

Minutes of Old Newton with Dagworth Annual Parish Meeting held on

25th April 2018 at Old Newton Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Parish Cllrs J Miller (Chair), M Reeve, K Goudy, M Clements, K Baker, M Shave, Karen Hall-Price (Clerk), District Cllr J Willshaw, and 10 members of the public.

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to 2018 Annual Parish Meeting and advised that refreshments would be available at the end of the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Richard Lawson and James Harbidge. Judi Barnes, Mabel Baker.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 26th April 2017.**
The minutes of the meeting held 26th April 2017 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

4. **Old Newton with Dagworth and Gipping Parish Council report was given by Cllr Jonathan Miller.**

“I would like to begin by thanking all the Parish Councillors who, during the last year, have put in considerable effort to ensure the parish is run smoothly and have worked hard to discuss and implement new initiatives. The year has been a mixture of successes and challenges, so I think the best way to structure this report is to begin by looking at our successes of which there have been many and then to lay out our challenges for the future.”

- The speed camera is now proving its worth and giving us meaningful data, which confirms that within the village itself, there is no real problem as the average speed of vehicles from Stowmarket is just above 27mph and the average speed of vehicles from Finningham is just above 34mph. This data means the police will not regard this as a dangerous piece of road. But additionally, with the support of Andrew Stringer, the speed limit from Applewhite Barn on Finningham Road all the way down to Bridge Farm towards Stowmarket itself, the speed limit is being reduced to 40mph, other than through the village itself, which will remain at 30mph. My thanks to Andrew Stringer for driving this initiative and to Mark Clements who has led this speed detection initiative.

- New notice boards have been erected throughout the village which give our Parish Council a much more professional profile and allows the Parish Council plus other village organisations to disseminate information.

- A new cemetery policy has been written, formalised and updated and is displayed clearly outside the cemetery gates. A copy of this policy has been sent to all local undertakers. My thanks to Mary Reeve and Ken Goudy for their work in bringing this to fruition. We are now considering that it will soon be time to begin using the newly consecrated area.

- New sand bins and benches have been ordered and will be distributed within the village.

- Broadband has now reached the outer fringes of the villages which is a massive improvement but BT and Openreach still give considerable cause for concern in particular pockets where internet connection is still problematic. My thanks to Tony Arnold who has worked tirelessly and will continue to do so, to solve problems with regard to Broadband through his ‘hotlines’. As a Parish Council we have also agreed to fund Broadband provision in the Village Hall/ car park for a two-year period. This will enable people to use their devices rather than paper, which has to be the preferred way forward in the 21st century.

- Representatives from the Parish Council have had a high profile within the village at events like Remembrance Sunday, the Village Carol Service, Old Newton Christmas Fayre, Under Fives’ events, for example their Barn Dance and their Christmas Fayre and the Old Newton Country Fayre and Dog Show. They have also attended Police liaison meetings and SALC meetings. As Chair I am also in constant touch with both Jill Wilshaw and Andrew Stringer, our District and County Councillors who are always supportive, to discuss future and ongoing projects. Andrew, Kerry and I have also attended the school to allow the children to ask questions about their safety when walking to school including the footpath from the village. Their questioning was reasoned and well thought out and I can see we may have some future parish councillors in the pipeline!

Our challenges have been and/or continue to be:

- Deciding on planning applications both individual and as village developments according to Mid Suffolk District Council's joint local plan. We need to ensure that our village does not have an explosion of housing development beyond our needs and which our infra-structure can support. To this end, training is being organised to assist councillors in their understanding and their decision making.
- Parking, in and around the school is a major concern and my thanks to Kerry Baker and James Harbidge for their work in liaising both with the school and those who may be able to provide an answer. Pedestrian access is a massive concern which we need to address as soon as possible. Some improvements along the footpath have been made but more needs to be done.
- The new Data Protection Act will bring new challenges which we will consider carefully to ensure we are acting within the law. This will be done by signing up for external advice and guidance.
- Potholes continue to be an obvious challenge, both locally and nationally but we are continually monitoring and reporting via the clerk where there is an obvious need for remedial works.

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 your energy, commitment and dedication.

Financial balances were reported by the Clerk.

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)
- FGBurton Trust has £291.62. We received the annual rent for the year and a total of 8 residents were eligible for the Charitable donation of £25 cash each.

5. **Community Police Report** – Clerk has not received a report. The clerk is printing off the monthly newsletter from the Stowmarket SNT website for each monthly meeting and providing the data from the crime map which is always 6 weeks out of date. There are regular meetings that the Clerk and Cllr Arnold have attended. The next one being on 9th May. These meetings are open to Neighbourhood watch Co-Ordinators and the Parish Council. The police connect message service alerts anyone who signs up of anything that is happening on a day to day basis.

Tim Passmore has emailed the clerk with some new dates for Your Police – Your Say. The Stowmarket event will take place at the Cedars Hotel on 11th July 2018. National survey for rural crime. Relevant, and wise to look at.

6. **Suffolk County Council Report – County Councillor Andrew Stringer.** Cllr Stringers report was read to the meeting and kept on file by the clerk.
7. **Mid Suffolk District Council Report – District Councillor Jill Wilshaw.** - A report was submitted by District Cllr Jill Wilshaw that will be held on file with the parish clerk.
8. **Reports from Local Organisations (reports held on file with the parish clerk)**
- *Badminton Club – No report submitted*
 - **Broadband – Report provided by Mr Tony Arnold.**
 - **Carpet Bowls – Report provided by Mrs Christine Bullock**
 - *Old Newton Bowls Club – No report Submitted*
 - **Community Council and The Crier – Report provided by Mr Melvyn Barnes.**
 - **DONG – Report provided by Mrs Sue Clements**
 - **Evergreen Club – Report provided by Mrs Barbara Goudy.**
 - **Methodist Chapel – Report provided by Mrs Barbara Goudy.**
 - **St Nicholas Chapel – Gipping. Report provided by Mrs Mabel Baker and read by Mrs Barbara Goudy**
 - *St. Mary's Church - No report submitted*

- **Old Newton Football Club – Report submitted by Mr Roy Balmforth**
- *Old Newton Cricket Club – No report submitted*
- **Old Newton Local History Recorder – Report submitted by Mrs Judi Barnes and read by Mr Barnes**
- **Old Newton Under 5's - Report provided by Cllr Kerry Baker**
- *Old Newton Primary School – No report submitted.*
- **ONEG / Onwoods / ONSCREEN / ONCE – Reports provided by Mr Philip Groom**
- **ONGAA – Report provided by Mr Colin Barber**
- **Neighbourhood Watch – No report submitted**
- **Sports and Social Club – Report provided by Mr Roy Balmforth.**
- **Village Hall – Report provided by Mr Philip Groom**
- **Women's Institute – Report provided by Mrs Christine Bullock.**

The Chair thanked everyone for their comprehensive reports, copies of all reports were handed to the clerk or promised to be emailed following the meeting and will be kept on file by the clerk. The Chairman invited all to stay for some light refreshments.

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm