

Minutes of Old Newton with Dagworth Annual Parish Meeting held on

27th April 2022 at Old Newton Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Parish Cllrs J Miller (Chair), K Goudy, M Clements (Vice-Chair), M Helliwell, W Ratcliffe, N Hardman, S Moore, Karen Hall-Price (Clerk), District Cllr R Eburne, District Cllr K Welham, and 14 members of the public.

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting. There has not been an annual parish meeting since 2019 due to the Covid Pandemic and it is lovely to welcome everyone back to face-to-face meetings following a difficult 2 years for everyone.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs K Baker, M Reeve, Bridget Barker – St Nicholas Chapel, David Shave – Old Newton Football / Sports and Social Club, Val Godden – St Mary’s Church Jenny Springfield – Old Newton under Fives and Elaine Miller.

Next year the council would like all reports to be submitted electronically as this will enable the Clerk to upload onto the village website.

3. **To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 24th April 2019.**
The minutes of the meeting held 24th April 2019 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman of the Parish Council. Proposed and seconded for the minutes to be approved.
4. **Old Newton with Dagworth and Gipping Parish Council report.**

Parish Council Chairman - Cllr Jonathan Miller Report.

Due to the pandemic, it has been 3 years since village organisations have had the opportunity to deliver a report regarding their achievements and progress. It has been a pandemic which has both changed everyone’s lives and made the way we work considerably different from what was previously taken as the norm.

It would be a little strange delivering a report just on the last year’s work of the Parish Council and not covering anything for the previous two years, so I have decided to include some key points that the Parish Council have covered during the previous two years as well as a report on its work during the last year.

The lockdown period resulted in the Parish Council having to use Zoom as a platform to hold virtual meetings and this enabled us to carry out all the activities that we would normally do within meetings. One benefit was that meetings were completed in a lot shorter time, and another was that this way of holding meetings required some councillors to become IT literate very quickly, which, I am glad to say was eventually achieved. It is inevitable and has to be the future, that IT is used increasingly as society moves towards becoming much more paperless and that we reflect the move towards being greener and more environmentally aware.

The financial aspects of the Parish Council were also changed so that payments could be initiated by the clerk and then authorised virtually by a member of the Finance committee therefore avoiding face to face meetings. This payment system has now been full adopted with all payments.

I must recognise the contribution that has been made by the counsellors over the last 3 years and would like to thank them for the time and commitment they have given towards the smooth running of the Parish Council during some challenging times. There have been a number of changes and I would like to thank those counsellors who have since stood down and no longer serve on the parish council. Fortunately, the Parish Council has, unlike some neighbouring Councils, been able to fill all our vacant positions and we now, as usual, have a full council body.

The way that the Parish Council disseminates information to the community has changed and evolved over the last few years. The clerk has used social media for important information that needs to be viewed quickly but also the Crier, which has been the historic way of keeping the community informed. However, as a result of negotiations with the Community Council, the Crier content has been reduced and for full information regarding meetings the community are being encouraged to visit our website which holds all information: agendas and minutes of all meetings as well as all the Parish Council policies.

As with last year the last 12 months has been a mixture of successes and challenges so I have structured this report is to begin by looking at our successes of which there have been many and then to lay out our challenges both for the last year and for the future.

- The speed camera is still being actively used in 2 locations and it is regularly giving us data regarding the speed at which cars are travelling within the village; we are now looking at other locations where we could site the speed camera to monitor traffic speed. In addition to our own camera, we are taking part in a trial to use an AMPR speed camera, this can record car numbers so that regular offenders can be identified.
- At last we have managed to get the County Council to repair the drains on School Hill. This problem has been on the agenda for years but at last, with the help of Andrew Stringer, we have persuaded the County Council to act and repair the drainage system so that water no longer floods down the surface of the road thus creating a real safety hazard in the winter months.
- While on highway issues, again relying on the support of Andrew Stringer, another success is that the County Council are to at last going to resurface Faulkner Avenue, this is scheduled for next week. The issue of the appalling state of road surface has been a problem the Parish Council has raised with the County Council for many years.
- We have moved forward with the cemetery –
 - We have appointed a new groundsman who quickly addresses problems in the cemetery and apparently really enjoys his role.
 - We are in the process of updating the cemetery rules to cover borders around child graves.
 - With thanks to Councillor Hardman, we now have a digital map of the cemetery so that the location of graves can be quickly identified.
 - Tenders for new walkways in the lower cemetery are about to be sought as this area will soon be required for burials.
- A small subcommittee with councillors Hardman, Baker and Helliwell have reviewed the footpath map and are in the process of updating it along with informative commentary regarding each walk.

To move on to the challenges for the Parish council - unfortunately they remain very similar to those outlined in 2019:

- Planning within the village is still a major concern; the historical lack of Mid Suffolk's five-year land supply has resulted in us having to have two major building projects with excess of 100 new dwellings and now with the prospect of another development in Station Road.
However, our responses to Mid Suffolk regarding planning applications have improved considerably and are comprehensive; it has been reassuring to see that these comments are frequently taken into consideration in final decisions on planning.
The Parish Council have attempted to ensure that our village does not have the explosion of housing development beyond its needs and which the infra- structure can support, but unfortunately this has been with limited success.
- Car parking in and around the school remains a major concern but there may be a solution if the planning application in the adjacent field comes to fruition. This may, however, not be for at least a year. Pedestrian access is also a concern despite attempts to lever help linked with planning developments.

To celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee the Parish Council considered purchasing a beacon for the village so that it could be lit on the evening of June 2nd but the cost (approximately £9000) and the difficulty in identifying a suitable central location meant this was not feasible on both moral and beneficial grounds. The decision was therefore made to have Jubilee benches strategically placed around the parish along with a tree and these will be suitably commemorated with plaques.

In conclusion, the smooth running of this Parish Council is down to our clerk, Karen Price, whose knowledge and expertise has guided us throughout the year. I feel we are a strong team especially now with representatives of different ages, skill sets, experience and knowledge. It has been a pleasure working with everyone and again my thanks to everyone for their energy, commitment and dedication.

I would like to thank my Vice Chair Mark Clements for his support during the year and to all the Parish Councillors who have put in considerable effort to ensure the parish is run smoothly and who have worked hard to discuss and implement new initiatives and to make some difficult decisions. Also, the Chair thanked our District and County Councillors who have provided support and advice throughout the year, their guidance has been invaluable at times. The support with planning issues has been particularly helpful.

Financial balances were reported by the Clerk.

Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays March Statement Balance £36,639.01 (30.03.22)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = £3,379.14 (31.03.22)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = £253.54 (31.03.22)
- FGBurton Trust has £343.07 in cash, the clerk is looking to place the funds with either the parish council funds ringfenced or a new bank account as the Nationwide Building Society have closed the charity account. We

received the annual rent for the years 2020 and 2021 and a total of 10 residents were eligible for the Charitable donation of £50 cash each – This represented 2 years of £25 for each year as no donation was issued in 2020 due to covid restrictions. The Charity Commission Audit was completed in November 2019, and December 2020 and December 2021 accordingly.

5. **Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (Piip)** – Chairman asked any village organisations present if they wished to amend or add to the Piip and the timeframe allocated to projects.
 - CIL £2464.65 + £2231.89 + £6,618.38 + £4,463.78 = **£15,778.70 Total Cil available**
 - Cemetery £3,400.00 + £10,000 CIL money ring fenced for Proposed works required for pathways on new part of the cemetery?
6. **Community Police Report** – Apologies received from PC Stefan Henriksen for tonight’s meeting and he has confirmed he would like to attend the September meeting of the Parish Council if his work commitments allow.
7. **Suffolk County Council Report – County Councillor Andrew Stringer - absent.** Cllr Stringers report not received.
8. **Mid Suffolk District Council Report – District Councillors Rachel Eburne and Keith Welham** - A report was submitted by District Cllrs that will be held on file with the parish clerk and available on the parish website.
9. **Reports from Local Organisations (reports held on file with the parish clerk to be uploaded on the village website).**
 - *Badminton Club – No report submitted*
 - **Carpet Bowls – Report submitted by Tony Arnold**
 - *Old Newton Bowls Club – No report submitted*
 - **Community Council and The Crier – Report provided by Mr Melvyn Barnes.**
 - **DONG – Report provided by Mrs Sue Davy.**
 - **Evergreen Club – Report provided by Mr Tony Arnold.**
 - **Methodist Chapel – Report provided by Mrs Barbara Goudy.**
 - *St Nicholas Chapel – Gipping. Report received and apologies provided by Mrs Bridget Barker*
 - *St Marys Church – Digital annual report to be provided for records but apologies received from Val Godden.*
 - **Friends of St Mary’s Church - Report provided by Libby Brooks.**
 - *Old Newton Football Club – Apologies received from David Shave – No report submitted*
 - *Old Newton Cricket Club – No report submitted*
 - *Old Newton Local History Recorder – Kay Ewan – No report submitted*
 - *Old Newton Under 5’s – Apologies submitted – No report provided*
 - **Old Newton Primary School / Report provided by James Harbidge**
 - **OnWoods / ONCE – Reports provided by Mrs Libby Brookes**
 - **ONGAA – Report submitted by Christine Leggett**
 - *Neighbourhood Watch – No report submitted*
 - *Sports and Social Club – Apologies received from Dave Shave*
 - **Village Hall – Report provided by Mr Philip Groom**
 - *Women’s Institute – No report submitted*

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and providing the reports, always amazing to hear wharts going on within our village and following the pandemic how our organisations are recovering. The Chairman invited all to stay for some light refreshments provided by the Clerk.

Meeting closed at 20.38pm