

Wednesday 15th July 2020 - ZOOM Meeting commenced at 8pm

Present: J Miller (Chair), M Clements (Vice-Chair), M Reeve (Phone), W Ratcliffe, K Goudy, K Baker, K Hall-Price (Clerk), District Cllr K Welham, County Cllr A Stringer, and 1 member of the public.

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the extra Planning meeting using the Zoom forum. Cllr Mary Reeve attended via phone using the Zoom conference facility. Cllr Mike Helliwell sent his apologies but has also sent his comments to be read at each relevant agenda point. Cllr Harbidge and District Cllr Eburne have also sent their apologies.
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.** No-one declared an interest in any items on tonight's agenda.
4. **Planning Applications received**
 - **DC/20/02585** - Erection of single storey front and first floor side extension. Erection of two storey rear extension to garage and alterations to roof to form annex ancillary to principal dwelling at Mill House, Ward Green, Old Newton.

Chairman shared the online planning application documents. There does not appear to be any affect directly to neighbouring properties, no comments have been received from members of the public.

Cllrs believe that the proposed development does not appear to be in-keeping with the properties already in existence on the Green. Cllrs are concerned about the garage conversion being utilised as a separate dwelling in the future and would like to insist that a condition should be that the annex remains a link to the main property and should not be allowed as a separate dwelling.

Cllrs feel that the development is very large in terms of scale - That any additional development should be confined to the rear of the property taking away the feeling of losing the local aesthetic view of the front of the property. The current plans completely alter the character of the existing property - It is presently symmetrical in design and is a stereotype chocolate box country cottage / farm house. Cllrs felt strongly that the proposed development is not in keeping with the existing house or area of Ward Green. The Parish Council is not adverse to the house being extended but would like it to be more sympathetic to the surrounding area and existing property. Cllrs were also unhappy with the development coming so far forward to the left side of the house and the size of the garage. Cllrs suggested that the if the Garage was set further back allowing a greater turning area within the grounds of the property for vehicle movements. The Garage proposal appears more imposing as the pitch of the roof has been altered so that you immediately see the full height of the proposed garage.

It was proposed and seconded to object to the application as it is currently presented - All Cllrs agreed unanimously. Current application objected to at Parish Council Level.

- Cllr Goudy sent his apologies he has left the meeting due to internet difficulties at 20.15hrs

- **DC/20/02760** - Erection of 1no dwelling. (An alternative siting for the dwelling approved under DC/20/01118) at Old Bells Farm, Wassicks Lane, Haughley, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 3NP

Cllrs feel that the application submitted states that this is to re-site the existing barn conversion application to an area that has no barn, Cllrs struggled to see how this could be a re-siting of a barn to an area that is not using a redundant agricultural building or barn – Cllrs felt that this is a completely new independent property build, building outside the existing curtilage of the property. There is no mention of demolishing or not using the existing building that has previously been granted planning permission. In moving it they are effectively building in the middle of a field – The field should still come under agricultural land and there is not an application for the change of use for new development in the countryside.

The isolated location of Old Bells Farm and it being reliant entirely on motorised transport along a single track lane through Old Newton is still a very valid concern of the Parish Council. The Parish Council has previously stated on earlier applications that the access to the site is a serious concern. Silver Street and Wassicks Lane are both very narrow and negotiating access over the railway line is potentially dangerous for the development. Our previous comments remain valid regarding this site.

Cllrs proposed and seconded unanimously to object to this application on the above comments made – Application objected to at Parish Council level.

- **DC/20/02785** - Householder application - Erection of Cartlodge with workshop and hobby room at Nether Hall, Chapel Road, Old Newton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4PP.

Netherhall is a grade II listed building and the cartlodge proposed is in-keeping with the existing property and immediate area. Cllrs believe the proposed application will enhance and compliment the property - It does not appear to adversely impact neighbouring properties and there are no public comments received to date. It was proposed to accept this application, seconded and all Cllrs agreed. Application approved at Parish Council level.

5. **Planning Application Decisions – None received**

6. **Dog Fouling Signs – Should Parish Council be purchasing some additional ones for use around the village. Possible community grant funded project?** Cllr Baker was on the committee that has recently purchased signs for the village hall and playing fields, these do appear to be making a difference. Chairman asked if this was something we could possibly use the locality funds for, unfortunately there is a limit for the grant funding and the signs suggested would fall below the threshold for the grant funding. Signs are quoted at £7.39 each + VAT - £73.90 +VAT total.

Edmund Baker commented to the Parish Council about the number of times he has cycled through dog mess on his bicycle and suggested that the Parish Council might like to buy some “poo bag” dispensers. The Chairman thanked Edmund for his contribution and proposed that we buy x10 of the signs first, this was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour. Cllr Baker to purchase the signs for invoice to be presented to the clerk for payment.

7. **Village Hall - Return Usage for the purpose of Parish Council Meetings.** The Village Hall Committee have generated a questionnaire for all users to complete as to when users would like to return to using the village hall for meetings.

It will be required for users to set up, pack away and to include time and sanitation of all tables and chairs and equipment used plus any touched surfaces, toilets etc. A maximum of 8 people only allowed to use the Woodward Room which would mean that the Parish Council would need to use the main hall which is a significantly larger responsibility. It was mentioned that if the Parish Council used the main hall the under 5’s would have to put everything away for us to be able to use it in the evening. The Parish Council would also be expected to keep a log of names and addresses of who attends each meeting. Cllrs commented that they are happy to carry on with the Zoom meetings, at some point we should be able to go back to normal, but in the meantime the virtual meetings work perfectly well for the purpose of conducting parish council business. Cllrs are also mindful of the age of some of our Cllrs who are in a vulnerable age group.

Cllr Reeve is hoping to be able to use Zoom properly within the next few weeks and thanked the Chairman and the Clerk for keeping her updated and copied in with all relevant documents.

Chairman proposed to continue meeting virtually on Zoom until such time as it is safe for Cllrs to attend and not have to take over the main hall. Seconded by Cllr Baker – All in favour. Chairman to send the questionnaire for the clerk to complete and return.

8. Councillors matters to be brought to the attention of the Council.

- Finances for the Village Hall – they have obtained a significant grant for covering general overheads. Village Hall is relatively financially secure. Cllr Baker agreed to arrange for the purchase of the dog signs.
- Finance Committee - Remote sanctioning of Parish Council payments has been activated and will be trialed for August payments.

9. Public Forum - No public in attendance.

10. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the September meeting –

- Dog Signs Update
- Value of dog poo dispensers – Stowupland PC have 2 – Costs etc to be investigated by the clerk.
- Planning Decisions
- Finance Committee Meeting Report / Recommendations to the Parish Council

11. Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 2nd September 2020 – 8pm. If additional meetings to discuss any planning applications are required these will be arranged separately.

Chairman thanked everyone for attending this evenings meeting.

Meeting ended at 21.22hrs