

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Public Meeting commenced at 7.30pm at the Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr J Miller (Chair), M Clements (Vice-Chair), M Helliwell, W Ratcliffe, K Goudy, N Hardman, M Reeve – Arrived at 7.39pm, K Hall-Price, (Clerk), District Cllr K Welham, County Cllr A Stringer (arriving after 8pm), 3 members of the public.

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the October 2021 meeting. District Cllr R Eburne and Cllrs K Baker, J Harbidge have sent their apologies for this evening's 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 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021.** It was proposed by Cllr Goudy and seconded by Cllr Hardman to accept the minutes as true and accurate, and they will be signed accordingly by the Chairman.
4. **Clerks report following September meeting.**
  - The village website has been updated to include all minutes and information approved. The completed audit documentation, Employer Liability Certificate and Data Protection Certificate have also been uploaded.
  - Finance review with Cllr Hardman to be done twice a year prior to finance review meeting (Nov) and commencement of audit (April). Suggested we look at meeting in October and again in February / March. Dates to be arranged.
  - Cllr Goudy is now up and running with his parish council emails – no further parish council information will be sent to his private email address.
  - The clerk is still paying for zoom membership of £14.39 per month. Does the parish council wish to stop paying for this for now and restart if we ever need to or continue paying for the service to be used for any additional planning meetings or extra meetings or in case we go back into a lockdown. Proposed by Cllr Clements to cancel and seconded by Cllr Ratcliffe. Clerk to cancel subscription.
  - Cllr Goudy at the request of the Clerk has ordered a remembrance wreath for the parish council. Remembrance service to be held at 10.45am at the church on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

**Correspondence Received**

- Stowupland High School – Save the Date – 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
- SCC – Community Emergency Plan – Defer to November meeting
- SCC – Winter Ready 21
- BMSC – Local Energy Showcase 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> October 21
- SALC – Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 – November meeting
- SCC – Highways traffic survey information (Item 14 on the agenda)
- BMSDC – Parish Council Neighbourhood CIL payment due 11<sup>th</sup> October £4,463.78

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

- May – 1 x Anti-social behaviour (Nr Falconer Avenue)
- June – 3 x violence / sexual offence (Nr Brown Street), 1 x theft (Nr Wassicks Lane)
- July – 1 x burglary (Nr Greenacres)
- August – 1 x Anti-Social Behaviour (Nr Elm Tree Close)

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](http://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 August payments were paid through the online BACS system. The accounts were approved and accepted by Cllrs and payments were submitted for payment and approved by Cllr Goudy on Wednesday evening 8<sup>th</sup> September following the meeting.
- **VAT reclaim** from November 2019 – June 2021 is for the sum of £1,547.85 and has been received to bank on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- **External Audit** - The additional information supplied to complete the audit as the auditors picked up on the fact that we underspent in the previous accounting period by more than 15%. They required breakdown by costs to understand the reasons, the narrative alone was not enough. This has been accepted with no further issues being raised and our external audit is now complete.
- **CIL Payment Notification** – Clerk has received confirmation that our CIL payment should be received after 11<sup>th</sup> October of £4,463.78

### Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays Statement Balance = **£44,983.62** (29.09.2021)
- 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 – September 2021: Approval and payment in October 2021.

EXPENDITURE	CHQ/B ACS/S O/DDR		NET	VAT	TOTAL
Karen Price	Bacs	Salary £893.70, holiday pay £107.87 less tax Nil to pay, NI £24.55, pension £40.07 plus expenses £94.84	£1,031.79		£1,031.79
HMRC PAYE	Bacs	Employee NI £24.55, Employee Tax £NIL, Employer NI £36.51 less employment allowance £36.51	£24.55		£24.55
Nest Pension	DDR	Employee £40.07, Employer £30.05	£70.12		£70.12
A R Reeve & Son	Bacs	Ward Green Grass Cutting June, July, August	£210.00		£210.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	Bacs	Limited Assurance Review of AGAR 2021	£200.00	£40.00	£240.00
Ian Hammond	Bacs	Grass Cutting Cemetery – September 2021	£210.00		£210.00
The Defib Pad – Item 11 on the agenda	Bacs	Replacement Adult Pad only £98.39	£81.99	£16.40	£98.39
Amity Arborists	Bacs	Ward Green Autumn management works	£120.00	£24.00	£144.00
CAS	Bacs	Annual website hosting renewal due 01.11.21	£35.00	£7.00	£42.00

RECEIPTS - Sept	Payslip			
MSDC	D/Credit	Precept September payment	£13,686.50	£13,686.50
COOP	100138	Funeral services Re: Nancy Eldred	£50.00	£50.00
HMRC	D/Credit	VAT Re-claim	£1,547.85	£1,547.85

Proposed by Cllr Clements seconded by Cllr Goudy. Cllr Miller to authorise the payments on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October.

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

- **MSDC Council meeting** - The full Council meeting was on 23<sup>rd</sup> September with a very full agenda due to the cancellation of the July meeting. Items included: a No Casino motion, senior staff pay review, CIFCO business plan, changes to Neighbourhood Plan procedures, wellbeing strategy, wildlife friendly streetlighting motion and a motion on proposed voter ID. The meeting adjourned after 4.5 hours meaning the last two items were not heard. The senior staff pay review was withdrawn after Babergh District Council voted against it two days earlier. The

proposal was to significantly increase senior staff pay without also recommending increases for the majority of staff. The Wellbeing Strategy is very welcome and received unanimous approval.

- **Council: No Casino policy** - At the meeting, Councillors defeated the Administration motion which was asking *not* to have a “No Casino” policy. The majority wanted to have a No Casino policy meaning we do not welcome casinos in Mid Suffolk, giving certainty to developers and residents.
- **Council: CIFCO** - The business plan for CIFCO, the Council’s investment arm, was discussed. The commercial property portfolio is from an investment of £100 million by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils in which each council had £5 million equity. This equity is now at zero although expected to improve over the next 10 years. There is currently a book value of £83 million on this portfolio. The business plan was approved by a margin of six votes. The review is annual and they are hoping to get back to previous years levels of income.
- **Council: Scrutiny Committee** - Separately Rachel asked that the Council’s Scrutiny committee (which Keith chairs) review the health provision in and around Stowmarket – particularly regarding the current shortage of GPs and lack of dental services. The Scrutiny Committee is currently reviewing rural transport such as access to bus services.
- **Joint Local Plan examination** - The public hearing for the draft Joint Local Plan has re-started and all sessions are online via Microsoft Teams. For details on how to take part, go to [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk) and search for Joint Local Plan. Various witnesses have been contributing to this including Councillor Andrew Stringer – notably on housing and environment issues. Once complete, a report from the Planning Inspectors will then be provided to the Council for Mid Suffolk to act on.
- **Locality Awards** - There is still funding from the annual locality awards. Amounts of £250 or more are available to local community groups and organisations. Please encourage groups in the village to contact us for an application form or telephone for further information and help in applying.
- **Housing department has x3 new corporate managers.** The camper van is still on the grass on Falconer Avenue. Cllr Welham is chasing the team at BMSDC.

## 7. Planning Applications

- **DC/21/03499** | Erection of 1no. dwelling and cart lodge (following demolition of barn) | Land Adjacent Bush's Farm Stowmarket Road Old Newton Suffolk IP14 4EB. **Deadline for comments to MSDC by 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021.** Cllrs believe that this application is outside the settlement boundary area – of whichever plan is being used by MSDC. Although this is a large property and cart lodge, Cllrs felt that there was little or no impact on any other neighbours other than Bush’s farm who are proposing the application. The Parish Council noted that the public comments on-line were in favour and the parish council has not received any comments from members of the public. The current barn is not aesthetically pleasing and the plans for the new property will look much better. Access onto the road is a consideration. Heritage officer has asked for the style to be in-keeping with Bush’s Farm and be limited to two storeys. Cllrs would like to see the new property to be more complimentary in appearance and in-keeping with the setting of the grade II listed setting of Bush’s Farm, but as the development is not going to be overlooking of neighbours other than the applicants it was proposed by Cllr Ratcliffe – seconded by Cllr Hardman – All Cllrs unanimously in favour of approval of this application.
- **Appeal Reference: APP/W3520/D/21/3278165** Appeal by: Mr & Mrs Frankland Proposal: Householder Application - Conversion of and extension to cart lodge to form annexed accommodation for family members (amended scheme and re-submission of DC/20/05663) Location: Harrys Barn, Brown Street, Old Newton, Suffolk IP14 4QB Appeal Start Date: 20/09/2021.
- **Affordable Housing Scheme** – Station Road, Old Newton. Letter received asking for a developer to discuss with the Parish Council before an application is submitted – Clerk in agreement with the Chair offered this to be tabled as an agenda item at tonight’s meeting but would not be offering a closed meeting. The company has not responded and failed to turn up to tonight’s meeting.

## 8. Planning Decisions – None received

9. **To receive County Councillor’s Report – Mr Andrew Stringer.** All Cllrs have received Cllr Stringer’s report prior to the meeting. Cllr Stringer to arrive after 8pm.
- **Review of SEND provision Report** - Suffolk County Council commissioned an independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision which has now been completed, and the report made public. The report was limited to some specific areas of the service (communications etc). It does make a seriously worrying read, 195 children had not had an assessment by the legal deadline, as well as 45 children had no school placement at all, as well as parents and teachers were not kept informed in a consistent manner. The report points out we have some good people but within a poor system, a system where Suffolk County Council failed to meet

its statutory deadlines for EHC (education health & care) plans, a clear breach of compliance. Some parents were made to feel pressured and some felt bullied into taking unsuitable placings.

Our group have called for the Education Scrutiny Committee, not due to sit until December, to be re-convened at the earliest opportunity. The administration has rejected these calls. One of the worrying aspects regarding the report, is that it calls for a better culture in how as a council communicates, yesterday the Council briefed journalists on the contents of the report, 2 ½ hours before councillors were given access to the findings. If anyone has any issues regarding the need for this provision, please tell them to get in touch.

- **Fuelling Debate** - The Green Suffolk website is promoting the District Councils local energy event at Wherstead Park Ipswich is running for two days, the free to attend event will showcase opportunities for energy generation etc, and a chance to speak to those in the trade to get the latest information on products and technological advances in the renewable energy sector. Mid Suffolk ran a similar event in 2008, and we ran out of room for the visitors wishing to attend. One area for debate is whether hydrogen would be classed as a renewable technology, and like many things on politics, there isn't a straight answer because it depends on the type. Hydrogens use in fuel production takes many forms, and is split into colours, Black, brown, grey, pink, blue and green hydrogen are all forms of this technology, but only one of them could be classed as renewable. - 21-22 October – Local Energy Showcase (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council)

#### 10. **Greenacres / Falconer Avenue – Parking of vehicles on verges**

- The Parish Council have been watching this and trying to establish who owns the land. The verges are degraded and is now being filled in with hardcore by residents. Visibility is appalling as you pull out of the junction. Its an accident waiting to happen. An average of 5 vehicles parking on the grass verge, there is a minimum of 12 parking spaces available at the back of Greenacres so using the grass verge is simply laziness. Not MSDC responsibility although they do cut the grass there. Possibility to install wooden bollards to stop the parking on this grass verge. Parking is illegal – If it has crossed a raised kerb and is too close to the junction. Parking enforcement with the Police. Clerk to email the police in Stowmarket for community policing team to investigate for us and ask Suffolk Highways (Cllr Stringer) if we could define the edge to prevent parking. Ask PC Stephen Hendrikson to attend our next meeting if possible. Ensure agenda item for November meeting.
- Falconer avenue also needs to be addressed as there is now a deep gulley causing damage and has destroyed the verge and the kerb and is in a really bad position from a highway safety point of view.
- Mutton Meadow – Parking to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

11. **Defibrillator** – This is now operational, however the adult and child pads are both now out of date and need replacing - the ambulance service have said that an adult pad can be used on a child so not essential for the child pad to be replaced. As the pads are of significant cost it was proposed and seconded to order the adult replacement pad only – All Cllrs in favour. Clerk to order and replace as soon as possible. The codes are now logged on the ambulance service circuit system.

Clerk was also asked to obtain replacement cabinet prices. On the same website there are 3 that are suitable for outside use and are lockable: The cabinet does not have to be by the same make as our defibrillator.

1. Polycarbonate Outdoor Defibrillator Cabinet with Code Lock, Heating System and LED Light - £599.99
2. Outdoor Defibrillator Cabinet with Code Lock, Heating System and LED Light - £526.80
3. Mediana HeartOn A15 Defibrillator Outdoor Heated Cabinet with Keypad Lock & Alarm (available for pre order only – despatch end Feb 22) - £556.80.

Proposed and seconded to purchase a new cabinet – No2 – The outdoor defib cabinet with code lock, heating system and LED light and have it installed by the electrician. All Cllrs unanimously in favour. Clerk to order. Using funds from CIL reserves.

12. **Phone Box – Library.** Cllr Miller has looked at the box – Proposed for a working party to clear it and ask someone in the village to oversee it once its been cleared. Cllr Clements has tried to make contact with the family that originally agreed to oversee it. There are a number of issues – The decals and logos need to come off, we need to clear the doorway from vegetation. Request in the Crier for children within the village to enter a competition to design a logo of the Phone Box - Community Library with a reward of an amazon voucher. Competition layout to be drafted by Cllr Miller and a Committee to be set up.

- 13. Replacement Dog Bin – Finningham Road.** A replacement Fido 25 dog waste bin is £95.39 plus £5.95 delivery = £101.34 + VAT £20.27 = £121.61 plus the banding kit. Clerk to also purchase the fixing kit at the same time. Proposed by Cllr Goudy – seconded by Cllr Helliwell.
- 14. Falconer Avenue –** Cllr Stringer has reported that the number of vehicle movements from the recent traffic survey would indicate that this is definitely not used as a “rat run” as there was a maximum of 75 vehicle movements per day over a 7 day average, given the number of properties and number of cars per property this would really equate to the number of residents exiting and returning with the odd delivery drivers and service vehicles. The data captured over the two week period certainly does not suggest we have a bigger issue.
- 15. Cemetery – Update**
- 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 still not been responded to. Notices need to be issued at the cemetery before we can write to individual grave owners. Clerk apologised this has not been completed but will make this a priority.
- 16. Footpaths – Committee Update**
- All Cllrs have received via email the proposed map of the routes and the notes following the last meeting provided by Cllrs Hardman and Cllr Helliwell.
  - Cllr Helliwell has met our new tree warden who is a DofE student – Indigo Mosquito – Is going to look at the maps and trees of any note will be highlighted.
  - Committee now need to walk the routes and document them. Chair thanked the committee for all the work they have done to date on this.
  - Additional complaint received regarding the requirement to replace the wire mesh on the boardwalk as this will be slippery when the wet weather arrives has been reported. The boardwalk is owned by SCC – Cllr Stringer will ensure this is fixed at the earliest opportunity.
- 17. Village Hall – Siting of new play equipment**
- Siting of new play equipment – The Village Hall Committee have asked the clerk to check with the grass cutting contractor if there is sufficient room for cutting grass between the new proposed equipment. Response received stating that the siting of the new equipment will not be an issue the drawing provided shows there is enough space to get between the equipment.
- 18. ANPR Project Update.** ANPR dates are still not confirmed.
- 19. Councillors Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council**
- New local plan – Cllr Helliwell has been given the opportunity to put forward our case – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November is the start. Cllr Helliwell to attend the meeting on zoom on the Wednesday date. Details will be sent regarding codes for attendance to the zoom meetings prior to attendance. Cllr Stringer will speak to Annette for us to give Cllr Helliwell some guidance and an idea of what to expect. Cllr Helliwell will need to reference the maps and the original plan as part of his response, these are already submitted as part of the plan so is not introducing anything new.
- 20. Public Forum –** Members of the public had left.
- 21. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the November meeting.**
- Cemetery
  - Footpaths
  - ANPR Project.
  - Phone Box / Community Library
  - Greenacres / Mutton meadow – Parking
  - SCC – Community Emergency Plan
  - SALC – Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022
- 22. Date of the next Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 – 7.30pm at the Woodward Room in the Village Hall.**

**Proposed dates for 2022**

<b>JANUARY</b>	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 – 7.30pm
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2022- 7.30pm
<b>MARCH</b>	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2022- 7.30pm
<b>APRIL</b>	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2022- 7.30pm <b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – Annual Parish Meeting - 7.30pm</b>
<b>MAY</b>	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 (AGM) – 7.30pm
<b>JUNE</b>	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2022 – 7.30pm
<b>JULY</b>	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 - 7.30pm
<b>AUGUST</b>	There will not be a meeting in August, if required one will be scheduled separately.
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 - 7.30pm
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 - 7.30pm
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2022 – 7.30pm
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2022 – 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 21.40hrs