

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 – Public Meeting commenced at 7.30pm at the Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr J Miller (Chair), M Helliwell, W Ratcliffe, K Goudy, K Baker, N Hardman, K Hall-Price, (Clerk), District Cllr K Welham, County Cllr A Stringer, 1 member of the public.

- 1. Welcome & Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the November 2021 meeting. M Clements (Vice-Chair), M Reeve and 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 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021.** It was proposed by Cllr Goudy and seconded by Cllr Ratcliffe to accept the minutes as true and accurate, and they will be signed accordingly by the Chairman.
- 4. Clerks report following October 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 has also been uploaded.
  - ANPR dates are still not confirmed.
  - The clerk has cancelled the Zoom membership – No payment will be taken in November.
  - ONGAA AGM will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in the village hall – An Allotment Committee member should attend on behalf of the Parish Council.
  - Tree Warden has been registered with the Suffolk Tree Warden Network by the Clerk.
  - SCC – Community Emergency Plan – missed off the November agenda – Clerk apologises – to be included on the December agenda.
  - SALC – Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 – missed off the November agenda – Clerk apologises – to be included on the December agenda.

**Police Report** – (Crime map stats are always going to be circa 6 weeks out of date).

- 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)
- September – 4 x violence / sexual offence (Nr Chapel Road)
  
- Suffolk Constabulary's Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner will be on hand to answer your questions in an online discussion next week. The two-hour webchat will be hosted on Suffolk Constabulary's website on Monday (8 November) between 5.30pm and 7.30pm. You will be able to quiz both Steve Jupp and Tim Passmore at the click of a mouse about any issues or questions you may have. The chat will be hosted from 5.30pm onwards and the link will be available here: [www.suffolk.police.uk](http://www.suffolk.police.uk)

**5. Financial matters & Financial report**

**Online banking** – All invoices for payment for the September 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 the Chairman on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October following the meeting.

**Internal Control Finance review** – Review with Cllr Hardman has been completed and will be done again commencement of audit preparations (April).

**Budget** – Spreadsheet has been issued to all Cllrs – Finance review meeting to be scheduled end of November before recommendations to full council at the December meeting. Precept to be set and applied for to MSDC by end January 2022.

**Bank Account Balances:**

- Barclays Statement Balance = **£47,612.78** (29.10.2021)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,378.96** (01.07.21)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£253.52** (01.07.21)
- Public Works Loan – Balance outstanding = **£17,495.65** (08.04.2021)

**Accounts for payment – October 2021: Approval and payment in November 2021.**

| EXPENDITURE - October | CHQ/B ACS/S O/DDR |   | NET       | VAT    | TOTAL     |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Karen Price           | Bacs              | Salary £900.32, holiday pay £108.67 less tax Nil to pay, NI £25.44, pension £40.36 plus expenses £62.59 | £1,005.78 |        | £1,005.78 |
| HMRC PAYE             | Bacs              | Employee NI £25.44, Employee Tax £NIL, Employer NI £37.53 less employment allowance £37.53              | £25.44    |        | £25.44    |
| Nest Pension          | DDR               | Employee £40.36, Employer £30.27  | £70.63    |        | £70.63    |
| CGM                   |                   | Grass Cutting Sept Invoice  | £186.60   | £37.32 | £223.92   |
| Ian Hammond           | Bacs              | Grass Cutting Cemetery – September 2021   | £195.00   |        | £195.00   |
| Glasdon UK Ltd        | Bacs              | Fido 25 Dog bin and fixings   | £112.95   | £22.59 | £135.54   |
| ONEG/Onwoods          | Bacs              | Cleansing grant Q1 ending June 21   | £173.75   |        | £173.75   |
|                       |                   |   |           |        |           |
|                       |                   |   |           |        |           |

| RECEIPTS - Oct     | Payslip |  |           |  |           |
|--------------------|---------|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| Parish CIL Payment | DC      | CIL payment October 2021                   | £4,463.78 |  | £4,463.78 |
| MSDC               | DC      | Cleansing grant Q1 ending June 21          | £173.75   |  | £173.75   |
| UKPN               | 100139  | Wayleaves payment – Chq received           | £12.48    |  | £12.48    |
| J Wright Masonry   | DC      | Cemetery fees Headstone – James M Marshall | £50.00    |  | £50.00    |
|                    |         |  |           |  |           |

Proposed by Cllr Helliwell seconded by Cllr Hardman. Cllr Goudy to authorise the payments on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

**6. Correspondence Received**

- Planning letter received re: Luxford Land - East of School Road, Old Newton (agenda item 9).
- ONGAA AGM – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 7pm Village Hall
- Citizens Advice Donation Request Letter – Finance committee to recommend a donation at the finance review
- John Milton VI Form Official Opening Postponement

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

- **Extraordinary Council meeting** - An extraordinary council meeting was held on Monday 18 October to discuss two motions proposed by the Green and Liberal Democrat group carried over from the previous meeting. Firstly, a motion to reduce light pollution and the harmful effects on biodiversity of street lighting by putting policies in place to control new street lighting was passed with only one vote against. Secondly a motion to object to the Government's proposal to introduce voter photo ID requirements at polling stations, was also passed but only by a very narrow margin.
- **Joint Local Plan** - The Inspectors have paused the examination for the Joint Local Plan for 6 months. This is to allow officers to re-consult and further clarify the spatial strategy and review part of the evidence base. There are some concerns about the housing allocations, particularly the concentration of new developments along the A14 corridor, and, for example, why land for almost 800 housing units has been allocated in Woolpit but fewer homes are planned for Needham Market which has a greater range of services, including a rail station.

- **Tree for life scheme** - The tree for life scheme has been re-launched. Applications are invited from parents to plant a tree to mark a birth or adoption between 1 January and 31 December 2021. Remembrance trees can also be applied for by parents who may have lost a child during the same period. Details are on the Councils' website.
  - **CIL funding** - MSDC has made a bi-annual payment of CIL funds to local councils – amounting to over £1M across 47 different town and parish councils.
  - **Needham Lake** - Construction of the new café is progressing well, and it is anticipated that it will open before Christmas.
  - **Solar Carport** - A start on construction of the solar carport scheme at the Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre is planned for early November, with completion in March. Energy generated will be available for electric vehicle charging and used within the Leisure Centre. Battery storage will also be provided and any surplus power fed into the grid.
  - **iPad Loan Scheme** - Suffolk Libraries and Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are joining forces to help residents get online with a new iPad lending scheme – supporting those who need a little extra help to access services in an increasingly digital world. 26 new iPads, all with 4G internet connectivity and a range of pre-installed applications and web links, will be available for free to anyone in the two districts to borrow from Stowmarket and Needham Market libraries.
  - **Locality Awards** - There is still funding available 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.
- 8. To receive County Councillor's Report – Mr Andrew Stringer.** All Cllrs have received Cllr Stringer's report prior to the meeting.
- **COVID-19** - From Monday 1 November, Suffolk will therefore become an 'enhanced response area' (ERA) for up to five weeks. This approach has already been used in other parts of the country to help reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission within the community and is also being taken in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough at the same time. To help reduce the spread, residents in Suffolk are now being encouraged to:
    - Get fully vaccinated and your booster when it's due
    - Wash your hands regularly with soap and water
    - Always wear a face covering in crowded areas
    - Ventilate indoor spaces
    - Get tested regularly and stay at home if you feel unwell
 Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>  
 Latest Government advice is available here: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)
  - **Full Council – Motion and Decisions** - The Suffolk County Council met for a Full Council meeting on the 21st October 2021. Our Group proposed a motion to support the Local Electricity Bill, to help proportion local energy supplier's costs, making local electricity cheaper and more reliable. The motion was passed unanimously. Details of the motion can be found here: <https://powerforpeople.org.uk/local-electricity-bill-briefing-for-councillors>. The Conservatives forwarded a motion to condemn Insulate Britain, which was passed with the following vote: 41 For, 9 Against, 7 Abstained.
  - **Cabinet Meeting – 12th October** - On the 12th October, the Cabinet and Councillors met to discuss the following two matters: Recommendations highlighted in the Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2020/21, and to vote on submitting the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), in relation to the Council's Bus Back Better Strategy. Summary of the main decisions are below:
    1. The Cabinet accepted the Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2020/21 and noted the report's recommendations and the action that the Council was taking to address the recommendations.
    2. The Cabinet acknowledged and agreed to the headline asks and order of costs contained in the proposed Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), as set out in the report.
    3. The Cabinet delegated final development, including costings, and the submission of the BSIP, to the Executive Director for Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste.
    4. The Cabinet noted that a further Cabinet paper on the Enhanced Partnership Arrangements would be provided prior to its submission in March 2022.
    5. Full Cabinet Reports can be viewed here: <https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk>
  - **Suffolk Schools to Reintroduce Face Coverings** - On Wednesday 20th October, the Directors of Public Health, and Children and Young People Services, released a statement notifying us that face coverings are to be reintroduced into schools from 1st November. This is due to the rising COVID cases in Suffolk, and therefore staff and students will have to wear face coverings in communal areas, outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons. Visitation will also be restricted to essential visits. A further review on its effectiveness will

commence 15th November. See Cllr Simon Harley, our Group's Public Health Spokesperson's comments on the decision at <https://suffolkgli.wordpress.com/2021/10/26/gli-public-health-spokespersons-warning-over-winter-response-to-reintroduction-of-covid-measures/>

- **Sizewell C:** Government Announce Support & New Funding Strategy - On the 15th October, Suffolk County Council announced their support for Sizewell C, and are taking up 'important concerns' to the Secretary of State. Our Group remains firmly against the project, believing there has been a political underestimation, and that the people of Suffolk are being sold short by the Administration's inability to face the reality of the situation. In addition, on 26th October, Business and Energy Secretary, Kwasi Kwarteng, announced a new government strategy for funding the nuclear power project in Sizewell. The project so far has been heavily contentious, suffering from delays and planning concerns, as well as increasing costs. The Government has announced a Regulated Asset Base funding plan – a strategy that aims to retain investors, and deal with overflowing expenses by shifting the costs of the project onto the consumer - the British public. In the form of a taxpayer subsidy, the Government would pay the costs of the project to the developers that investors deem too risky to commit further. Our Group has rejected this strategy, and recommends that the Government reconsiders before it puts the burden of cost onto our local communities, and instead looks into investing in cleaner, cheaper, and quicker forms of renewable energy available to Suffolk.
- **Bus Back Better:** Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Approved - The Cabinet approved the new Bus Service Improvement Plan, as part of their new £50m Bus Back Better strategy – aimed at rejuvenating Suffolk's bus service, in particular isolated areas of rural Suffolk. Our Group supports the essential commitment needed to help re-connect rural communities. Bus Back Better aims at making bus services cheaper, more reliable, and carbon efficient. All proposals of the BSIP that were passed by Cabinet can be viewed here: [https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(12-10-2021\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(12-10-2021),%20The%20Cabinet)
- **Local Articles: Suffolk GLI's responses**
  1. Cllr Caroline Topping, our Group's Education Spokesperson's comment on the disproportionate exclusions of SEND and BAME students: Suffolk school exclusions SEND and BAME concerns | East Anglian Daily Times (eadt.co.uk).
  2. Cllr Andrew Stringer, Our Group Leader's comment on the Groups motion to support Local Electricity Bill: Suffolk backing for groups and businesses to generate power | East Anglian Daily Times (eadt.co.uk)
  3. Cllr Caroline Page, and Cllr Annette Dunning, our Group's Spokesperson for Achieving Net Zero Carbon's comments on the Sizewell C update and support by Conservatives: Sizewell C: How developer cash will be spent | East Anglian Daily Times (eadt.co.uk)
  4. Cllr Keith Welham, our Group's Highways, Public Transport and Rural Services Spokesperson's comments on the Bus Back Better Strategy approved by Cabinet: Suffolk County Council to submit £50m bus improvement bid | East Anglian Daily Times (eadt.co.uk)
  5. Cllr Andrew Stringer, our Group Leader's comments on the Freight Industry Replacing Electric Trains with Diesel due to the Energy Prices: Diesels replace electric trains on Freightliner services | East Anglian Daily Times (eadt.co.uk)
  6. Cllr Simon Harley, Our Group's Public Health and Biosecurity Spokesperson's comments on the Reintroduction of Face Coverings in Suffolk Schools: GLI Public Health Spokesperson's Warning Over Winter – Response to Reintroduction of COVID Measures – Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group (wordpress.com)

## 9. Planning Applications

- **DC/21/05459** - Erection of 1no. two storey dwelling, cartlodge and 2no. double garages (following demolition of existing garage), alterations and extension of existing bungalow to form two storey dwelling at 27 Church Road, Old Newton, Suffolk, IP14 4ED Comments on the application required by 2nd November 2021. Extension requested and approved – comments required by *8<sup>th</sup> November 2021*.

Already has granted planning permission for 5 houses. The land has been sold and the new owner wishes to change the plans. Only one letter received to date from the neighbouring property – Stating that as the neighbouring resident they are not against the plan but suggestions to the distance in meters away from the boundary to give better light levels and the ridge orientation to be swapped round to give a lower ridge to the boundary on the garage. Cllrs believe that this revised application is better than the original plan for 5 x houses. The splay was agreed on the previous application. Cllrs felt that the windows would not be encroaching and shouldn't give any privacy issues to neighbouring residents. The building line has been considered, Cllrs felt that the revised application was well laid out, has some character and is in-keeping with the village in general. It was proposed to accept – if the splays and highways clearance of soakaways are adhered to and with the neighbour's suggestions of moving the distance of the build to 1.5 meter away from the boundary Cllrs were happy to accept this application. Seconded with all Cllrs unanimously in favour.

Approved at Parish Council level on the understanding that the residents comments regarding distance to the boundary were taken into consideration. Proposed by Cllr Ratcliffe, seconded by Cllr Hardman. All in favour. Approved at Parish Council level.

- **DC/21/03874** - Full Planning Application - Erection of 47No. dwellings (16No. affordable), together with open space, landscaping, earthworks and drainage. Location: Moat Meadow, Finningham Road, Old Newton, Suffolk Reason(s) for re-consultation: Agent letter with revised drawings and documents received 08.10.21. Comments required by *3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021*.

The Parish Council's original response of the design of the proposed development being bland and not in keeping with our rural village has attempted to be addressed with the colours and variety but the rooflines are still all exactly the same with no variation, the planned changes is an attempt at cosmetic changes and not embracing what Cllrs wanted for example actual differing designs with use of some dormer windows or undulation of rooflines. Something that could be considered 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 still lacking in character.

It is noted that the developer is addressing the need for smaller affordable properties and Councillors appreciate their attempt to address the majority of concerns raised.

Cllrs would like to see some communal (pay per use) electric vehicle charging points in addition to the on-plot car parking dedicated charging points (EVP) for those properties that will not benefit from dedicated charging points.

Cllrs would like to reinforce the footpath link to the centre of the village as essential. Streetlights have not been addressed in the re-consultation and are still a concern of the parish council.

Overall Cllrs are pleased at the level of consideration given to comments made previously.

Flooding in Rookery Way was raised – Apparently the water authority have said that there is a blockage between Silver Street and Rookery Way. The new builds on Moat Meadow is feared will cause more of problem and exacerbate the issue already being experienced. It was discussed and Cllrs cannot foresee how this can attribute to the current problem and believe the current problem is completely separate and will not be adversely affected by the proposed development of Moat Meadow.

- Planning letter received re: Luxford Land - East of School Road, Old Newton (agenda item 9) – information only, to be discussed when asked for official comments by MSDC. Self Builds will not attract any CIL payments.

## 10. Planning Decisions –

- **DC/21/04715** Date Registered: 26-Aug-21 Proposal & Location of Development: Householder Planning Application - Erection of a rear extension and addition of store to garage. 5 Trafford Close, Old Newton, Suffolk, IP14 4EH. *MSDC Planning Permission has been granted.*
- **DC/20/04216** Application for a Non-Material Amendment relating to - Addition of 4no windows to first floor approved rear elevation. Location: Old Newton Village Shop, 18 Finningham Road, Old Newton, Suffolk IP14 4EG. *Planning permission has been refused by MSDC.*

## 11. Greenacres /Mutton Meadow / Falconer Avenue

- Mutton Meadow – People using the Bowls Club are consistently blocking the road to Mutton Meadow on match / game days. Clerk asked to write to the bowls club, asking members and players to be considerate when parking on match / play days to ensure access for vehicles and emergency services can get through.
- Potential conflict regarding hedge on Falconer Avenue that residents have taken offence to being asked to cut back believing that other neighbours have complained. Chair stated that this reinforces that things should be done through the Chair / Clerk.
- PC Stefan Henriksen has visited Greenacres and could see the verge is a bit of a mess unfortunately. In a nutshell, there are no offences for which the Police can take action as in his opinion there is no obstruction of the Highway and although parked too close to the junction, this isn't an offence in itself. If this land is owned by the parish, perhaps they would consider bollards? This was a very similar situation in Stowupland and people parking on the edge of the Green, the only thing that worked was the bollards, as Police have no powers

available with which to take action. Series of photos as evidence and to put forward an objection to see if there was a visibility splay and there may be a contravention of the original planning application for the development. Parking on the verge being in breach of planning permission and will potentially cause tenancy / sale disagreements. Clerk asked to challenge the Police decision as believed to be hazardous and an obstruction of visibility when exiting the junction. Parking on a pavement believed to be an offence?

- Comments received via face-book from resident on Falconer Avenue stating that to insist people do not park on the verges will mean the road is more congested than it already is – Chicken and Egg situation was mentioned – Clerk has not responded to the face-book post.
- Winnebago in Falconer Avenue is still tucked into the corner, the erosion of the corner is getting deeper with the wet / bad weather.

**12. Defibrillator / New Cabinet** – This is now fully operational, the adult pad has been replaced and the child pad out of date has been removed. Clerk was given permission to purchase a replacement outdoor cabinet – The Outdoor Defibrillator Cabinet with Code Lock, Heating System and LED Light - £526.80 was the small sized cabinet and would house the Zoll defibrillator, however it would not be able to stay in its black carry case as the internal dimensions were too small. The larger 2000 cabinet has now been discontinued. Alternative costs have been investigated... The Polycarbonate Outdoor Defibrillator Cabinet with Code Lock, Heating System and LED Light will fit the dimensions of our defib and will cost £599.99. Cllrs were not keen on a polycarbonate cabinet and would prefer steel / metal case - Maximum budget of £650 – clerk to procure a cabinet that is correct size and preferred material. Proposed and seconded – all in favour.

**13. Phone Box – Library.** Cllr Clements has been and seen the lady originally looking after the library and is no longer wishing to continue to have responsibility for the community library. Philip Groom who lives next door to it is however happy to take responsibility for it. Arrangements have been made to remove the elder overgrowth. Cllr Miller to arrange for the decals to be removed and some new shelving to be added. To be raised again on the January agenda for update.

#### **14. 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.
- Draft notices have been issued to the cemetery committee, amended and commented on by Cllr Hardman. To be laminated and issued / displayed. Cllr Miller has agreed to laminate the notices.
- The Defra Consultation on Amendments to Burial Regulations has been issued to all Cllrs and is on the agenda for the November meeting. Cemetery committee to meet again to go through the consultation.
- The old part of the Cemetery used to be maintained once a year by our Cemetery Maintenance Contractor – Clerk would like to approach Ian Hammond to ask if this is something he would consider continuing to do for the Parish Council.
- Family of T/L Charlie and Annie Lambert have complained that the grave needs topping as it has started to subside. Clerk has asked Ian Hammond to address this on behalf of the Parish Council. Ian has agreed to sort this out for us.
- Suggested that the Cemetery committee meet to discuss and tackle the baby grave issues moving forward in order that we do not repeat what has happened in Birmingham (Cllrs aware of the press article).

#### **15. Footpaths – Committee Update**

- The clerk received an email from the Chair of the local Ramblers Association in Stowmarket asking for clarification of the three footpaths advised of via the Crier. Clerk has explained that these are not new footpaths but walks linking existing footpaths together for our revised map under construction. Clerk did invite resident along to the meeting. Cllr Helliwell explained what the parish council is trying to do in updating our old map / routes. Cllr Hardman shared the proposed walks with Mrs Moore after the meeting.
- 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 again and Cllr Stringer has been asked to escalate. This work was advised should be completed before the school returns from half term. Parishioner has emailed into Cllr Clements stating the footpath has now been repaired and thanking Cllrs for their assistance.

**16. ANPR Project Update.** ANPR dates are still not confirmed. Cllr Helliwell now has the batteries and our village SID. The SID unit is currently up and running by the School. Cllr Helliwell is awaiting instruction on how to download the data.

**17. Councillors Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council**

- The local plan – postponed for 6 months.
- Clerks Annual Review – to be completed prior to next meeting.
- Cllr Ratcliffe sent apologies for December meeting

**18. Public Forum –**

- Lorries on the B1113 coming through the village on the increase. Cllrs explained that unfortunately the B1113 is the designated lorry route and other than the speed initiatives there is very little that can be done. Haughley has a weight restriction and traffic is encouraged to use the designated lorry route.

**19. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the December meeting.**

- Cemetery
- Footpaths
- ANPR Project.
- Greenacres / Mutton meadow – Parking
- SCC – Community Emergency Plan
- SALC – Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022
- Clerks Appraisal
- Budget / Finance Review
- Phone Box / Community Library – Defer to the January meeting

**20. Date of the next Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 – 7.30pm at the Woodward Room in the Village Hall. Light festive refreshments to be provided.**

Meeting closed at 21.33hrs