

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 - ZOOM Meeting commenced at 8pm**

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

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first parish council meeting of 2021 meeting using the Zoom forum and wished everyone a Happy New Year. District Cllr R Eburne and Cllr J Harbidge have 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. DC/20/05393 - 47 & 49 Church Road – Cllr Helliwell** declared an interest.
4. **To approve the minutes of the meetings as true and accurate records.**
  - December Full Parish Council Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020, proposed by Cllr Ratcliffe seconded by Cllr Clements. All Cllrs in favour – Minutes approved.
  - Extra Consultation Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020, proposed by Cllr Helliwell and seconded by Cllr Clements. All Cllrs in favour.

All minutes were unanimously agreed as true and accurate records. The minutes will be signed accordingly by the Chairman at the next available opportunity.
5. **Councillor Vacancy and Co-Option** – Clerk continues to include within the Parish Council notice in the Crier and on the village website but has not had anyone within the parish express an interest. The crier is likely to cease again for the next 3 months.
6. **Clerks report following December meeting.**
  - Crier submission was submitted by 12<sup>th</sup> December for the January edition.
  - The village website has been updated accordingly to include all the latest COVID 19 advice, minutes and information approved.
  - RTI and Nest Pension submissions were completed.
  - Clerk has set up virtual meetings on Zoom and made telephone access available where required.
  - Planning Responses were issued to MSDC following the meetings by the deadlines set. The planning response for one of the applications discussed did not appear to have loaded and was submitted again.
  - The extra consultations for CIL and Planning were submitted by the deadline set by MSDC.

**Police Report** – (Crime map stats are always going to be circa 6 weeks out of date).

- September 2020 – 1 x criminal damage, 1 x theft
- October 2020 – 1 x violence / sexual offence
- November 2020 - Zero crimes reported this month

visit: <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/crime-prevention-z>. If you would like a hard copy of any of the crime prevention information, please contact the force via its website.

**7. Financial Matters & Financial Report**

**Online banking** – All invoices for payment following the December Zoom meeting approval for the November payments were paid through the online BACS system and approved by Cllr Miller on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

### Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays Statement Balance = **£29,980.56** (30.12.2020).
- 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 – December 2020:

EXPENDITURE	CHQ/BACS/SO/DDR		NET	VAT	TOTAL
Karen Price	BACS	Salary less tax, NI, pension plus expenses	£885.45		£885.45
HMRC PAYE	BACS	Employee NI £12.68, Employer NI £22.87 less employment allowance £22.87	£12.68		£12.68
Nest Pension	DDR	Employee £35.91, Employer £26.94	£62.85		£62.85

RECEIPTS					
Coop	100129	Memorial wall – Gordon and Brenda Freeman	£50.00		£50.00

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

**Precept** - Budget papers have been discussed and submitted for Cllrs information at the December meeting. Final approval before precept submission to MSDC by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to be agreed and papers signed for submission to MSDC. Agreed precept figure requested as £27,373.00 to be paid in two instalments of £13,687 AND £13,686. Proposed by Cllr Clements and seconded by Cllr Ratcliffe to accept and all Cllrs were unanimously in favour. Clerk to obtain signatories from Chairman and another Cllr prior to submission to MSDC by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

### 8. Correspondence Received & Circulars:

- Nothing other than residents correspondence to discuss at the agenda points of planning. 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.

**Covid 19** - Mid Suffolk were administering payments of grants to businesses forced to close or suffering a significant loss of income during the recent period in Tier 4. Cllrs have yet to hear what extra work officers will be tasked with now that a national lockdown is in force.

**2020/2021 Budget** - Council Members have received an initial briefing on the draft budget for 2020/21. Once again, the Council is planning for a surplus at the end of next year following a likely underspend during the current year. It is proposed that Council Tax be increased by 1.66%, which is equivalent to 23p per month for a Band D property. We continue to have concerns that inadequate staff resources are resulting in failure to deliver capital projects on time and delays in other work. This is despite plans to increase Council Tax and build up financial reserves. The budget will be debated by Council on 23 February.

**Council House Rents** - MSDC propose to increase rents by 1.5%, equivalent to an average increase of £1.25 per week. There will be no increase in garage rents. Sheltered housing service charges are set to increase by £1 per week.

**CEMEX site** – District Cllrs have received a detailed response from the planning enforcement officer. He has concluded that there has been no planning breach.

- Use of second access nearest to the railway crossing – such use is lawful: confirmed by granting of LDC DC/19/04595 in May 2020. Whilst its use is lawful, the access is no longer in use and blocked up.
- Widening of main entrance and erection of retaining walls (to facilitate single access use in/out so 2<sup>nd</sup> above access is not required). These works have been completed as permitted development – the walls do not impact highways visibility entering/exiting the site and visibility has actually been improved by widening the main access.
- Replacement of hard standing adjacent to the railway line south of main warehouse is permitted development.

- Erection of extension to north end of existing main building – this has also been confirmed as permitted development.
- Flood lighting – the officer has reported as follows: ‘The lighting has been in place since Cemex took possession of the site in 2014. The lights are on dusk to dawn sensors apparently set to go off at 7pm and come on again at 5am. I personally have witnessed 2 flood lights on regularly outside of these times (late into the night) so have highlighted this to the owner who has asked site staff to double-check and adjust timings as necessary. The owner also highlighted that the lights have already been angled further downward 3 times following complaints from a neighbour 1-1.5miles away. Subject to the checking and preventing of the lighting being on late into the night, I see no reason for any further action. The fact the lights are visible from the nearest residential properties (Elm Tree Close and Trafford Close in Old Newton?) is not in itself a planning breach.’
- Hours of operation of the site – there appear to be no planning restrictions regarding working times/days for the site.

Cllrs were concerned about the additional development and hopes that the flood lighting is investigated and rectified. Clerk asked to put a request on the spotted in Old Newton if any residents have any concerns.

**Green Homes Scheme** - The Green Homes scheme, which is designed to help make homes more energy efficient, offers vouchers to households to get energy saving work done, and invites councils to bid for funding towards the cost of home energy efficiency projects. A Suffolk consortium bid, including Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils, has been awarded over £1 million from the Department of Business, Energy and Industry. The work on Babergh and Mid Suffolk council homes involves modifications to 36 bungalows, four flats and eight houses, all of which have no mains gas and currently use electric storage heaters. Air source heat pumps and loft top ups will be fitted on all 48 properties. In addition, four properties require cavity wall insulation, and two require external wall insulation.

**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.

**Biodiversity strategy adopted** - At Full Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Suffolk County Council unanimously passed a motion that will see Suffolk County Council developing a biodiversity strategy and embracing biodiverse land management practices. The motion was proposed by the LDGI Group and supported by all other groups. The motion will ensure:

- Delivery of a biodiversity strategy that will set out how we could increase Suffolk’s biodiversity, halt the loss of habitats and species, and reintroduce declining species in suitable locations.
- Assessment of how the council can lead organisations across the county in efforts to improve biodiversity.
- Adoption of biodiverse land management options on council land.
- A letter to the Secretary of State asking what further support can be made available to local authorities to enhance bio-diversity within their areas.

**Resisting the decision to reclaim local highways budgets** - The Suffolk County Council cabinet will be reclaiming unspent Local Highways Budgets from councillors on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. Local highways budgets can be spent by councillors in their divisions, on projects like new yellow lines, resident parking areas or zebra crossings. The LDGI Group has fought against this decision, arguing that the pandemic has increased delays to work which was already difficult to complete due to cumbersome processes and excessive red tape. Lockdown meant that officers weren’t allowed to go out and look at sites, and teams were overwhelmed by the amount of work caused by the pandemic. Some larger projects will not be ready to receive payment by the 31<sup>st</sup>. This reclaiming of the budget would not have become absolutely necessary until March, when the financial year ends. Our Group has been fighting against this decision, taking it to Cabinet and senior officers, as well as the press. This decision means that dozens of projects will now remain unfinished and local communities will not benefit from the money.

**Preparing budget amendments for 2021-22 budget** - SCC is currently preparing its budget for 2021-22 and the LDGI Group has been preparing its amendments. My Group has chosen three key priorities for our budget amendment: Warm homes, Supporting community groups and charities through the pandemic, and Income generation & the climate emergency. We will be proposing multiple projects and policy decisions around these three key themes.

**Consultation on the Street Guide** - SCC is currently running a consultation on its proposed Streets Guide, which will assist with the design of new residential developments showing how best to create sustainable transport layouts that promote walking and cycling. A new Street Guide has been commissioned to update guidance for residential streets. Comments on the draft guide are welcomed and there is a survey to complete. The consultation closes at 5pm

on 10th February 2021. **Link:** <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/planning-and-development-advice/suffolk-design-streets-guide/>

**Consultation on the Suffolk Climate Change Action Plan** - SCC is currently running a consultation on the Suffolk Climate Action Plan. and you are invited to comment on the following areas:

- Sustainable Buildings
- Large Industrial & Commercial Energy Users
- Transport & Air Quality
- Small Industrial & Commercial Energy Users
- Energy & Planning
- Community Action & Schemes

Link and further information here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/initiatives/pledge-to-climate-emergency-declaration/>

Cllr Stringer wanted to recognise the huge amount of work that has been done in the education department over the last 2 months and the support that SCC have provided the schools regarding the return to school for students. SCC would have supported all schools in whatever decision they made even though the national lock down has taken that decision away from the schools.

Cllr Stringer urged people to not call their doctors surgeries regarding the roll out of the Covid 19 vaccines as the logistics are huge and people will be contacted by their surgeries. Cllr Stringer was delighted to see so many people at the open air carol services around our villages prior to Christmas and the audio equipment was a great success.

Cllr Miller mentioned that water flooding down School Hill is still a huge issue. The parish council believe that this is due to broken drainage pipes unless there is different local knowledge available the water and ice are still a major problem and it could be said that it is fortunate that the school is not fully open as this issue is still unresolved and is an accident waiting to happen. Cllr Baker is still to respond to the correspondence received from Jo Churchill – All the items we identified previously still need to be addressed.

Cllr Reeve stated that there were low loaders this evening again on Silver Street to Wassicks Lane and the roadside verges are still being churned up and made a mess of.

Cllr Helliwell asked if there was a map in existence that defines who is responsible for land ditches. Cllr Stringer confirmed that in all cases the owner of the land is responsible for any land ditches and the land owners must keep the ditches clear anything that goes under the road would be the responsibility of SCC Highways.

Cllr Goudy – Randalls Lane – now floods as the water can't get away. Also to report that the flooding on Brown Street is still an issue.

## 11. Planning Applications

- **DC/20/05663** - Householder Planning Application – Conversion and extension of cartlodge to form annex at Harry's Barn, Brown Street, Old Newton. MSDC Comments requested by 4<sup>th</sup> January but extension applied and approved to 7<sup>th</sup> **January 2021**.

The proposal is to extend an outbuilding erected following a permission of 2016. The host building is a new build built on the site of an old outbuilding formerly part of the farmstead of Brown's Place which is a listed farmhouse. Ivy Cottage, a listed building stands opposite to the east of Brown Street. The existing cart-lodge building stands in the setting of both these listed buildings, and contributes to the rural character of the surroundings of both by respecting local architectural traditions. Cllrs believe that this new development will have considerable detrimental effect on the existing listed buildings, is not in keeping with the heritage setting of the farmstead and will in fact harm the setting.

The proposed development is outside the envelope of the village and therefore part of the countryside and this particular development will be significantly over developing this site (CS2 policy refers).

The proposed development is looking to replace one window with 6 windows and a balcony that will completely overlook the neighbouring property of the Neat House severely affecting privacy of the current residents from every vantage point proposed.

The footprint of the new annex is similar in size to the original host building and Cllrs are concerned that this could be 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 not be allowed as a separate dwelling if the application is approved at district level.

The proposed annex will be removing any parking for the host property and making it more difficult for the shared access to the Neat House to access their own cartlodge. Brown Street is a narrow one-track road, with no available parking on the roadside to be taken advantage of and the cart lodge is currently the garaging for the host property and there is no alternative vehicle parking offered within the plans. The driftway that goes across the drive of both properties has been identified previously in applications that this needs to be kept clear to ensure the setting of the farmstead is not compromised and should not be allowed to be used for parking and any vehicles will need to be able to turn which Cllrs feel will not be easily achieved.

Cllrs noted that two large trees have been felled already that is not listed within the application proposal. It was also noted by Cllrs that a recent planning application for a new build on the site of Ivy Cottage was instructed by MSDC planning that any new development had to be 50 meters away from their listed cottage. This new development proposed at Harrys Barn will be 25 meters away even though it is outside the boundary of Ivy Cottage and therefore poses more of a detrimental impact to the setting of the neighbouring Grade II listed properties.

The proposed annex is very imposing, there does not appear to be any available outside space, the extension is similar in size to the host property and significantly larger than the current cartlodge. It was agreed that this proposed development would be excessive for the area of land available and Cllrs strongly felt will have a detrimental effect on the visual aesthetic of the property and farmstead as a whole. Cllrs felt that this application is a significant over development of the site and is not trying to enhance the original period farmstead setting but will be detrimental to the visual impact on the whole area and view of this historical site and rural nature of these buildings. The Neat House and surrounding farmstead should be preserved and this proposal is not sympathetic or in-keeping with the area or the existing neighbouring Grade II listed properties.

It was proposed and seconded to refuse this application and strongly object to MSDC using the above points. All Cllrs were unanimously in favour. Application is Refused and strongly objected to at Parish Council level.

- **DC/20/05393** – Application for listed building consent – Remedial works and repairs to the internal and external frame. Timber repairs to original external frame on North, East, South (party wall) and West walls. Internal and external works as detailed in the repair schedule at 47 & 49 Church Road, Old Newton. MSDC comments requested by 1<sup>st</sup> January but extension applied and approved to **7<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.

It was pointed out that this is a Grade II listed property that has received some negative comments previously regarding the work taking place that had not received planning considerations. The applicants have now obtained a consultant for the non-consented works and repairs to the internal and external walls. The report is quite extensive and the scheme is comprehensive and will render it back to its former status. Cllrs believe that this should be approved to be restored to its original state. It was proposed by Cllr Clements and seconded by Cllr Ratcliffe to accept that the works be carried out – All Cllrs were in favour. Application approved at parish council level.

- **DC/20/05866** - Erection of first floor rear extension at Habenai, 1 Silver Street, Old Newton, MSDC comments requested by **13th January 2021**.

Cllrs felt that the proposal is on the opposite side of the garden to the house adjacent to it and is therefore not overlooking anyone and does not appear to pose any privacy issues for neighbouring properties. The proposed south elevation does not have any windows. Cllrs felt the proposed application is in character with the existing and neighbouring properties and Cllrs were happy with the proposals submitted. The Parish Council has not received any comments regarding this application. The application was Proposed and Seconded for approval at Parish Council level. All Cllrs were unanimously in favour of approval.

Clerk has received a planning application that cannot be included on the agenda and will therefore need an additional meeting to be called prior to the deadline date of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 12th January 2020 at 8pm. Cllr Baker apologies as will have to declare an interest anyway. Chair to issue the agenda for the Clerk.

**DC/21/00057** - Application to determine if prior approval is required for proposed; Erection, Extension or alteration of a building for agriculture or forestry use. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 6 - Erection of 2No individual clear span steel portal frame buildings for straw storage and associated hard standing at Hill Farm, School Road, Old Newton. MSDC comments required by **12th January 2021**

## 12. Planning Decisions

- **DC/20/03734** – Householder planning application – erection of single storey extensions to side and rear elevations (following demolition of rear lean-to structure). Replace all fenestration. Removal of concrete roof tiling and replacement with clay tiled finish. Insulation to roof. Removal of cement render and application of insulation and lime render finish. With associated landscaping at Yew Tree Farm, Ward Green, Old Newton. **MSDC Planning Permission has been granted.**
- **DC/20/04864** – Householder planning application – Erection of an extension workshop and conversion to domestic annexe at 26 Chapel Road, Old Newton. **MSDC planning permission has been granted.**
- **DC/20/05294** – Notification of works to trees protected by preservation order – T1 (Ash) – Take down approx. 3m to fork to suitable growth point (dieback and deadwood) at 3 Chapel Road, Old Newton. **MSDC consent has been granted.**
- **DC/20/04766** – Application for listed building consent. Replacement of 6no modern windows with new windows that replicate existing older style windows at Old Newton Hall, Sandford Road, Old Newton. **MSDC Listed building consent has been granted.**

## 13. Cemetery Update – Cllr Goudy – To be included on the next agenda.

**14. Highway's Update - Silver Street / Sandford Road junction with School Road.** Hedge on Silver Street – Chair has spoken to the Family and they are prepared to cut it back before it buds if the weather gets better and Chair has offered that help will be available if required. No progress yet received on Sandford Road report.

**15. Employment Committee – 6 mthly review date to be set.** Zoom meeting prior to the next PC Meeting.

## 16. Councillors Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

- Sandford Road – Hedge and ditch – Birdway's is in a terrible state along there and request that this be reported. Cllr Stringer confirmed that this would be the Landowner's responsibility. Clerk to action using the reporting tool for SCC.

## 17. Public Gallery – No comments

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

- Cemetery - Baby grave. Cllr Goudy raised this again, The Chairman stated that Cllr Stringer has previously agreed to meet with the parents and the Clerk and the Chair believes this meeting needs to be face to face, obviously this cannot be done during the current Covid restrictions. Cllr Goudy felt this should have been sorted years ago and it has been on-going for some time, the clerk pointed out that this absolutely should have been sorted years ago when Cllr Goudy himself was in the Chair – The Clerk re-iterated that this is a sensitive matter and needs to be dealt with as such. The Chair has instructed the clerk to not deal with this alone or at the present time given the Covid 19 pandemic and current restrictions.

**19. Date of the next Parish Council meeting** – Next meeting: Tuesday 12th January 2021- 8pm – Extra Planning Meeting and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 8pm – Full Monthly Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 21.51hrs