will report back on the merits of making a bid to the government for a reformed system. The review will look once again at the possibility of a unitary county council in Suffolk. However, Cllr Noble has also insisted that other options will be considered, such as East and West Suffolk unitaries, an option including a Greater Ipswich unitary council, or enhancing the existing two-tier system. County and district/borough councillors were not consulted, and the announcement has not been well-received by the leaders of Ipswich Borough Council and Waveney District Council. The review is expected to cost £68,000.

Potholes – funding boost and rise in insurance claims - Potholes continue to be a key issue for councillors and residents alike. There are two significant updates this month:

- 1) Following the bad weather in February and March, Suffolk County Council has received £2.5m of additional funding from the Government to help with road repairs. Suffolk Highways are encouraging residents to report potholes using the reporting tool (available at highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk) and have already received over 11,000 reports in 2018. However, concerns have been raised by some councillors and residents who have been informed by the online tool that a pothole has been repaired, when in fact the work has not been carried out. If you experience this, please let Cllr Stringer know so that he can inform the Cabinet Member for Highways of the problem.
- 2) Insurance claims against Suffolk County Council due to “carriageway surface defects”, such as potholes, have risen in recent years, from 363 in 2013 to 647 in 2017. A total of 2239 claims were made in this five-year period,

but 84.7% of these were successfully defended by the council. Despite this, between 2013 and 2017, Suffolk County Council paid out £226,432 in compensation and legal fees.

Suffolk County Council's gender pay gap remains significant - Suffolk County Council's pay report revealed that, although the Council employs nearly three times as many women as men, there is still a significant gender pay gap in favour of men. The County Council's mean gender pay gap is 14.8%, whilst the median pay gap is 18.6%. In other words, although Suffolk County Council employs relatively few men, they are overrepresented in the better paid sectors and underrepresented in the less well-paid sectors. All the statistics refer to the average hourly pay rates of employees.

Suffolk Waste Partnership awarded £10,000 - The Suffolk Waste Partnership has been awarded £10,000 from the Government's Litter Innovation Fund, to run innovative local projects aimed at reducing litter.

The SWP plans to use the funding to:

- Trial new style litter bins at key layby locations and improve labelling and signage of litter bins along the A11, A12 and A14 in Suffolk.
- Trial new remote monitoring technology to help councils coordinate litter bin emptying more efficiently and effectively.
- Ensure that any person taken to court and convicted for a littering offence anywhere in Suffolk is named and shamed publicly.
- Run an awareness campaign to remind residents and visitors alike about the issues and the consequences of littering.
- Educate residents and businesses about how to prevent their waste inadvertently escaping their control and ending up as litter.

Cllrs feel that the pot hole repairs are just not acceptable - The holes are not filled in properly or sealed and therefore will not last. Hundred Lane is falling away into the ditch. Areas of Sandford Road are also collapsing. Cllr Stringer confirmed that subsistence of the road can be reported using the reporting tool on SCC website. The reporting tool will give a report number and you can look back at when they are logged and assessed or repaired and they usually provide a timeframe.

There is a for sale sign lying on the side of the road at the corner of Honeypot Lane, believed to have been put there during the recent litter pick with a view to it being collected – It is still there. Any incidents of Fly tipping should be reported to MSDC.

19. Planning Training – Joint training event with Bacton Parish Council – Jayne Cole has not come back with any additional dates – Not sure if this is due to Bacton Clerk or Jayne Cole. 25th April is the date for the Annual Parish Meeting which the Clerk had asked for additional or alternative dates – still awaiting dates. The training will take place over two evenings. Clerk to inform all Cllrs once dates / venues are confirmed.

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

- Cllr Clements – Letter from Libby Brooks regarding overflowing of the allotments. Anglian Water pumping station is flooding onto the Scarff Farms land. Scarff family need to be informed so they can report to Anglian Water as the land owners. Cllr Clements to go back to Mrs Brooks. Cllr Goudy is now aware but would be grateful if things that affect the Scarff land be reported directly to them.
- Parking of cars on the verge outside Greenacres is cutting up the verges. The verge would technically be highways along B1113, there is no drop kerb and is therefore illegal, SCC may be interested especially if damage is being caused to the kerb.
- Signage – Stowmarket Road sign has now gone – Clerk to report for replacement
- School / Highways – Drainage issues are being experienced within the school and are under investigation.
- Chapel Road drain by the nook was the only issue otherwise Chapel Road was fine during the recent rains.
- Cllr Harbidge to report the Silo to MSDC for lots of waste from their works plant being left littering along Station Road.
- Safeguarding Training at Blackbourne Community Centre advertised in the circulars file is free if any Cllrs wish to take up the offer.

21. Public Forum – Nothing raised

22. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the May 2018 meeting.

- Benches working party update

- Speed SID unit report
- DPO Update
- Planning Training Joint venture with Bacton
- Financial / Audit
- School / highways / infrastructure

23. Date of the next Parish Council meeting – The Annual Parish Meeting is Wednesday 25th April at 7.30pm. Clerk to provide light refreshments for the Annual Parish Meeting. The May meeting is the AGM of the Parish Council and will take place on Wednesday 2nd May 2018 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 21.28hrs