

Wednesday 28th July 2021 – Public Meeting commenced at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Present: J Miller (Chair), M Clements (Vice-Chair), K Goudy, K Baker – arriving late, N Hardman, W Ratcliffe, K Hall-Price, (Clerk), District Cllr R Eburne, District Cllr K Welham, County Cllr A Stringer, 0 members of the public.

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the July 2021 meeting. The Chairman stated that anyone who wished to wear a mask was welcome to do so. A window to be left open to assist with circulation of air throughout the meeting. Cllr Helliwell, Cllr Reeve and Cllr Harbidge have sent their apologies for this evenings meeting.
2. **Dispensations and to receive any declarations of personal/prejudicial interest.**
 - 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 approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2021.** There was an amendment required to the first paragraph to make the sentence read correctly and the clerk to edit by removing part of the sentence that made no sense. It was proposed by Cllr Goudy and seconded by Cllr Clements to otherwise accept the minutes as true and accurate, and they will be amended and signed accordingly by the Chairman.
4. **Clerks report following June meeting.**
 - Crier submission has been issued for the August edition that includes extra pages for the updated covid rules and the audit information that is legally required. There is a benefit that the Parish Council receive from the crier committee that we are not charged for including our parish council report each month and given that on occasions the report can be more than 3 pages and sometimes is a legal requirement for the transparency code particularly when the audited accounts information is included. The clerk is very conscious that there are occasions where extra costs are incurred to accommodate the parish council reports. Would it be out of order to suggest that we offer to pay for any extra pages that are required over and above our free quota or to make a donation given the crier relies heavily on advertisements to cover printing costs. Agreed for the clerk to understand the costs involved moving forward and speak to the Community Council committee who manage the Crier.
 - The village website has been updated to include all minutes and information approved. Village Hall committee have asked for a member of the committee to have access to the village website for updates and notices to be uploaded.
 - Cllr Goudy still needs to set up his parish council email. Clerk to assist Cllr Goudy in achieving this.
 - There was a report from a village hall committee member regarding the playground area that has not been trimmed when the grass was cut. This has been reported and hopefully will be rectified if not already done so.
 - The streetlight outside the old memorial hall was identified on SCC reporting tool as due to be fixed by 10.07.21. This has still not been fixed and has been reported again.

Correspondence Received

- MSDC Compost Giveaway – 18th September at Needham Lake
- Old Newton Under Fives Pre-School request for donation or gift vouchers / prizes for the raffle
- Stowupland - Thank you email received for use of SID unit read out to the meeting.
- Mendlesham NP Consultation

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

- March 2021 – Nothing reported
- April 2021 – 1 x public order / 1 x violence / sexual offence (Nr Greenacres), 1 x anti-social behaviour (Nr Sandford Road)
- May – 1 x Anti-social behaviour (Nr Falconer Avenue)
- June figures not available yet

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.

Help us keep our communities safe.

- Police advice on a variety of subjects can be accessed via <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice>
- To report something, or to otherwise contact Police, use the link <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us>
- To report something anonymously call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org
- Alternatively call **101** for non-urgent matters.

Always call 999 in emergencies, or if an immediate police response is required.

Police Connect Team

5. Financial matters & Financial report

Online banking – All invoices for payment for the June payments were paid through the online BACS system. The accounts for payment were approved and accepted by email from Cllrs as the meeting for July has been delayed to 28th July. Payments were submitted for payment on Wednesday 7th July 2021, approved by Cllr Miller on Thursday 8th July

Our VAT reclaim from November 2019 – June 2021 is for the sum of £1,547.85 but is not yet submitted for payment.

Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays Statement Balance = **£38,189.68** (29.06.2021).
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,378.88** (01.04.21)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£253.51** (01.04.21)
- Public Works Loan – Balance outstanding = **£17,495.65** (08.04.2021)

Accounts for payment – June 2021: Approval and payment in July 2021

EXPENDITURE	CHQ/BACS/SO/DDR		NET	VAT	TOTAL
Karen Price	BACS	Salary £1,083.18 less tax £7.00, NI £34.34, pension £43.33 plus expenses £114.98	£1,113.49		£1,113.49
HMRC PAYE	BACS	Employee NI £34.34, Employee Tax £7.00, Employer NI £47.77 less employment allowance £47.77	£41.34		£41.34
Nest Pension	DDR	Employee £43.33, Employer £32.50	£75.83		£75.83
Adam Alexander	Bacs	Grass Cutting Cemetery – June 2021	£405.00		£405.00
Trevor Brown	Bacs	Internal Audit 2020-2021	£175.65		£175.65
MSDC	Bacs	Litter and dog bin emptying	£707.53	£141.51	£849.04

RECEIPTS	Payslip				
H L Perfitt	100134	Cemetery fees – Headstone Doris Edith Cox	£50.00		£50.00
Andrew Bingham	100134	Cemetery fees – Burial Paul William Woolnough	£100.00		£100.00
H L Perfitt	100135	Cemetery fees – Kenneth Jordan non-resident ashes	£150.00		£150.00
H L Perfitt	100135	Cemetery fees – Kenneth Jordan non-resident headstone	£100.00		£100.00
Coop	100135	Cemetery fees – Interment Gloria May Smith	£75.00		£75.00
Coop	100135	Cemetery fees – headstone Gloria May Smith	£50.00		£50.00

Clerk would like permission to do similar for the August payments to be made as our next meeting is not until September. Proposed by Cllr Hardman, seconded by Cllr Goudy. All in favour.

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

- **Joint Local Plan** - The examination has been adjourned, due to difficulties in combining online and in-person submissions; it will be reconvened in September when these issues have been resolved.
- **Waste services** - There have been many delays with the collection of waste recently. This is due to a variety of factors - staff absence, unavailability of agency staff (due to Brexit, EU staff returning home, lack of HGV

drivers, lack of new drivers), a fire in a waste vehicle, a road traffic accident and an unusually high amount of green waste owing to the wet weather. Staff are concentrating on catching up with green and black bin collections and brown bin collections are currently running up to three days late. Residents are asked to continue to leave their bins out and they will be collected. The MSDC website is being regularly updated with projected dates for delayed collections.

- **Investments** - Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils' investment arm, CIFCO, has now a full portfolio of 21 investments with £50 million invested from each council. Council was due to consider the business plan on 22 July. The value of the investments fell again during the last financial year. It has been agreed that CIFCO can defer £1.5 million of payments to the Council over the next three years, while maintaining interest payments on the overall debt.
- **Covid and meetings** - Cases of Covid are continuing to rise in Suffolk. Some committee meetings are going ahead but the Council meeting (due Thursday 22 July) has been cancelled. The council cannot incorporate the approach for businesses (regulations about having screens and small groups of people working together) along with the rise in infections to be able to hold a safe meeting. We have asked for this meeting to be re-scheduled rather than roll the business into the next meeting. We are still hoping Government will renew the legislation to be able to hold online meetings.
- **Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy** - The Districts have approved a refreshed Joint Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and will be developing a comprehensive Action Plan for the next 3 years. Local Councils, village halls, sports clubs and schools will be key partners in agreeing the actions and assisting in implementation.
- **Women's Cycle Road Race** - The race will be passing through Stowmarket on Saturday 9 October. Events are being planned to be held on The Recreation Ground on the day.
- **Locality Awards** - The annual locality awards are now available. Funding from £250 is available to local community groups and organisations. Applications need to support one of the following objectives:
 - create strong, thriving and connected communities
 - support communities in their response to the climate emergency
 - promote resilient and healthy communitiesThe grant should not be used for general maintenance or repair. Please contact us for an application form or telephone for further information and help in applying.

7. **To receive County Councillor's Report – Mr Andrew Stringer.** All Cllrs have received Cllr Stringer's report prior to the meeting.
- **Bus Back Better** - Bus Back Better is being launched by central government essentially as a reaction to Covid 19, But on closer inspection it is an initiative that could lead to re-regulation of Bus services. For this reason, it could be a positive move for Rural Suffolk. The de-regulated services we have at present, have led to the decimation of rural services in many communities, as this policy renders it unlawful to cross subsidise routes, I.E if an operator makes profit on a busy route, they cannot use that money to subsidise a loss making route elsewhere, This policy was originally aimed at city's and towns where multiple operators basically had turf wars on routes, this was a problem that never existed in rural areas. Re-regulation will mean that an operator can cross-subsidise once again, this should allow for greater choice and service to our rural community. Once again the offer from government asks for a plan from participating authorities, to bid into a central pot, to help fund not only this renewal of services, but also government are offering 4000, zero emission electric buses that can also be bid for. We have asked the conservative administration how many of these zero emission buses will we secure for Suffolk, I am disappointed they would not commit to any number, as the small print in the government offer asks for up to 30% of the cost of each Bus bid for. With this being the case, it is highly likely that the most of these Buses will end up in a large Town or City. On a population split, Suffolk ought to be able to secure 40 of these Buses, if they were focussed in say Ipswich or Lowestoft, we could radically reduce emissions as well as encourage much needed "Modal Shift" in transport.
 - **Highways Contract** - Our Current outsourced contract for highways services with Kier, expires on the 30th of September 2023, The cabinet has agreed to start the process of renegotiating a new "hybrid" contract, extendable for up to a 20 year term. This contract process will cost £2000,000.00 alone, and we have been informed that they will learn from the good points of the current outsourced service while making improvements. The Conservative administration has ruled out the possibility of taking the service back in house, but already many of the features of the highways are either carried out by SCC, or are going to be carried out by a number of contractors making up the "hybrid" approach.
 - County Council records office are doing a micro-brewery as part of the Suffolk festival 2022.
 - Parking strategy. 2 supermarkets that offer free charging and parking for electric cars.

Cllrs Comments –

- Truck stop in Ipswich has been closed. Are there any other suggestions or plans moving forward to re-open a truck stop.
- Bacton Middle School bike racks – Is there any chance that Old Newton Primary school could utilise a couple of the racks with covers. Cllr Stringer agreed to investigate as he would much rather they be recycled than skipped.

8. Planning Applications

- **DC/21/03849** | Householder Application - Conversion of and alterations to double garage to form residential annex ancillary to host dwelling. | 3 Sandford Road Old Newton Suffolk IP14 4PW. Comments required by **30th July 2021**.

It had planning permission passed some years ago that never came to anything. The new owners would like it for a family member to live in and work from home. Cllrs would like to ensure that it remains an ancillary part of the host dwelling and not an independent dwelling.

Parking for 6 vehicles which does not seem to be appropriate as manoeuvring would be challenging. The proposed patio will reduce the area to be used for parking / turning. Cllrs believe that there is sufficient room for 4 vehicles but not for 6. Cllrs were generally in favour with the conversion but concerned that having the patio removing the availability of car parking would be of significant impact given that parking needs to be off the road and sufficient for both dwellings.

Proposed by Cllr Clements, seconded by Cllr Ratcliffe that we accept with reservations regarding the parking and the annex remaining ancillary to the host dwelling. Clerk to respond by 30th July 2021.

- **DC/21/03874** | Full Planning Application - Erection of 47No. dwellings (16No. affordable), together with open space, landscaping, earthworks and drainage. | Moat Meadow Finningham Road Old Newton Suffolk. Comments required by **6th August 2021**.

Cllrs believe that the designs of the proposed properties appear bland and non-interesting and not distinctive for a village development planned for that is next to an ancient monument and grade II listed farm setting heritage site. What is proposed is lacking in character and definitely not in-keeping with our village or its historical feel.

The new proposals have pushed the housing back away from the Historical setting of the farmstead and ancient monument allowing for more space around Rookyard Farm and the Moat but Cllrs felt that the development is now closer together and believes this is too many properties in the reduced space. Car parking spaces also seem inadequate.

There appears to be no plan for where the water will go once the properties have been built. Floods planning have already submitted their concerns and the Parish Council would like to see what drainage and management of the water is proposed.

Supermarkets are providing more and more charge points for electric vehicles, with the requirements for electric cars in the future being greater than ever before, Cllrs feel that there should be a vehicle charge point available for every new property moving forward.

The current /proposed footpaths will need to be wide enough, what has been proposed is too narrow and pedestrian crossing or traffic calming would be required to achieve a wider footpath if expecting families to access the playing field and the village amenities from the new development. It is definitely not safe to do so as it is.

The Silver Street end of the footpath where it joins the road with no pavement or walkway is not currently restricted to 30mph despite being a single track lane currently set at national speed limitations and Cllrs believe the speed limit restrictions of 30mph should be extended. Speed limits need to be considered at both ends of the development. 30mph out from the village on the B1113 would also need to be amended / extended.

Proposed Green space will need maintenance and streetlights do not appear to have been considered – Cllrs understand that these will become part of a management committee if not adopted. Cllrs would be interested in taking on the community space and would welcome community grant assistance – The Parish council is expressing an interest for the community space at the front of the development with community assistance at this point. Streetlights will need to be considered and supported by the development.

Planning Appeal

- **DC/20/02760** – Planning application. Erection of 1 no dwelling at Old Bells Farm, Wassicks Lane, Haughley, Stowmarket. *All representations to be in writing by 11th August 2021.*

Reinforce our previous comments – new building in the middle of a field – not supported by either Haughley or Old Newton Parish Council.

Previous comments:- This application was discussed at an extra planning meeting on Wednesday 15th July over the Zoom format. 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.

9. Planning Decisions –

- **DC/21/02591 & DC/21/02592** – Householder application & Listed Building Consent – Erection of single storey extension and replacement of 2 No windows at Browns Place Farm, Brown Street, Old Newton, Suffolk. **BMSDC Planning permission has been granted.**
- **DC/21/00717** – Full Planning Application – Conversion of and extension to barn to form 1No dwellinghouse (following demolition of existing structures); Erection of detached 3 bay cart lodge garaging installation of package sewage treatment plant at Barn North of Hill Farm, School Road, Old Newton, Stowmarket, Suffolk. **BMSDC Planning permission has been granted.**
- **DC/21/02933** - Householder Application - Proposed alterations and extensions to domestic leisure and garage building to form, gym, enclosed access to first floor, and enclosed balcony and jettied dormer. Single storey extension to pool house to form gym. Gipping Lone, Chapel Green, Gipping, Suffolk IP14 4PU. **BMSDC Planning permission has been granted.**

10. Cemetery – Update

Adam Alexander the current cemetery maintenance contractor has served notice that he will not be able to continue his contract with the Parish Council as he is due to have back surgery, he will ensure that the maintenance continues until we find a replacement. Current contractor Adam Alexander charges £15.00 per hr (average 24hrs per month £360.00 per month during cutting season). Financial year 2020-2021 cemetery maintenance cost £2,046.90. Adam on average invoices for approximately 5 – 6hrs per week over 6/7 months of the year.

- Tenders received for cemetery contract as detailed below:

Adam Holden	<p>Tender submitted on basis of current contractor works as discussed with the Clerk at £30.00 p/hr and would be happy to consider other maintenance jobs including the Old Churchyard and the embankment behind the memorial wall on an ad hoc basis.</p> <p>5 hrs per week over 6 months would cost circa £600.00 per month x 6 mths of year or circa £3,900.00 p/a</p>
Tom Duschene – TOP Garden Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass cutting of lawned cemetery every 14 days from mid-March to mid-November. • Strim around graves and along all fences. • Blowing any grass clippings off path and graves. • Apply herbicide to any hardstanding areas including pathways and the car park. • Hedge cutting twice a year to a manageable height out of the bird nesting season. • Clearing leaves in Autumn off all paths. • Daffodil and any wildflower areas will be left and allowed to drop naturally before grass cutting commences to preserve and encourage natural flowering. <p>Hedge Cutting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting front hedge twice a year outside of the bird nesting season. • All waste to be cleared and taken away. <p>General Tree Management - Undertake general tree maintenance of all trees within the areas 1 to 7 on a three-year cycle with one third of trees being pruned each of the three years. All pruning work to be undertaken between 1 December and 31 January, all pruning to be appropriate to the size and type of tree and to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of all suckers. • Removal of dead, diseased or crossing branches. • Removal of low branches likely to cause an obstruction or interference with pedestrians or impede mowing operations. • All waste will be removed and chipped off site and recycled leaving the site safe clean and tidy. • To inspect trees and report quarterly to the Clerk and advise on condition of trees. • Only work that can be undertaken at ground level will be included in this contract. <p>Added value items The required services listed have been extended and improved upon in all areas, over the length of the tender we will try to add new value every year to improve the overall standard of all grounds.</p> <p>Staff - All staff to wear correct PPE, including helmets, steel cap toe boots, helmets and gloves. When working by roads high visibility clothing will be worn, all staff will be wearing Top Garden Services uniform and all vehicles are clearly marked with company logo and information. Liaising with the Clerk If we are successful in winning the tender, we will liaise with the clerk with which day suits the council and the contractor, though if the agreed day needed to be changed due to an event or timetabling difficulties, we are always flexible.</p> <p>We find this works well as everyone know what day and what work will be carried out. On completion of every visit a job sheet will be filled in and this would be available to the clerk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One year contract price £3200.00 +vat or £266.66 per month or divide by no cutting months.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three year contract price: £9120.00 +vat or £253.33 per month or divide by no of cutting months.
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T G Gaddis – Bottesdale – Contact provided by District Cllr Welham. Clerk to contact and request if they would be interested in providing a quote.

Complaints regarding the recent cut as it still needs to be trimmed around the headstones, water tap and bins area and around the noticeboard. Clerk to advise the cemetery contractor.

- Map for digitising the cemetery – Cllr Miller is investigating this in order for this to be used by the clerk for the mapping of the graves etc.
- We need to do the notices first before we approach the graves regarding any graves that are not following the cemetery and burial board rules. Clerk apologised as these have not been done yet, the notice and information is included in the crier every month though. Grave owners not adhering to the cemetery board rules won't be written to until the notices have been displayed. The WWI soldier that needs to be added onto the inscription on the war memorial is Mr William Bowers Codd. Berton & Woods have asked where on the war memorial we should add this as the wall is full. Berton and Woods have sent completed photos of the work they have undertaken on the war memorial and this is now complete with the exception of the WWI soldiers name to be added. Agreed to put it between the two inscriptions – piece of sandstone exactly the same length between the two existing sandstone tablets. Clerk to ask if they could clean the bricks where the lime has stained them and ascertain if the additional inscription can be added and a quote for the costs be provided. Clerk to request quote for the extra subscription and if the bricks could be cleaned please where the lime has stained them.



- Tender requested for the maintenance of the cemetery shed, doors, guttering, facias and the painting of the gates at both ends of the cemetery has not been responded to as yet. But possibly could use one of the self-employed contractors who have offered services for cemetery and other maintenance jobs.

11. Footpaths – Committee Update

There have been more complaints regarding the footpaths and accessibility. Clerk reported these and received confirmation that Old Newton was on the cutting list. County Council did complete their responsibility of cutting the ground level grass and a parishioner did the strimming back of the nettles. The Parish Council extend our grateful thanks.

Cllr Helliwell summary of the footpath committee meeting

- To update the current trifold map of all the footpaths, but to select three to be developed in more detail. We would pick our own favourite 3-4 in advance, then at the next meeting agree the 3 most popular which would then be developed into separate sheets. These would be much more detailed and include distance, estimated time, postcodes for parking and QR codes etc.
- The new map would centralise roughly over the Village Hall, covering slightly further north towards Cotton, but less far south to only the centre of Stowupland. East it would cover all Gipping as at present, but west would extend to the centre of Haughley. This would make it nearly square, so may need further discussion as to fitting a trifold.
- We could also add more detail of the old Middy railway line as well as which are footpaths, byways and bridleways. The 6 current pictures underneath the map would be removed.
- On the reverse side the 26 "points of interest" would be reduced to 13, by deleting nos. 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23 and 25. the remainder would be updated where relevant, and a new one on the village school added, making 14 which would cover 2/3 the area it does at present. We would all have a go at editing these and agree at the next meeting.
- The front cover would have updated pictures of the churches, and all 3 village/hamlet signs would be included.
- The acknowledgements and photo part will need updating, and the picture and detail of John Mole's Algebra book would be replaced by points from the countryside code.
- Cllr Helliwell agreed to contact Libby Brooks re the new tree warden and review the black poplars, or other significant trees worth a mention.

The next Footpath Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 23rd August.

12. ANPR Project Update. ANPR Site suitability form has been approved. We are now awaiting confirmation of a date for the project to be set up in Old Newton. Clerk has chased these following concerns of speeding vehicles especially through the village centre and by the school however dates cannot be confirmed as yet.

13. Festival of Suffolk 2022 – Nominate a festival Community Champion (End of July). – Crier / noticeboard

14. Councillors Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council – Nothing raised in addition to what's been covered on the agenda.

15. Public Forum – no-one present.

16. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the September meeting.

- Cemetery
- Footpaths
- ANPR Project.

17. Date of the next Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 8th September 2021 – 7.30pm at the Woodward Room in the Village Hall.

Extra Dates for the diary - 11th September – Suffolk Historic Cycle ride, 12th September – Walkers Cup from Old Newton to Stowupland Retreat.

Meeting closed at 21.36 hrs