

Wednesday 6th February 2019 at Old Newton Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Miller (Chair), M Clements (Vice Chair), K Baker, T Arnold, K Goudy, M Shave, J Harbidge, R Lawson, K Hall-Price (Clerk), and County Cllr Andrew Stringer and 3 members of the public.

1. **Chairman's welcome and to receive any apologies for absence** – Cllr Shave has sent his apologies he may be arriving late for tonight's meeting. County Cllr Stringer will also be late as he is at Mendlesham first this evening. Cllr M Reeve has sent her apologies, Cllr Baker will also be late.
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 Baker declared an interest in planning application DC/19/00139 – as the Baker family own the land neighbouring the property.
4. **To approve the minutes of the January meeting held on 2nd January 2019.** It was proposed and seconded to approve the minutes and they were signed accordingly by the Chairman.
5. **Clerks report following previous meeting.**
 - The Clerk has moved house and is now living in Brockdish, Diss. The Clerk would like to confirm that there is no intention to resign from the position of Parish Clerk. The Clerk is still working three days per week in the parish and with decent internet connection at the new property does not foresee any problems moving forward. The reason for the move is due to children's schools and husband's ill health and hopes all Cllrs are satisfied that existing work commitments will not be jeopardised. Notification of new address and phone numbers has begun, all Cllrs should have received new contact details and address for their own reference.
 - Clerk has also had issues again with the Parish Council Laptop, following a clean-up and re-boot it is now working ok again, however the Clerk has purchased a desk top computer for use at home moving forward as this should mean the Parish Council laptop will last a bit longer if it is only being used for the meetings. All other work will be done on the Clerks new home computer and all data is backed up onto the Parish Council Cloud Backup. The Clerk has utilised the Parish Council licence of the Microsoft Office package in agreement with the Chairman. Proposed that as soon as possible look to replace the parish council laptop.
 - Crier submission was submitted for the February edition.
 - RTI and Nest Pension submissions were completed
 - All cheques for payment have been issued.
 - All planning application responses were submitted to BMSDC by the agreed deadline dates.
 - All information, approved minutes and agendas have been uploaded onto the village website including the 2019 meeting dates and the Clerks new contact details.
 - Elizabeth Ling Community Housing Enabling Officer has agreed to attend our April meeting
 - We have had concerns raised again regarding the dog mess along the footpath to the school. Clerk received comments via Cllr Baker from some of the parents at the school. Clerk has agreed to include again in The Crier a notice requesting our dog owners to pick up after their dogs.
 - Clerk has received a copy of the electoral register.
 - There is nothing to pay for cemetery maintenance again this month as it has been too wet and Adam has not done any hrs.
 - Clerk has applied for the December qtr of the cleansing grant to be paid to Onwoods upon receipt.
 - Ask Editor of the Crier if meetings can be included in the list of What's On in the village.

Police Report / Crime Map Statistics

Crime Map Figures for December show 1 x violence & sexual offence on or near Cross Green, 1 x anti social behaviour on or near the sports and social club and 1 x crime other on or near Hundred Lane.

Police Connect messages have included:

- Police are appealing for information following a shed burglary at a home in Lower Somersham. The shed at the home in Main Road was broken into sometime between 10pm Thursday 31st January & 7.10am Friday 1st February

after the lock was cut off. Once inside, a Husqvarna hedge trimmer & chain saw were stolen together with a silver Marin mountain bike. If you have any information about this shed burglary please contact Suffolk Police on 101 quoting crime reference 37/6339/19 or use the online crime reporting link - <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something>.

- Police are appealing for information after a shed was broken into in Temple Road in Stowmarket. A Boardman hybrid push bike was stolen from a shed between 6pm Sunday 27 and 11am Monday 28 January. The bike frame number is A-120-9 and AYR NUMBER 8008885552 – crime reference 37-5686-19.
- A garage was broken into on Britten Avenue Stowmarket, between 10pm Sunday 27 and 6.30am Monday 28 January. A Dewalt drill was stolen – crime reference 37-5701-19
- Overnight Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 January a van parked in Church Walk Stowmarket was broken into. A window was smashed and tools were stolen – crime reference 37-5628-19
- Police are appealing for the public to remain vigilant following reports of rogue traders in rural parts near Stowmarket. On 22nd January two males were visiting addresses offering gravel for sale, claiming the gravel was left over from a job being done by Highways. Both men were in high visibility clothing in a white transit tipper with orange light bar fixed to the roof, checks confirmed this was a false claim.
- Police are reminding dog owners to take appropriate steps to keep their dogs under control after two incidents where dogs have been chasing sheep and livestock. Farmers have a right to shoot any dogs attacking livestock and owners should be reminded that the owners are responsible for any damage that their dog may commit.

6. Financial matters & Financial report

The precept has been put forward at £24,877.00 to be paid in two instalments of £12,438.50 each in April and September. The forms were signed off by Cllrs and the Clerk at the meeting.

Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays January Statement Balance **£26,023.50** (30.01.19)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,378.03** (31.12.18)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£253.41** (30.12.18)
- Public Works Loan – Annual Statement – Balance outstanding at 31.03.18 - **£31,434.72**

Accounts for payment – January 2019:

- KAREN PRICE - Salary January includes holiday pay, expenses and less tax & NI and pension = **£771.31**
- HMRC – PAYE NI & Tax – Employee NIC £5.22, Employer NIC £6.00 = **£11.22**
- NEST Pension Contribution **DDR** – employee 3% **£17.90**, employer 2% £14.92 = **£32.82**
- Mr Mark Clements – 22 x bags of grit for distribution into 4 x grit bins = **£100.87**.

Monies Received – January 2019:

- BMSDC – Locality Award Funding – Cllr J Wilshaw **£500.00**
- Andrew Bingham – Cemetery fees – Eileen Shaw Ashes **£40.00** (payslip 100110)
- J Wright Stonemason – Memorials for Ager / Cobbold **£100.00** (payslip 100110)

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

7. Correspondence Received & Circulars:

- Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Copied to Cllrs via email
- MSDC – Communities Strategy Consultation – open from 21st Jan – 1st March 2019.
- MSDC – Switch to paperless billing – request to include within the crier
- MSDC – Housing Land Supply Position Statement consultation starts 17th January – 28th February 2019
- MSDC – Consultation under Reg 16 – Neighbourhood Planning Haughley Neighbourhood Development Plan
- MSDC – County Lines Project
- Post Office – Confirmation of re-opening the village stores post office counter
- SCC – Schools Travel Policy Changes – Sept 2019. Complaint received about dangerous parking by the bus companies in the village picking up and dropping off the children.

- Email from Libby Brooks – Footpaths and road signage. The road signage is an issue as it is being suggested that this should be more a parish council responsibility, In the past SCC will only replace signs if they are broken or missing anything else the Parish Council are being expected to fund. Agreed to ask Libby to give the positions of the ones identified and the parish council will review and prioritise. The downs footpath – section of the bridge is starting to rot at the cemetery end. Clerk to report to SCC Footpaths.

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

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

Budget - The budget for next year has gone through Cabinet and Scrutiny and will be presented to the Council in February. We are proposing an increase in Council Tax of 2% which equates to an increase of 6p per week (£3.26 pa). It is the County Council and the Police who will be increasing their local taxes by a large amount, we are trying to keep our increase as low as possible. We do not agree in increasing our council tax by very much but do feel we need to add on just a little each year so that we don’t get into the same problem County have got themselves into by not increasing their tax for a year and now they are having to pay the consequences.

Public Database nominated for national award - A Babergh and Mid Suffolk database that is the first of its kind in the country has been nominated for the prestigious RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2019. The councils’ [Exacom Database](#), which went live in December, has been shortlisted for the awards, run by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), in the Excellence in Tech Within Planning Practice category. The database, which gives web-users access to data on Developer Contributions for development in Babergh and Mid Suffolk going back to 1974, is the first of its kind in the country with Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils recently designated Pilot Authorities by the software’s developer. The RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence are the most established and respected awards in the UK planning industry. Running for over 40 years, they celebrate exceptional examples of planning and the contribution planners make to society.

New Parking Plan - Mid Suffolk District Council’s Cabinet has approved a consultation on a new parking plan, proposing greater powers to clamp down on people who park illegally while seeing no rise in current parking charges, for the district.

The draft Joint Area Parking Plan, which does not include any proposals to increase car parking charges in Mid Suffolk, sets out eight parking policy objectives and what they are intended to achieve. They include proposals that will:

- Establish a principle whereby parking will be allowed where possible and controlled where necessary
- Utilise off-street parking places to assist with traffic management and support local communities
- Set out how parking petitions and consultations will be managed
- Establish standard on-street parking scheme operating hours, with scope for different timings where need is proven
- Make clear the council’s position on parking on footpaths

The policies will be used to guide councils’ decision making around parking. The proposed plan does not set out specific proposals for parking restrictions for specific areas, nor is it a blue-print to change current paid parking arrangements.

County Lines - I went to a very interesting presentation given by some top people working with the police and drug divisions on the county lines problem including Tony Saggars, formerly of the National Crime Agency and Police Chief Superintendent Kim Warner, about our role in tackling County Lines, which unfortunately has hit Ipswich and spread to Stowmarket, Bury St Edmunds, Needham Market and all towns within Suffolk. If you see any suspicious gangs of youths or anyone acting suspiciously particularly gangs then please contact the police on 999. They were saying that there are roughly 20 county lines gangs they know of who have come up from London but they can only hope to disrupt the activities of the top 2 gangs. All these gangs are dealing with crack cocaine and heroine and most have knives and guns etc. so please don’t approach them

9. Planning Applications Received

- **DC/19/00139** - Proposal: Full planning application – Erection of 1no. dwelling and new vehicular access. Location: Ivy Cottage, Brown Street, Old Newton. Response required by 4th Feb – Extension granted to 6th Feb. Chairman closed the meeting to allow the applicants to speak to the meeting. The new development is not within close proximity of the curtilage of Ivy Cottage which is a Grade II listed and therefore it was felt little impact would be felt. We have recommended developments on other similar applications. Observations that planning applications that have gone in recently, this piece of land could have potential for a small estate. The applicant is looking at 1 additional property for a family member. Very similar to the Browns Place Farm conversions.

Thoughts are that this won't stand out particularly. The applicant attended the parish council meeting and indicated that they would prefer the existing access rather than what is shown on the plan and in addition are quite happy for the Building to be switched 90degrees and under these circumstances Cllrs felt there was no valid reason to object to this application. Seconded. All Cllrs who voted were in favour. Application approved and supported by the Parish Council if the access is kept as present and the property is turned 90 degrees on the plans. Cllr Baker did not vote.

- **DC/19/00056 - Proposal: Listed Building Consent – Changes to internal layout as detailed in the schedule of works.** Location: Old Newton Hall, Sandford Road, Old Newton. Response required by 4th Feb – Extension granted to 6th Feb. Cllrs felt that this application is governed by listed heritage regulations and therefore understand that the applicant must comply with any heritage issues, the alterations are internal. It was proposed to accept this application. Seconded. All Cllrs voted in favour. Application approved and supported by the Parish Council.

10. **Planning Decisions from MSDC**

DC/18/04142 – Planning application erection of a grain store at Whitehall Farm, Whitehall Road, Old Newton. MSDC planning permission has been granted.

11. **Grit Heaps / Bins – Update.** We are still awaiting confirmation that SCC have accepted our locations. The grit is not there for private use and this needs to be mentioned in The Crier. The grit lorry should have done by the school but didn't and it was gratefully acknowledged the grit that was available at the school was used and Cllr Clements and the Chair replenished the stock. Clerk instructed to issue SCC an invoice to cover the cost of the grit purchased by the parish council.
12. **CIL / PIIP.** Clerk has issued to Tony Bass at BMSDC. Annual Parish Meeting Presentation to be pulled together. Possible to do something at the village dog show in the summer.
13. **Church Road SID Unit – Update.** Highways have given permission for the post to be installed free of charge. The bracket has been procured now just waiting for the installation and the SID unit can be moved and used. Thanks to Cllr Clements for his hard work.
14. **Election – May 2019.** Clerk will ensure all Cllrs have their forms for completion as soon as MSDC issue them. Agreed that the Clerk would collate the forms and submit on behalf of all Cllrs. If there is to be an election for the Parish Councillors it was discussed again about pulling together a notice / leaflet for all households to receive a copy prior to the election in May.
15. **Councillors Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council**
 - Bridge on the footpath – boards to be replaced. Clerk to action
 - Walk to school week w/c 25.03.19. Any volunteers to walk to school week would be welcome.
 - Telephone box is being used as a village resource. Write to BT and ask if we can keep it as it is being used as a resource. Adopt a telephone box scheme.

16. **County Councillor's Report – Mr Andrew Stringer**

Update on 2019/20 budget - On Tuesday 29 January, the 2019/20 budget proposals were approved by Cabinet. These will now be taken to a full Council meeting on 14 February, when all councillors will vote on the final 2019/20 budget.

In summary, the headline figures in the proposals are:

- Council Tax is due to rise by a total of 3.99% - 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 budget includes a savings requirement of £10.1m, divided as follows:
 - o Adult and Community Services - £1.1m
 - o Health, Wellbeing and Children's Services - £2.683m
 - o Growth, Highways and Infrastructure - £4.151m
 - o Fire and Public Safety - £0.507m
 - o Corporate Services - £1.522m
 - o Central Resources - £0.1m

Cllr Stringer is concerned by a number of the cuts, in particular:

- The decision to remove all grant funding from Citizens Advice. This will be phased over two years, with a 50% reduction in the 2019/20 budget (£0.184m);

- Reducing the amount spent on Housing Related Support, which supports those at risk of homelessness (£0.45m);
- Reduced funding for sponsored bus services (£0.34m) and cessation of the provision of roadside bus timetables (£0.1m);
- Reduction in highways maintenance, including no road sign cleaning (£0.1m), only maintaining mandatory road markings (£0.075m) and less frequent weed treatments in rural areas (£0.055m);
- Staffing reductions across all directorates, which may result in less efficient services (£2.968m).

Cuts to Citizens Advice get Cabinet approval - As mentioned above, the budget includes a cut to the grant funding provided by Suffolk County Council to Citizens Advice. This grant will be cut by 50% in 2019/20 (£184,000) and removed entirely in the 2020/21 budget. A consultation was held over the Christmas period to assess the impact these cuts may have, and an Equality Impact Assessment was drawn up. However, neither documents were available prior to the Cabinet meeting, and so the Cabinet decided to recommend this saving before fully understanding the impact it may have. Cllr Stringer will be raising his concerns at the Council meeting.

Upper Orwell Crossings project cancelled - The Upper Orwell Crossings project in Ipswich has finally been cancelled, after concerns were raised last summer that the project was likely to go well over the original budget. The Cabinet agreed in October to try and find additional funding but were unsuccessful. This means that the DFT funding allocated to the project will be reallocated to other national projects and will not be spent in Ipswich. However, Suffolk County Council has still spent over £8m on the project to date, most of which was on consultants' fees. The Cabinet has decided to consider undertaking a smaller project and complete the smaller Crossings B and C, which will provide links to the island site. The Cabinet has agreed to underwrite a maximum of £10.8m (the balance of their previous commitment) and will require other significant local contributions to enable crossings B and C to go ahead.

Potential £45.1m investment for Special Educational Needs - A cross-party Policy Development Panel has recommended that Suffolk County Council needs to invest £45.1m to develop new SEND schools and specialist units within Suffolk. This investment would create an additional 828 specialist education places in Suffolk, which are desperately needed. Currently, many children struggle to access appropriate provision and are forced to travel to out-of-county schools in order to access the educational support they need. The Cabinet agreed in principle to the PDP's recommendations. The capital investment programme will need to undergo a full investment appraisal before the Cabinet will commit to a firm £45.1m investment. This is expected in early 2019.

New Director of Highways appointed - After a long search, a new Director of Growth, Highways and Infrastructure has been appointed. Mark Ash will be joining Suffolk County Council in February. He is currently the Director of Waste and Environment at Essex County Council.

Grit Bins – Cllr Stringer is on it and accepts that we have had a raw deal. £100.87 to be sent to Mark Wedgewood as an invoice from the Parish Council for the grit purchased. We would like to have communication confirmation that our proposed locations have been accepted.

Public Forum. Nothing from the public gallery.

18. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the February meeting.

- Telephone Box – Feedback
- Grit Bins Update
- Sid Unit – Church Road Update

19. Date of the next Parish Council meeting – The March meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 21.24 hrs