

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

Present: Cllrs J Miller (Chair), M Clements (Vice Chair), M Shave, K Baker, T Arnold, K Goudy, J Harbidge, M Reeve, R Lawson, K Hall-Price (Clerk), and District Cllrs Wilshaw, Eburne & Welham, 1 member of the public.

- 1. Chairman's welcome and to receive any apologies for absence** – Cllr Stringer will also be late as he is at Mendlesham first this evening. Item 10 to move to after the Clerks report. Cllr Baker arrived at 19.35hrs. Cllr Stringer arrived at 21.05hrs.
- 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 6th February 2019.** 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 the March 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
 - There is nothing to pay for cemetery maintenance again this month as Adam has only done a few hrs he asked if he could roll it over to the next invoice.
 - The Clerk has signed up for Suffolk Trading Standards weekly newsletters and will forward to Cllrs if they are of interest.
 - Unfortunately, the deadline for the Garden Party had passed and we were too late to put forward Cllr Miller.
 - The Clerk has written to the ONGAA secretary confirming the allotment tenancy agreement extension for a further 5 years, copy of the letter issued to the Scarff family for their records.
 - Clerk emailed the editor of the Crier who confirmed that the parish council meeting dates are in the Crier on the What's On pages.
 - Libby Brooks has forwarded the Clerk a list of all the road signs spotted and in need of replacement or repair. Agenda item 17.
 - The bridge on the Downs Footpath has been reported and the Clerk has received confirmation that the repairs are on the contractors works list and will be repaired as soon as possible.
 - GDPR – The Clerk has a network meeting on Monday 11th March to clarify policy that the parish council should then look to adopt. Some of the things to cover are our emails etc and the Clerk is looking to get a quote for the setting up of a Parish Council domain name and emails for all Cllrs to remove the use of personal emails. This is an ongoing project to bring us in line with GDPR and how this affects the parish council moving forward. Clerk to provide a more detailed report / agenda item for the April meeting.

Police Report / Crime Map Statistics

Crime Map Figures for January are not available yet and will be reported at the next meeting. Police Connect messages have included:

- Police are appealing for information after an outbuilding was broken into at a property in Finningham. The burglary took place between 7.45am – 4pm on 6th February, a search was completed and circa 90ltrs of red diesel was stolen.
- Burglary at property in Barham on 11th February. Entry gained by smashing a rear door, items of jewellery stolen.

- Burglary at garage at a property in Bramford, the lock forced off to gain entry a black Orbea Capri hybrid push bike was stolen and tools from a van on the driveway.
- Burglary at a home in Baylam was broken into between 10am 16th February and 8.35pm on 25th February after rear patio doors were smashed, an untidy search was completed jewellery and a medal were stolen.
- Two burglaries at two homes in Elmswell, a home was broken into between 8pm Friday 22nd and 12pm 26th February. Rear patio doors smashed and an untidy search – unclear at the moment if anything was stolen. The second burglary occurred between 8pm 22nd February and 12pm 26th February. Patio doors again smashed and an untidy search carried out. Unclear if anything was stolen.
- Police are urging residents to review security for their sheds, garages and outbuildings. Two outbuildings at a rural property in Buxhall – nothing stolen but in the same time period a further 3 outbuildings were broken into at Bacton as well as at a property in Walsham le Willows where tools were stolen and at another outbuilding at a property in Horringer. Other sheds at a property in Norton and in Herrigswell were also targeted. Advice on shed and garage security can be found on the Suffolk Police website www.suffolk.police.uk.

6. Artisan Planning & Property Services – Proposed residential development of land off Church Road, Old Newton – showing up to 64 dwellings. Brief presentation provided. There will be some leaflets dropped over the next 10 days or so and a public consultation exercise is scheduled for 16th March in the Village Hall 10am – 12pm. This is an opportunity to discuss any comments and this is prior to a planning application being submitted. Outline of the development up-to 64 houses maximum. Proportion of open space on the proposed development will be on 2 sites. A question was asked as to how this fits with the previous application? The previous application for 23 apparently will be withdrawn by the land owner. Bus services or assistance to put in place a footpath to the school may be considered.

S106 agreement to supply homes for affordable, the developer sells them to a residential provider similar to the old housing association at cost. The details will need to be part of the outline planning application and will address surface water and waste. The design will meet standard policy accepted by highways.

7. Financial matters & Financial report

The clerk has written a letter to Barclays and completed a change form for the Scottish Widows accounts to be completed and signed by Cllrs tonight to confirm the clerks change of address. Do we wish to include Cllr Harbidge on the Scottish Widows account as this could be done on the change forms – Agreed and Cllr Harbidge to complete the forms.

Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays February Statement Balance **£22,697.76** (27.02.19)
- 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 – February 2019:

- KAREN PRICE - Salary February includes holiday pay, expenses and less tax & NI and pension = **£797.56**
- HMRC – PAYE NI & Tax – Employee NIC £1.43, Employer NIC £1.65 = **£3.08**
- NEST Pension Contribution **DDR** – employee 3% £17.14, employer 2% £14.28 = **£31.42**
- Onwoods / ONEG – Cleansing Grant / Litter picking **£204.10**
- BT – Finningham Road Telephone Box **£1.00 (retrospective approval required)**
- Westcotec – Bracket for SID Unit £50 + VAT + delivery £70 max agreement in place but clerk needs an official invoice from them in order to send them a cheque.

Monies Received – February 2019:

- BMSDC – Cleansing Grant qtr ending December 2018 –**£204.10**

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

8. Correspondence Received & Circulars:

- A Christmas Carol on Tour – Passed to the village hall committee.
- Henry's Film – Invitation to attend film about growing national crisis of 'County Lines' – 20th March 2019
- Spring Litter Pick 2019 – Old Newton's took place on Saturday 2nd March 2019.

- CAB Update Letter to Councillors read to the meeting.
- Suffolk Highways – streetlight maintenance and energy for the period April 18 – March 19. Invoice will be put forward for payment at the April meeting.

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

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

- The Needham Market Middle School and the old HQ site have had their full planning permission passed so work will commence on building 94 new homes on the HQ site as well as a retail outlet and 41 on the Middle School site including 35% affordable houses; it also includes a new library. This should all get underway hopefully within 12-18 months. The listed building at 131 High Street will be converted into flats.
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council leaders are supporting the demands of the Rural Service Network for central government to recognise the needs of rural communities and develop a Rural Strategy. The needs of communities in rural areas, which accounts for 17% of the UK population, are different from those in urban areas and are often not considered in central government decision making in the setting of financial grants or introduction of policies.
- Mid Suffolk District Council voted to approve the budget for 2019/20, including an increase in Council Tax of £3.26 for a Band D Property a rise of 2% well below the national average. The increase was voted through because our core Revenue Support Grant from central government has fallen to zero, down from £2.3m four years ago. However, the council also pledged to support the most vulnerable residents, with the Council Tax Reduction Scheme remaining in place and young people leaving care offered a new discount of up to 100%.
- The Tree for Life scheme, first launched in 2018, will be continuing into 2019. It offers every family in Mid Suffolk celebrating a new child, both by birth and adoption, a free tree to plant to mark the occasion. The scheme is open to any family with a new arrival in Mid Suffolk, with trees due to be planted in family gardens anywhere in the district. Applications must be made by 10 January 2020 and can be submitted on the [council's website](#). A selection of trees is available, including fig trees small enough to be pot grown for those who may not have access to a garden. Applicants can also ask Mid Suffolk officers about alternative locations to plant their tree if needed.
- Disability Facilities Grant is a grant given by the Government to help people needing some adaptations put in their homes to make it easier for the residents to stay living in their own homes. Orbit have been running this the past few years but admit they are struggling so Mid Suffolk and Babergh are starting a pilot scheme where if the adaptation required is under £4999 then they will do that work without having to wait for the Occupational Therapists to agree to it. Anything over that amount will still be signed off by the OT's and carried out by Orbit. If this is successful then it will be rolled out throughout Suffolk. The other problem with this fund is that people don't know about it so word needs to be spread to advertise it.

Snowasis – back on the agenda. Cllr Shave felt that MSDC election leaflet put through all doors was nothing more than pre-election canvassing

10. Planning Applications Received

- **DC/19/00818** Application under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act for DC/17/05761 – without compliance with condition 3 to allow phased development on Land South East of Chapel Road, Old Newton. Response to MSDC by 14th March 2019. Cllrs felt that Chapel Road is a hazardous road and rightly planning stipulated that the first phase was the access and splay and condition 3 is regarding the access and splay. Cllrs could not agree that this should or could be removed to allow for phased development as it was felt this was essential before any development could be commenced. The application was unanimously voted against removing condition 3 as Cllrs felt condition 3 was entirely necessary for road safety reasons. Application objected at Parish Council level.
- **DC/18/01524** - Appeal under Section 78 – Outline planning application (access and landscaping to be considered) Erection of up to 5 dwellings on land north of Bush's Farm, Stowmarket Road, Old Newton. This is outside the village boundary and access will also be for the haulage site. Cllrs stand by their original comments but stressed that the line of sight at the site access must be considered as a priority.
- **DC/18/05536** – Demolition of existing bungalow and redevelopment of site to provide 4no two-storey two/three bed houses and 1 no three bed bungalow at 27 Church Road, Old Newton, **Application has been withdrawn.**

11. Planning Decisions from MSDC

- **DC/18/04848** – Householder application. Erection of three bay cartlodge with storage over at Mayhews Farm, Brown Street, Old Newton. **MSDC planning permission has been granted.**

- **DC/19/00056** – Listed Building Consent – Changes to internal layout as detailed in the schedule of works at Old Newton Hall, Sandford Road, Old Newton. **MSDC Listed Building Consent has been granted.**
- **DC/19/00277** – Discharge of Conditions for application 0292/17 allowed under Appeal ref APP/W3520/W/17/3183649 - Condition 4 (Materials) at Colt Meadow Farm, School Road, Old Newton. The proposed use of: external facing oak weatherboard (applied horizontally) and oak window frames, as per details received 18th January 2019 have been considered by this Authorities Planning Officers and are acceptable.

12. Grit Heaps / Bins – Update. Clerk has emailed Mark Wedgwood and Cllr Stringer with an invoice for £100.87 to cover the costs of the grit purchased for our grit bins. As far as the clerk is aware SCC have not refilled any of our grit bins yet. Clerk asked to inform the village hall committee where we purchased our bins from as they would like one for the village hall.

13. CIL / PIIP – Annual Parish Meeting. At the Annual Parish Meeting – Cllr Miller will prepare a presentation to update organisations that attend. Crier and noticeboards for advertising and all village organisations to be invited to attend.

14. Church Road SID Unit – Update. Cllr Clements informed the Parish Council that the new pole and bracket are in place and the present setting is just gathering data and will be switched on in a fortnight's time. Invoice agreed at tonight's meeting to be paid upon receipt of a formal invoice up to the value of £70.00. Look to purchase additional SID units. Cllr Clements to investigate if we would be allowed to have a SID unit in a 40mph zone.

15. Reports of Dangerous Parking by the School – Email received by Libby Brooks following a recent Governors meeting. One issue raised was the danger of parking cars at the junction of Church Road/Chapel Road with School Lane. It was suggested that if double yellow lines were painted along this short stretch of road this might make motorist think twice before parking in such a dangerous place. It would also give the school some leverage when trying to emphasise the need to leave this area clear of cars. There is some thought that there used to be such lines at this point, and, if so, it would be possible to report to Suffolk County Council under scheme 'Report missing or faded road marking's. Requesting support from the Parish Council. Ask local police to come along and visit. Cllr Baker confirmed it was 2 years ago that we met with highways to reinstate the lines etc. Clerk to write to highways and complain. Non slip lines and the wrongly positioned road signs to be raised again.

16. Street and Road signs needing attention – Libby Brooks report

The signs needing some attention are:

- 30mph (repeater sign) opposite The Grange, Church Rd is broken in half with ragged edges exposed in grass
- Stowmarket Road sign opposite The Mutton is not attached to post but rests on ground
- Pole without any sign on east side of Finningham Rd shortly before Hundred Lane
- T junction sign on Finningham Rd, signalling the leader road to Silver Street via Yew Tree Farm, is facing the field not the road. (While I was looking at this sign a lady who didn't wish to give her name, but probably lives in one of the 2 cottages on this road, suggested that there shouldn't be a sign as this road shouldn't be used by the general public! I did point out that it was on the road maps and was obviously a maintained road. This didn't seem to impress her!)
- At each end of Falconer Road a sign is askew.
- De-restriction sign on west side of Finningham Rd before Roger's is covered in verdigris. Could it along with one or two other signs be washed.
- I think there is another sign issue on the way into village on Stowmarket Rd but cannot remember what it is

Cllrs to identify and compile a list of signs that need to be ordered to be replaced. Audit to be compiled that need repair and those that need replacing.

17. BT Phone-Box Adoption and use as Community Library / Book Exchange. Following discussions about retaining the telephone box on Finningham Road as a free library / book exchange, it came to light that our telephone box was scheduled to be removed within the week. The clerk contacted BT and was successful in stopping the removal of the telephone box and the Parish Council are now the proud owners of a BT Phone-box purchased for £1 through the adoption scheme. Cheque had to be raised prior to this meeting to ensure that the phone-box was taken off the removal list. The intention is to enhance this facility. Check with the neighbours and look to clean it up and pay for some shelving to be put in and some signage. Cllr Miller to visit and suggest a way forward. Clerk to include on the asset register and amend the insurance.

18. Election – May 2019 / Cllrs Nomination Forms. Clerk has received a revised copy of the electoral register for use on the nomination forms. Clerk has spare copies of the forms for any Cllr or member of the public that requests one. Clerk has an appointment with MSDC at Stowmarket Rugby Club on Thursday 14th March 2019 to return all papers. All papers must be hand delivered if Cllrs don't want the Clerk to submit them on their behalf an appointment must be made to submit the nomination forms in person. They cannot be submitted online or by post.

19. County Councillor's Report – Mr Andrew Stringer

- **2019/20 budget agreed** - Suffolk County Council's 2019/20 budget was agreed on Thursday 14 February. This will see an increase in council tax of 3.99%, and savings across the council's directorates totalling £10.1m. 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).
- **CCGs to pick up CAB funding for 2019/20** - 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. Thankfully, the CCGs have stepped in and agreed to provide Citizens Advice with £184,000 in funding this year, to make up for the 50% funding cut from Suffolk County Council. Although this means Citizens Advice will not lose funding this year, it does not address the longer-term problem of funding in the future. The CCGs have been clear that this funding is only available for 2019/20.
- **Reduction in 2018/19 predicted overspend** - Suffolk County Council's latest budget monitoring report suggests the 2018/19 budget will be overspent by £5.9m. This is a reduction since quarter 2, when they were predicting an overspend of £7.5m. The £5.9m overspend represents 1.2% of the net budget and is made up of £3.8m on base budget and £2.1m on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) spend. Although it is positive to hear the overspend is reducing, Cllr Stringer is concerned by where these savings are being achieved. The majority are due to ongoing staff vacancies at the council, particularly in social work teams. This is clearly not a long-term solution and is a dangerous false economy. Without adequate staff, the county council will struggle to properly and efficiently provide services in Suffolk.
- **Republica report into housing costs council £66,000** - Last year Suffolk County Council commissioned the thinktank Republica to undertake a study into housing growth in Suffolk at a cost of £66,000. The final report was published on 21 February. At just 14 pages long, it cost the authority almost £5000 per page and failed to discuss the issues in any great depth.
- **School Travel – opt-in for funded transport** - Following changes to the school travel policy, which will take effect in September 2019, eligible families must now “opt-in” to receive free school transport – you will no longer be automatically signed up. If your child is eligible for free transport, you will need to apply each year. The application window for this year is 1 March 2019 to 31 May 2019. There is more information available at www.suffolkonboard.com/optin.
- **New mental health strategies for Suffolk** - Since Spring 2018, the Suffolk and Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Groups have been leading work on developing new mental health strategies for Suffolk. The Strategies seek to describe the future vision for mental health and emotional wellbeing within the context of an integrated physical, mental and social care system and a departure from the way traditional services have been delivered. There is also a strong emphasis on prevention, wellbeing and expanding community/primary care mental health services. The next phase of work will focus on designing delivery plans for the Strategies, including a programme of work and timetable for implementation. This will include a review of the existing structure and form of mental health provision and how this supports or impedes the vision for the future.
- New Highways Director has met with Cllr Stringer and he has raised our 40mph signs and our grit bins so this should now be progressed.
- List of potholes in the parish to be forwarded to Cllr Stringer from Cllr Goudy – Acknowledged that the quality is getting better.

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

- Cllr Shave – land between Newton Road and Stowupland. It's Stowmarket land and presently there is no planning permission in the Ashes farm land but Cllr Shave hopes that if that land comes up that the Parish Council would push for a link road from Newton Road to the Stowupland roundabout.
- Village Hall Play Equipment - Lots of the equipment needs to be checked as Cllr Lawson felt this was in many cases not fit for purpose. Cllr Baker to speak to the Village Hall Committee.
- Cllr Reeve may not be at the next meeting but wanted to thank Cllr Lawson for printing paperwork out every month for her as she was very grateful.
- Following complaints to the Bus company last month the bus drivers are now picking up at the bus shelter.

21. Public Forum.

- Member of the public found attending the meeting was enlightening and he wanted to thank the Cllrs for all their hard work on behalf of the community.
- Rachel Eburne District Cllr for Haughley & Wetherden. Wanted to say she will be standing as a candidate for the Haughley, Wetherden and Old Newton. District Cllrs have paid for local PCSO and our District Cllr can apply for the District PCSO to attend our village. SID data requested to be shared where possible. Cllr Eburne felt that the proposed development discussed by Artisan giving only two weeks notice for a public consultation was not enough. Cllr Eburne felt that it was outrageous on our behalf.

22. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the April meeting.

- Elizabeth Ling Community Housing Enabling Officer has agreed to attend our April meeting.
- CIL / PIIP – Annual Parish Meeting
- SID Data

23. Date of the next Parish Council meeting – The April meeting is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday 3rd April 2019** at 7.30pm. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 24th April 2019**. Clerk to invite village organisations and groups to attend.

Meeting closed at 21.45hrs