

Wednesday 5th December 2018 at Old Newton Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

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

1. **Chairman's welcome and to receive any apologies for absence** – Cllr M Shave submitted his apologies for the December and January meetings at the November meeting. Cllr Stringer will be arriving as soon as he can following an earlier meeting at Mendlesham.
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 November meeting held on 7th November 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 December 2018 edition.
 - RTI submission has been submitted.
 - Nest Pension submission has been submitted.
 - All cheques for payment have been issued.
 - All information, minutes and agenda have been uploaded onto the village website. The flower festival in June 2019 has been added onto the village website.
 - The 2019 dates have been issued to all Cllrs and Marian Keeble for the booking of the village hall, it is also on the website and on the noticeboard by the shop.
 - Clerk has asked the Editor of the Crier to update the police contact details.
 - The Final Boundary Review documents have been passed to government and are now out of the consultation period and cannot now be altered, the review covers wards and Old Newton falls within a ward as do many other villages. Previously we were in the Bacton Ward we will now be in the Haughley, Stowupland and Wetherden Ward.
 - Request for MSDC Locality Budget application has been completed but not yet submitted. Cllrs to decide how much we would like to request. Agreed to submit the request for a value of £500 towards the total project costs estimated at circa £800.00

Police Report / Crime Map Statistics

Crime Map Figures for September 2018 show 2 x Violence / Sexual offence on or near Netherall Close, 1 x Burglary on or near Knights Close. October and November data not available (04.12.18)

Police Connect messages received:

- Suffolk Police have been provided with extra resources to tackle the issue of speeding in the county in the form of additional officers and new cameras following the road safety week that took place from 19th November – 25th November 2018.
- Police are appealing for information from theft of lead from a building in Wetherden over the weekend 23rd November 2018.
- Police are also appealing for witnesses after a large amount of heating oil was stolen from a property in Wyverstone.
- Police are also warning residents of cold callers claiming to be from HMRC.

Cllr Arnold attended an event at Needham Market and has spoken to the police representative in attendance – Cllr Arnold has asked if the police would be able to attend our Annual Parish Meeting in April or another meeting in 2019. Clerk has provided the police with our 2019 meeting dates.

An issue with non-police attendance to a village hall party was raised. Police are suggesting in their own emails to Cllrs that the public should be reporting incidents and yet there were no police that were able to attend. Cllrs felt that the police response was not good enough but not sure what can be done.

6. Financial matters & Financial report

The bank forms that need to be signed off – Clerk needs all Finance Committee members to complete one section of the form tonight please. The clerk has obtained an online team within Barclays who will be able to assist the parish council with moving towards electronic banking.

Proposed draft budget raised again and will be submitted for approval at the January meeting to approve the precept figure.

Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays November Statement Balance **£27,274.14** (29.11.18)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,377.94** (31.09.18)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£253.40** (30.09.18)

- Public Works Loan – Annual Statement – Balance outstanding at 31.03.18 - **£31,434.72**

Accounts for payment – November 2018:

- KAREN PRICE - Salary November includes holiday pay, expenses and less tax & NI and pension = **£802.06**
- HMRC – PAYE NI & Tax – **Employee £9.01, Employer £10.36 = £19.37**
- NEST Pension Contribution **DDR** – employee 3% £18.66, employer 2% £15.55 = **£34.21**
- Adam Alexander – Cemetery Maintenance November - **£75.00**
- CGM Group – October 10th & 24th **£193.16**
- Community Action Suffolk – One Suffolk Website Hosting **£36.00**
- Zurich Insurance – Additional premium to cover revision of asset list and Schedule of cover **£63.46**
- Old Newton Village Hall – Room Hire 2019 - **£137.50**

Monies Received – November 2018:

- UKPN Wayleaves – Payslip 100107 **£12.48**
- Cemetery fees – Peter Haagar. Payslip 100108 **£50.00**
- Cemetery fees – Wendy Dunn. Payslip 100109 **£50.00**

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

7. Correspondence Received & Circulars:

- Pension Regulator – Notice of increased contributions from 6th April 2019.
- BMSDC Homes Strategy Consultation and draft homelessness reduction strategy – Closing date 7th December
- BMSDC Community Led Housing Enabling Officer – Offer to meet Cllrs in 2019
- SCC – Streetlighting over the Christmas / New Year period. Cllrs agreed to keep the lights on in line with SCC policy.
- SCC – Connecting Communities transport
- SCC – Draft Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Deadline for comments 17th December 2018
- Local Green Spaces Policy within Local Joint Plan

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

8. To receive District Councillor's Report – Miss Jill Wilshaw (Bacton Ward)

Plans for HQ and Middle School in Needham - These plans have now been put online and can be seen on the planning website for the HQ site DC/18/05254 and DC/18/05104 and the Middle School DC/18/04811. Please go on the planning application site on Mid Suffolk's website and see what MSDC are proposing for the sites with many affordable and shared ownership houses. MSDC are also including a new library and a retail outlet. This will be very exciting for Needham Market and ensure it thrives for years to come.

Homes Strategy & Homelessness Reduction Strategy - A reminder that the consultations on the draft Homes Strategy and the draft Homelessness Reduction Strategy: the consultation finishes on Friday 7 December any comments must be in by then. The draft Homes Strategy covers the period 2019-24 and lays out how the councils aim to increase the number of new homes being delivered in their districts. This strategy also aims to increase housing options for older households and those requiring accessible homes and to ensure the existing housing stock is fit for 21st century living. The councils

have also worked together on a Homelessness Reduction Strategy, covering the same period, which aims to reduce homelessness in both districts and support the most vulnerable Babergh and Mid Suffolk residents in finding and sustaining a home.

NPPF and the Joint Local Plan Consultation - Plans to launch the second round of public consultation on our Joint Local Plan have been delayed by a few months as a consequence of the government's new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF, which sets out the government's planning policies for England and how local planning authorities are expected to apply these, was published in July 2018. The changes made to previous versions of the NPPF must be considered as part of all planning applications and all planning policies across England and Mid Suffolk planning officers are currently ensuring the draft Local Plan is in full compliance with the new national guidelines.

New VIP Network to provide Visitor Information throughout district - MSDC have joined up with Suffolk Libraries and other businesses in the community to support a new Visitor Information Point (VIP) network, giving visitors to the area more choice about where and how they access visitor information across the districts. Visitors will be able to use their own devices and self-service tablets, available at some sites in the coming months, to find attractions, leisure facilities, accommodation, transport and more.

Locality Budget - Don't forget the Locality Award budget. If any club/association etc. would like some money towards something specific, please get in touch with Cllr Willshaw for an application form.

9. Planning Applications Received

DC/18/04986 – Listed Building Consent Application. Formation of partition wall in the master bedroom to house and bathroom/dressing room. Location: Old Newton Hall, Sandford Road, Old Newton. Cllrs felt that the property is in need of modernisation for modern living and all the works seem to be in keeping with the character of the building and will be strictly governed by heritage rules - Cllrs could not see anything wrong with the proposed internal works. It was proposed and seconded to approve the application with all Cllrs unanimously in favour. Application approved at Parish Council level. Clerk to respond to MSDC.

Stearn application going to the planning committee possibly by 19th December. The school is at its capacity and any major developments will have a significant impact on MSDC and the developers. Footpath to the school and extra classrooms are a necessity of any new development. Parish council support and encourage Governors to write to Cllr Willshaw. Cllr Willshaw to confirm to Cllrs the date for the planning committee once known.

10. Planning Decisions from MSDC

DC/18/04027. Erection of entrance gate and increased height of front boundary wall (retention of). MSDC Planning permission has been granted.

White Cottage – No planning application received for a garden house. The size will be relevant to determine whether planning permission is actually required. Cllr Reeve to monitor and report again if necessary.

11. Grit Heaps / Bins – Review. All forms have been uploaded onto the SCC website and confirmed receipt has been received. No decision yet. Clerk to email to Cllr Stringer who is meeting with Highways and will discuss our proposed sites on behalf of the Parish Council.

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

Proposed budget cuts for 2019/20 - On 22 November, the Scrutiny Committee discussed proposals for the 2019/20 budget. These will be finalised and presented to the Cabinet in January, before being debated by the full Council in February. Council tax will increase by a total of 3.99% in 2019/20 – this will be made up of a 2.99% increase in general council tax and a final 1% increase for the Social Care Precept.

The proposed "tactical savings" total £11.2m. These are spread across the Council's directorates (as shown in the table below), with Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, Adult and Community Services, and Health, Wellbeing and Children's Services seeing the greatest cuts.

Table 8: Summary of Savings Proposals

	Adult & Community Services (ACS) £'m	Health, Wellbeing & Children's Services (HW&CS) £'m	Fire & Rescue Service and Public Safety £'m	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure £'m	Corporate Services & Central Resources £'m	TOTAL £'m
Cost reduction	1.0	0.2	0.0	2.0	0.1	3.3
Grant reduction			0.4			0.4
Maximise Income		1.4	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.7
Service reduction	1.0	0.1		1.7	0.0	2.8
Staffing reduction	0.1	0.9	0.3	0.5	1.2	3.0
TOTAL	2.1	2.6	0.7	4.2	1.6	11.2

The proposals for tactical savings include:

- Remove the full Citizens Advice Grant – however the Council have since announced that this will be phased in rather than immediate, with 50% of the grant being cut this year and the remaining 50% being cut in the 2020/21 budget
- Staffing reduction (totalling £3m) across all directorates
- Reduce Housing Related Support and the provision of hostel beds
- Negotiate care pricing
- Stop displaying bus timetables at the roadside
- Reduce spend on sponsored bus services
- Reduce out-of-hours stand-by service and winter support fleet for Suffolk Highways
- Stop road sign cleaning and only maintain mandatory road markings
- Turn more streetlights off overnight
- Cease accreditation of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme (the scheme will continue- however organisations will license themselves directly with the charity rather than through SCC)

Unfortunately, Cllr Stinger has not been informed of the savings associated with each of the above proposals, and instead have only been told how much each directorate is expected to save in total. The final proposals, along with the savings associated with each of them, will not be made available until January.

U-turn on support for period poverty - In October, a motion asking for a commitment of £15,000 in the budget to help tackle “period poverty” was unfortunately rejected by the Council. However, the administration, have since announced that they will be undertaking an audit of the services in Suffolk that are aimed at tackling period poverty, to identify gaps and assess how provision can be improved. Cllr Stringer is cautiously hopeful that this review will result in proper support and funding for those amazing voluntary organisations that are currently providing free sanitary products. They cannot provide that service all on their own, and a commitment of funding from Suffolk County Council will be vital to ensure we eradicate period poverty across the whole county.

Decision on Upper Orwell Crossings delayed - Work on the Upper Orwell Crossings in Ipswich has been suspended since August 2018, due to concerns that the costs of the project were no longer sustainable. In October, the administration announced that they would need an additional £43m of funding in order to continue with the project. It was agreed by Cabinet that officers and councillors would have until December to try and find this additional funding. However, this deadline has now been pushed back to January 2019. Cllr Stronger is therefore expecting an announcement in the new year about the future of the project.

Significant increase in insurance pay-outs for cars damaged by potholes - Data published under Freedom of Information laws has shown that, between 1 January and 16 October this year, Suffolk Highways have already paid out £67,819.07 for vehicle damage (including insurance pay outs, costs and legal fees). This is a significant increase from the previous year, when pay-outs for the whole of 2017 totalled £26,004.63. The number of claims has also more than doubled, from 598 in 2017 to 1,265 so far in 2018.

13. **CIL / PIIP.** Further comments received from Cllr Shave – Football pitches number is not correct and Cllr Shave felt that the Diss railway station is of no use to the parish but Cllrs felt they want to leave it in the document as it is a facility available whether parishioners use it regularly was felt irrelevant. Cllr Shave felt that the open space use of the recreation ground in Stowmarket used by our parishioners is low but again Cllrs felt that it is a facility that is available and is used by some members of the parish. Refurbishment of the changing rooms at the Sports and Social Club is now felt a necessity by Cllr Shave. The First draft PIIP is waiting public consultation but Cllrs feel that we should get this uploaded as soon as possible as it is a working document. Cllr Arnold’s document and comments received previously also need to be included. Clerk to update before the January meeting.

14. **Councillors Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council**

- Hedges in Falconer Avenue – Report to MSDC
- Christmas Bonanza weekend Friday 7th December evening 6pm – 8pm and Saturday 8th December 12pm – 4pm
- Christmas Carols 6th December at the Church
- Friday 30th November – Jo Churhcill hosted an Older Persons Fair Cllr Arnold attended but was a little bit disappointed, the only people in attendance were Trading Standards and the Police and Charities and there was a lack of transport information and representatives that were promised.

15. Public Forum – No public in attendance therefore nothing raised.

16. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the January 2019 meeting.

- CIL / PIIP
- Grit Bins
- Budget / Precept

17. Date of the next Parish Council meeting – The January meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 2nd January 2019 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 21.04 hrs