

Wednesday 7th October 2020 - ZOOM Meeting commenced at 8pm

Present: J Miller (Chair), M Clements (Vice-Chair), K Goudy, M Reeve (Phone), K Baker, M Helliwell, W Ratcliffe, K Hall-Price (Clerk), District Cllr R Eburne, District Cllr K Welham, County Cllr Stringer and 4 members of the public.

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the October 2020 meeting using the Zoom forum. Cllr Mary Reeve attended via phone using the Zoom conference facility. Cllr Harbidge has forwarded his apologies for this evenings meeting.
2. **Dispensations:**
 - a) To consider any requests for dispensations – No new requests 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 has declared an interest on the Chapel Road application as their land surrounds the property and they are related.
4. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2020 and the extra planning minutes of 23rd September as true and accurate records.** It was proposed by Cllr Goudy and seconded by Cllr Helliwell to accept the minutes of 2nd September as true and accurate record and it was proposed to accept the minutes of the extra planning meeting of 23rd September as a true and accurate record by Cllr Clements and seconded by Cllr Goudy. They will be signed accordingly by the Chairman at the next available opportunity.
5. **Councillor Vacancy and Co-Option** – Clerk has advertised on the noticeboard and on the facebook page but has not had anyone within the parish express an interest. Clerks intention is to keep advertising the vacancy until someone comes forward.
6. **Clerks report following September meeting.**
 - Crier submission was submitted by 12th September for the October edition. Clerk issued a public notice for the spotted in Old Newton Facebook page advertising the Co-Option vacancy.
 - The village website has been updated accordingly.
 - RTI and Nest Pension submissions were completed.
 - Various telephone calls to Cllrs Miller, Reeve and Goudy and several parishioners.
 - All cheques for payment following the Zoom meeting approval for July and August payments were signed by Cllrs Goudy and Miller on Thursday 3rd September 2020.
 - Clerk has set up virtual meetings on Zoom and made telephone access available to those without access to a computer.
 - Planning Responses were issued to MSDC following the meetings by the deadlines set.
 - Footpath from Hundred Lane across to the old railway lines has been reported that there are some old broken handrails over the steps that require attention. This has not been fixed yet and has been forwarded to Cllr Stringer in the hope he may be able to assist in moving this forward.
 - Ward Green has finally received the long-awaited grass cut. All contracts with CGM are subject to a 6 month notice period. If we are to give notice for the next cutting season we would need to do this in October / November to be able to start a new contractor / go to tender for March / April 2021.

Police Report - Stowmarket policing teams have been getting out again and meeting people at their ‘street meets’ and other engagements in the last couple of months. They carried out a catalytic converter marking session in August which went really well, and they will update their Facebook & Twitter with all future events. They joined up with Suffolk Local Links, a Suffolk County Council project, and had a bike-marking event in the Northfield area of Stowmarket. They were only able to take limited bookings due to restrictions, but due to its popularity will be planning more events in the future, and they got a few more in at the ‘street meet’ in Stowmarket the following Saturday. They are arranging several ‘pop up’ street meets in the next few weeks, and are awaiting confirmation, but these will be advertised in advance on their Facebook and Twitter pages, and a message will be sent out on Police Connect. On 18 September they carried out speed enforcement sessions in villages around Stowmarket. The purpose of this was to raise awareness, educate and where

appropriate enforce limits. 25 warnings were given, with one vehicle defect rectification ticket, and six traffic offence reports also issued.

It would appear the crime map stats for Old Newton are now available again but are always going to be circa 6 weeks out of date.

- April 2020 – No reports
- May 2020 – 1 x Burglary, 2 x violence / sexual offence
- June 2020 – 2 x anti-social behaviour, 1 x violence / sexual offence
- July 2020 – 2 x anti-social behaviour, 2 x public order
- August 2020 – 2 x violence / sexual offence, 1 x anti-social behaviour
- September 2020 – results not yet available.

2021 Meeting dates

JANUARY	Wednesday 6th January 2021
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 3rd February 2021
MARCH	Wednesday 3 rd March 2021
APRIL	Wednesday 7 th April 2021 Wednesday 21 st April 2021 – Annual Parish Meeting. (Covid restrictions permitting - Clerk to invite groups within the village and Police to present reports.)
MAY	Wednesday 5 th May 2021 (AGM)
JUNE	Wednesday 2 nd June 2021
JULY	Wednesday 7 th July 2021
AUGUST	There will not be a scheduled meeting in August, however if required a planning meeting will be scheduled separately.
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 1 st September 2021
OCTOBER	Wednesday 6 th October 2021
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 3 rd November 2021
DECEMBER	Wednesday 1 st December 2021

7. Financial Matters & Financial Report

Online banking – Online banking Cllr Goudy has been into the Bank in Stowmarket and the facility should be up and running within 5 working days from Friday 2nd October. Clerk would like to ask the Council if it is in order, to make this month's payments using the online facility when it becomes available and resort to the cheques only if there is another set back.

Notification from BMSDC that a CIL payment will be received on / before 28th October 2020 for £2,231.89. This will be shown in the October accounts.

We will be looking at the budget process in November and December and a finance review meeting needs to be arranged. For information the Precept needs to be determined and approved at the January meeting of the Parish Council for submission to MSDC by 31st January 2021.

Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays Statement Balance = **£32,393.01** (29.09.2020).
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,378.62** (30.09.20)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£253.48** (30.09.20)
- Public Works Loan – Balance outstanding = **£22,246.80** (06.04.2020)

Accounts for payment – September 2020:

EXPENDITURE	CHQ/BACS/SO/DDR		NET	VAT	TOTAL
CGM	101245	Ward Green Grass Cutting – 19.09.20	£62.50	£12.50	£75.00
CGM	101246	Village Hall and play areas / field including a second cut to Ward Green – 28.09.20 (Queried by Clerk – Payment should be made and credit note requested if necessary.	£242.47	£48.49	£290.96
Karen Price	101247	Salary less tax, NI, pension plus expenses	£960.38		£960.38

Adam Alexander	101248	Cemetery Maintenance – September	£210.00		£210.00
HMRC PAYE	101249	Employee NI £18.03, Employer NI £29.01 less employment allowance £29.01	£18.03		£18.03
Business Services at CAS Ltd	101250	Parish Protect Insurance Renewal – Long term agreement – 30.09.22	£580.68		£580.68
Nest Pension	DDR	Employee £37.69, Employer £28.27	£65.96		£65.96
ICO	DDR	Data Protection / GDPR	£35.00		£35.00
Onwoods	BACS	Replacement Chqs – 101211 £160.10, 101217 £160.10, Qtr Ending June 2020 £117.72	£437.72		£437.72

One Suffolk Website Hosting annual fee of £42.00 inclusive of VAT is due and can only be paid by credit / debit card. Clerk would like permission to purchase this with a view to claiming back through the expenses system in November.

RECEIPTS					
BMSDC	DC	Precept payment received	£13,060.00		£13,060.00

Proposed and seconded for the accounts to be paid - proposed by Cllr Baker and seconded by Cllr Goudy. All Cllrs agreed and were in favour for the Clerk to attempt to make the payments electronically if possible but to issue cheques if this wasn't possible.

8. Correspondence Received & Circulars:

- Letter received via Cllr Clements – Applying for use and purchase of land adjacent to 1 Silver Street, Old Newton currently designated as highway maintainable at public expense. There is no drainage or services within the area to be discussed. Visibility down Station Road would be a concern. Cllrs would not want to see this developed and would need to ensure that sufficient visibility splay at least 2 meters from the road. Concerns regarding visibility down Station Road and the Parish Council would not support that.
- Letter – Traffic Commissioner Office – Old Bells Farm Operators Licence application has been withdrawn by the applicant.
- Email – End of Life Project – Health Watch Suffolk
- Email BMSDC – Parish Precept Forms and Tax Base. The forms will be emailed to the Clerk on 19th November. All Precept forms must be approved and completed / returned to BMSDC no later than 31st January 2021 and must be signed by the Clerk and the Chairman.
- Email - Quiet Lanes Suffolk – Quiet lanes – mixed success – becoming a greener county. They are quite restrictive. Walkers and cyclists etc Clerk asked to forward the email to all Cllrs – Cllrs all asked to view the online information and presentation on Suffolk Quiet Lanes and get up to speed with the presentation provided on the website.

Circulars received are being forwarded where appropriate to all Cllrs via email.

9. To receive District Councillor's Report – Mrs Rachel Eburne / Mr Keith Welham. All Cllrs have received the report prior to the meeting.

The annual meeting was held virtually on 24th September. Barry Humpheys was elected as Chairman and Paul Ekpenyong as Vice Chair. The Committees and Chairs were all agreed, with the Chairman using his casting vote to elect all the chairs and vice chairs from the Conservative and Independent Group, except for Overview and Scrutiny which is traditionally chaired by an opposition member and will continue to be chaired by Keith Welham, with Keith Scarff as vice chair.

Government consultations on planning - Changes to the current planning system is about changes to planning policy and regulation including how the housing numbers for each local government area are calculated (which would be upwards for Mid Suffolk). A White Paper that proposes major reforms to the planning system includes reducing the timeframe in which Local Plans must be created to a maximum of 30 months; and dividing land into zones for development, renewal (brownfield) and protect (green belt, national parks etc) then automatically granting outline planning permissions within the development and renewal zones. Planning Committees at a district council would therefore only consider design and not the principle of development. The White Paper also considers greater digitalisation, a different system for developer levies and a fast-track system for “beautiful buildings”.

Public Realm - A Joint Cabinet meeting was held in September to discuss the findings of a review of the management of the public realm service. The review occurred because Babergh's contract with an outside contractor is due to end in October 2021. Mid Suffolk Cabinet decided to continue with an in-house team and Babergh Cabinet decided to be part of the same arrangement. The Public Realm service for both districts will now be managed by the same in-house team.

Homelessness - Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils have been awarded a grant of £100,000 to help cover the cost of temporary accommodation for homeless people over the winter. In Mid Suffolk there are few (possibly only 2) people sleeping rough but pre-Covid many others had been sofa-surfing or staying with elderly relatives. In order to protect vulnerable people, some of these people became homeless and have been accommodated in hotels. This will need to continue for some months at least.

Stowmarket Leisure Centre/ High School site - Officers are working together with representatives from Stowmarket High School to develop the school and leisure centre site to improve leisure facilities. Stakeholders from local sports clubs will be consulted in order to fully assess what is needed.

Gateway 14 - A public consultation on proposals for Gateway 14, which now includes land up to A14, was launched on Monday 14th September until 31st October – to see the scale of the development, go to G14yoursay.co.uk.

Cllrs Welham and Eburne confirmed that the Land Supply is now at 7.6years. Joint local plan is expected to be ready by 11th November and following a 6 week consultation and then sent onto inspectorate to be ready by end of calendar year 2021. Cllrs reminded that this is the last chance to input any views.

Cllr Clements asked regarding the amount of housing planned in the surrounding villages – infrastructure regarding medical care and schools. District Cllrs confirmed that the Community infrastructure levy is available for such infrastructure expanding. Cllr Helliwell commented that in previous developments they never considered the medical impact on the doctors practices. Final numbers for development within our villages – The reports that have been circulated have all the data and information that is currently available.

Cllr Miller asked regarding Haughley Silo – Cllr Eburne has asked for enforcement to investigate the site regarding previous information provided. Covid is making things slightly more difficult but once an update is received Cllrs will be informed.

10. To receive County Councillor's Report – Mr Andrew Stringer. Clerk received Cllr Stringer's report prior to the meeting and has issued to all Cllrs on email. Report taken as read.

- **Children's Centres cuts given go-ahead by Scrutiny Committee** - Following the Cabinet's decision in August to close 10 children's centres, my group joined forces with the Labour group to challenge this decision. Our challenge focused on concerns over the lack of financial analysis and the lack of clarity over the new outreach model. The challenge was discussed by the Scrutiny Committee on 11 September. Unfortunately, the majority of the Committee voted against our challenge and endorsed the Cabinet's decision. This means that the planned changes to children's centres in Suffolk will go ahead. **Changes to Children's Centres challenged by opposition.**
- **Suffolk County Council decides to oppose Sizewell C** - The Cabinet at Suffolk County Council agreed on 22 September that they can no longer support EDF Energy's proposals for Sizewell C in their current form. However, the Cabinet maintained their support for the principle of a new nuclear power station in Suffolk. The Cabinet's key concerns were regarding transport impacts, site design and the environmental impact on the Suffolk coast. The Cabinet also believe that the current proposals do not sufficiently avoid, minimise, mitigate or compensate impacts of the proposed development. These concerns will be submitted as Relevant Representations to the Planning Inspectorate.
- **Financial impact of Covid-19 on Suffolk County Council budget** - Suffolk County Council has published their Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring Report. This focuses heavily on the impact of Covid-19 on the council's finances. The council is currently forecasting a net overspend of just £0.4m (0.1%) for the 2020-21 budget. The headline figures are: Additional expenditure from core budget - £41.2m o £43.9m – additional expenditure and lost income due to Covid-19 Offset by underspend of £2.7m from non-Covid business as usual activity. Additional funding - £40.8m o £39.1m – non-ringfenced Covid-19 grants from the Government £1.7m – additional funding from business rates.
- **Boundary review restarts with consultation on draft recommendations** - Following a delay due to Covid-19, the Boundary Commission has restarted the boundary review for Suffolk with a consultation on their draft recommendations, which include a reduction to 70 councillors. Any boundary changes will not be implemented

until the 2025 elections. The draft recommendations and boundary changes are available to view on the Boundary Commission's website: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-county-council>. The consultation on these recommendations will run from 15 September – 23 November and can be found here: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/18495>

11. Planning Applications

- **DC/20/04081** - Change of use, conversion and extension of cartlodge to form 1no dwelling at Harrys Barn, Brown Street, Old Newton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4QB. BMSDC invite comments on the application by **13th October 2020. Application has been withdrawn**
- **DC/20/04168** - APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) - Application under S73a for removal or variation of condition following grant of DC/19/02613 dated 12/07/2020 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Vary Condition 2(Approved Plans and Documents) Erection of storm porch, use of cladding to replace some render. Change to position and height of garage to enable construction of home office in roof space over garage including dormer and external staircase as per drawing No1607 20 at Land South East Of, Chapel Road, Old Newton, Suffolk. BMSDC invite comments on the application by **19th October 2020**. The proposed amendments are considerably more imposing than what was previously requested. Cllrs commented that the height of the cartlodge is considerably higher but the council feel that a compromise could be if the Dormer windows were moved to be facing the rear of the property as this would prevent overlooking and possible privacy / conflict issues with neighbouring properties. Cllrs felt that the elevated position of the development appears to be looking straight down the drive with no hedgerows to shield the view of the neighbours opposite property and this did raise concerns. Cllrs were happy with the addition of the storm porch at the front of the house and the Cartlodge was met with some approval but not unanimous. It was proposed that if the Dormer windows were moved to the rear of the property overlooking the fields that this would be acceptable to the parish council and would be approved at parish council level. This was seconded. All Cllrs were in favour providing the Dormer Windows are moved to the rear of the property.
- **DC/20/04216** - Full Application - Erection of first floor extension to form apartment; Conversion of store room to bedroom and erection of porch at Old Newton Village Shop, 18 Finningham Road, Old Newton, Stowmarket Suffolk, IP14 4EG. BMSDC invite comments on the application by **22nd October 2020**. Cllrs acknowledged that this was a re-submission of planning application received previously that was refused by MSDC. It was noted the improvements to the roofline is now more in-line and the windows and access issues have been addressed. Cllrs felt that the new proposals were very discreet. Better access has been implemented and the design looks more in-keeping and more of a feature for our village with a much more pleasing frontage than what is currently in existence – The roof design is much less imposing and would transform what is presently in existence. Finningham Road consists of a mixture of bungalows and detached houses, and this design looks aesthetically pleasing and is more in-keeping for the area and would be an improvement on the 1960s flat roof design that is currently in existence. The only negative comment that was raised was that the front elevation - the roof level on the left hand side seems to be higher and possibly would be visually more acceptable if the height was level but overall Cllrs felt that the new design is an improvement. It was Proposed and seconded to accept this application on the above points. No comments had been received by the Clerk from members of the public at the time of the meeting and all Cllrs were unanimously in favour. Application approved at Parish Council level.

Cllrs noted that the village shop is an incredible community asset - they brought the post office back to the village and ultimately, they are providing an excellent service to our parishioners.

12. Planning Decisions –

- **DC/20/02995** - Householder Planning Application - Erection of a single storey rear extension. White Cottage, Ward Green, Old Newton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4EZ. **MSDC Planning Permission has been granted.**

13. **Standing Orders / Finance Regulations** – Updated model Finance Regulations and model Standing Orders are submitted to Cllrs for adoption at tonight's meeting. Cllrs should note that these are model templates provided by NALC. The amendments to the Standing Orders are as follows:

Section 18 – Financial controls and Procurement (parts f and g)

f) A public contract regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 with an estimated value in excess of £189,330 for a public service or supply contract or in excess of £4,733,252 for a public works contract (or other thresholds determined by the European Commission every two years and published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU)) shall comply with the relevant procurement procedures and other requirements in the

Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which include advertising the contract opportunity on the Contracts Finder website and in OJEU.

g) A public contract in connection with the supply of gas, heat, electricity, drinking water, transport services, or postal services to the public; or the provision of a port or airport; or the exploration for or extraction of gas, oil or solid fuel with an estimated value in excess of £378,660 for a supply, services or design contract; or in excess of £4,733,252 for a works contract; or £663,540 for a social and other specific services contract (or other thresholds determined by the European Commission every two years and published in OJEU) shall comply with the relevant procurement procedures and other requirements in the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016.

NALC have not yet issued advice regarding their model financial regulations, however the replacement footnotes at the bottom of **section 11** indicating the correct thresholds have been amended in accordance with the Model Standing Orders: **Section 11 – Contracts**

1. **For public supply and public service contracts £189,330**
2. **For public works contracts £4,733,252**

Proposed and seconded to adopt both policies with immediate effect.

14. **Dog Mess Signage & Dog Mess Bag Dispensers – Update.** Cllr Miller has the new signs and they will be installed at the earliest opportunity. 2 to be displayed on the Downs Footpath. Dog bins – The Village Hall have asked if one of the bins can be re-sited to the noticeboards area. Cllr Miller will investigate if they can be moved.
15. **Cemetery Review – Memorial Wall / Repairs.** Quotes have been requested from three Stonemasons for repair works to our war memorial in the cemetery, Hanchets have since declined to quote for us so the clerk is waiting for Perfitt from Diss and Bierton & Woods from Scole to provide quotes in order that the clerk can have an idea of costs and request a contribution of grant funding from District Cllrs Locality budget.

Cllr Miller will attempt to get a better photograph of the memorial wall with a new wreath on it to be submitted for the next edition of the Crier.

16. **Piip - Review of play equipment.** Village hall are looking to raise money to replace the existing play equipment. This needs to be reflected within our Piip. Cllr Miller has asked if we could look at the Piip and review it at the November meeting and see if there are any additional comments. Suggested to move the leisure facilities to the higher time frame. Clerk to re-issue the Piip for Cllrs and include on the agenda for the November meeting.
17. **Councillors Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council**
 - Remembrance Sunday – Not been informed – Covid restrictions will apply. Cllr Goudy will be officiating at Wetheringsett and not able to attend anything in Old Newton. No singing will be allowed
 - Cllr Reeve thanked Cllr Miller for providing the papers / copies in preparation of the meeting.
 - Cllr Ratcliffe – Training Sessions for planning – possible something to be arranged virtually. Cllr Eburne and Wellham to investigate.
 - Downs footpath has been tidied and brambles and tree branches have been removed.

Public comments – Mr Patel – Thanked Cllrs for comments and decision regarding his application. Cllr Miller thanked members of the public for attending. No other comments received.

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

- Co-Option / Cllr Vacancy
- Cemetery / Memorial Wall – Update
- Budget / Precept Initial papers / Finance Review meeting
- Piip Review of play
- Dog Bins

19. Date of the next Parish Council meeting – Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 4th November at 8pm 2020.

Meeting closed at 21.58hrs