

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 – Public Meeting commenced at 7.30pm at the Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr J Miller (Chair), M Clements (Vice-Chair), M Helliwell, K Baker, N Hardman, M Reeve, K Goudy, K Hall-Price, (Clerk), District Cllr K Welham, District Cllr R Eburne, County Cllr A Stringer (arrived late at 8.49pm), 6 members of the public.

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the February 2022 meeting. Apologies received from Cllr Will Ratcliffe.
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.

As Cllr Baker has no pecuniary benefit to the planning issues, Cllr Baker will not be submitting a declaration of interest in planning application DC/21/06081.

3. **Co-Option – Vacancy for Parish Councillor** - Vacancy for Cllr has been advertised and a candidate is wishing to stand as Councillor – Mr Stephen Moore, A personal statement has been submitted to all Cllrs before the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Baker and seconded by Cllr Goudy to accept Mr Moore’s application as Cllr for Old Newton. Mr Moore was duly co-opted onto the parish council and will sign the declaration of office form accordingly. Mr Moore was welcomed onto the Parish Council by the Chairman.
4. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.** It was proposed by Cllr Baker and seconded by Cllr Hardman to accept the January minutes as true and accurate, and they will be signed accordingly by the Chairman.
5. **Clerks Report following January meeting.**
  - The village website has been updated to include all minutes and information approved. The clerk has also put some clarification and policy information about the role of the Clerk and RFO, governance and data protection information is also now available on the website.
  - Emergency Planning documents are very basic but they have been updated and issued following Cllrs approval / comments at the January meeting.
  - FGBT Charity Commission Annual Audit report has been submitted. The clerk has been looking to open a charitable bank account as the Nationwide have no closed the bank account held for the FGBT account. Remaining cash is now secured with the Clerk to open a new account with the trustees but this is proving difficult as many are now not opening new charitable accounts. Clerk is seeking a conversation with various other banks to see if they would accommodate the trust.
  - Clerk has updated the Know our Cllrs page and removed James Harbidge. The updated version will be published and circulated following co-option of our next Cllr prior to the March meeting.
  - Greenacres / Falconer Avenue - The Clerk hand delivered letters to the properties that have frontage to the grass verges on Greenacres. The Falconer Avenue letter has not yet been issued.

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

- October – 1 x violence / sexual offence (Nr Cross Green). 1 x criminal damage / arson (Nr Sports & Social Club)
- November – 1 x criminal damage / arson (Nr Finningham Road), 1 x anti-social behaviour (Nr Chapel Road)
- December – No crimes reported in the parish in December.

**Appeal after sign damaged by fire in Stowmarket** - Police are appealing for information after a large advertising sign was damaged by fire in Stowmarket on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**. Between 1.30am & 2.25am on Sunday morning, a mattress was placed underneath the sign near a business premise on Bury Road and set alight. The Fire Service attended and put out the fire.

## 6. Financial matters & Financial report

**Online banking** – All invoices for payment for the December 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 Miller on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 following the meeting.

### Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays Statement Balance = **£41,510.65** (28.01.2022)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,379.05** (31.12.21)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£253.53** (31.12.21)
- Public Works Loan – Balance outstanding = **£17,495.65** (08.04.2021)

### Accounts for payment – January 2022: Payment in February 2022.

EXPENDITURE	CHQ/BA CS/SO/ DDR		NET	VAT	TOTAL
Karen Price	Bacs	Salary £887.08, holiday pay £107.07 less tax Nil to pay, NI £23.66, pension £39.77 plus expenses £73.65	£1,004.37		£1,004.37
HMRC PAYE	Bacs	Employee NI £23.66, Employee Tax £NIL, Employer NI £35.49 less employment allowance £35.49	£23.66		£23.66
Nest Pension	DDR	Employee £39.77, Employer £29.83	£69.60		£69.60
Ian Hammond	Bacs	Grass Cutting Cemetery – January 2022	£195.00		£195.00
PWLB	DDR	Public Works Loan Board Loan repayment	£2,613.62		£2,613.62

RECEIPTS	Payslip				
		Nothing received to bank in January			

Proposed by Cllr Clements seconded by Cllr Helliwell to pay the accounts by BACS transfer. Cllr Miller to authorise the payments on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022.

## 7. Correspondence Received

- Jon Shaw – SCC – ANPR update.
- Anonymous Letter regarding in-proper use of woodburners – Clerk to remind parishioners that no correspondence can be dealt with by the Parish Council if received anonymously.
- Streetlight upgrade notification letter / clerks correspondence
- BMSDC – Spring Clean Suffolk 2022 / ON litter pick on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- BMSDC – Neighbourhood Plan Request for info
- BMSDC – Stowmarket household waste recycling centre
- Crier coverage and costs letter from Community Council (Item 12 on the agenda)

The circulars folder was circulated to all Cllrs.

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

- **Mid Suffolk District Council Budget** - The draft 2022/23 budget was scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee last month and is due to be considered at full Council on 24 February. This meeting is required to set the precept for next year. Current indications are that the net budget is expected to be nearly £9 million. There are no proposals for a council tax increase; the amount payable by a Band D household will remain £171.59 per annum. However, the amount raised will increase by £285,000 (to £6.96 million) due to increases in the number of households paying the tax. Currently the draft budget forecasts a surplus of nearly £6 million which includes a projected accumulated underspend of £4.8 million from the current financial year.

- **Council House Rents** - The Administration is proposing an increase of 4.1% in rents. If agreed on 24 February, the average social rent will increase by £3.45 to £87.84; affordable rents will, on average, increase by £4.99 to £126.33.
- **Fees and charges** - An updated list of fees and charges for 2022/23 has been agreed by Mid Suffolk District Council. The majority of these are unchanged with no increase. There is a 3-4% increase for garden waste bin collections and for bulky waste items collection.
- **Planning – Moat Meadow** - An informal meeting was held virtually on 26 January to discuss the reserved matters application for the development of land between Finningham Road and Silver Street. In many ways the procedure was similar to that of a Development Control Committee meeting held in the Council Chamber. Rachel and Keith were both able to ask questions and we both spoke; Keith read the statement prepared by Councillor Helliwell on behalf of the Parish Council. Members of the committee expressed views on the proposals, but a vote was not taken. The Chief Planning Officer is tasked with determining the application, taking account of views expressed. These included a request that house designs be given further consideration to add more variety to the street scene. It was confirmed that the footway along Finningham Road would be full width and that flooding concerns had been addressed. It was also suggested that the emergency exit onto Silver Street be amended, or the speed limit extended. We asked that consideration be given to providing an improved route to school. In principle it will be recommended for approval but the decision was not made at the meeting. Cllrs Helliwell and Miller both attended the meeting online.
- **Police and Crime Commissioner Precept** - Keith is a member of the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel. The Crime Plan and Precept were considered at the Panel meeting on 28 January. Members made requests for more visible policing, especially in rural villages, and officer attendance at Parish Council meetings. The Commissioner proposed an increase of 4.2% on the element of Council Tax which is provided for Suffolk Constabulary. After lengthy discussion, this was agreed; it will mean an increase of £9.99 per annum, resulting in a total of £247.68 for a Band D property.

## 9. Planning Applications

- **Station Road** – The developer has been given the same opportunity as any other proposed development to open dialogue with the Parish Council and provide initial information. The initial introduction from Elizabeth Beighton – Director, Boyer Planning confirmed the land proposed to be developed is the piece of land between Trafford Close/Elm Tree Close and the Allotments. Offering a 100% affordable housing scheme. Discussing with BMSDC on range and mix of houses and bungalows and a new car park for the benefit of the allotments and linking through to the village. Access currently suggested to be via Station Road. Number of proposed developments would be less than a 100 but would apparently be balanced on need. This is the start of the conversation that the developers would like to liaise with the Parish Council, however Councillors confirmed that they will not provide comment or specific feedback until an official outline application is submitted. Members of the public and the developers left the meeting at 8.20pm.
- **DC/21/06081** | Application for Outline Planning Permission (some matters reserved, access, layout and scale to be considered) Town and Country Planning 1990 - Erection of 5no. self-build dwellings; construction of additional car parking facilities for community including primary school use; associated landscaping; and open space. | Land to the East of School Road Old Newton Suffolk. **Comments required by 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022**

Cllr Miller showed the proposed documents available from the MSDC website. Drainage has been raised previously but comments have been received that there is a natural drainage that can be accessed that would be adequate and the new plans appear to have addressed these concerns.

Fundamentally some Cllrs are against this as they believe this is another area of land outside the boundary, and another development the village doesn't need in light of the large developments proposed on the Silver Street and Greenacres sites. It was felt that nothing material has changed and none of the objectors' comments have changed – It is still outside the boundary, and some Cllrs still believe this is not a sustainable development, There are 7 objections received from neighbours and 2 positive comments, one coming from a gentleman that lives out of the village and the other from the school.

Cllrs believe that at the heart of our village any development would need to be sympathetic to the environment. The car park being offered for the school is crucial and a key benefit to approve this development for what it could provide for the village.

The safe environment of the school and pedestrian access and pavement provision to the school are paramount. It was proposed that we accept this development by Cllr Clements with the proviso of clarifying the ownership

of the car park and designated body responsible for its upkeep. This was seconded with 4 Cllrs voting for and 3 against. It was approved by majority vote only.

Councillors then raised a further motion that there is awareness of a significant highways issue on this road to the school and the only reason the Parish Council would fully support this application was if the car park is built, made good and gifted to the school in the first instance, then accepted by the academy chain for the school. The Parish Council feel without this fundamental issue of the car parking being settled before building commenced they could not fully support this application. The parish council suggest that a covenant be put in place that should the school close or be sold the ownership be reverted back to the landowners. Following advice from both our district and county councillors, the car park needs to be built first and transferred to the school for ownership and maintenance. This further motion was proposed by Cllr Miller seconded by Cllr Clements and unanimously approved.

- **DC/22/00159** | Application for Listed Building Consent - Construction of new internal walls and re-instate stairs. | 47 Church Road Old Newton Suffolk IP14 4ED. *Comments required by 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022*

Cllrs felt that the applicants are wishing to repair the stairs and construct new internal walls due to what Cllrs believe was dry rot that has been an issue previously. This is now being done via an agent and is in line with listed building consent requirements. Cllrs are happy these remedials are finally being done in line with national heritage guidelines. The application was proposed by Cllr Hardman and seconded by Cllr Goudy. Abstained by Cllr Reeve. All other Cllrs approved this application.

#### 10. Planning Decisions from MSDC

- **DC/21/06262** : Householder Application - Construction of outdoor swimming pool, associated landscaping and installation of air source heat pump. Browns Place Farm, Brown Street, Old Newton, Suffolk IP14 4QB. *Planning Permission has been granted by MSDC.*
- **DC/21/05886** : Planning application - Change of use of an existing building from residential to holiday let Blacksmiths Cottage, Silver Street, Old Newton, Suffolk IP14 4HF. *Planning Permission has been granted by MSDC.*
- **DC/21/06460** - Householder Application - Erection of single storey side extension including solar panels to roof slope (following removal of shed). 4 Sandford Road, Old Newton, Suffolk, IP14 4PW. *Planning Permission has been granted by MSDC.*

11. **Crier – Parish Council submissions / costs.** Community Council is concerned about the number of pages being submitted into the Crier and wants us to pay for it. The Chairman investigated and analysed how many pages we have put into the crier in the last year. 2 options – reduce the content to no more than 2 pages or we can place unlimited and pay £500 per year. Cllrs agreed to take the criticism on board and reduce submission content where possible - to re-assess at the end of the next financial year when budget plans can be implemented. District and County to report directly to the Editor of the Crier for inclusion separately. When the parish council set the precept for the next financial year, it was agreed that Cllrs will consider a grant to help support the Crier moving forward. Proposed and seconded all Cllrs unanimously in favour. Clerk to respond to the Chairman of Community Council.

12. **Defibrillator / New Cabinet** – The new cabinet is available for installation but being able to have access to the village hall during daylight where it will not impact users of the hall such as the under-fives is proving difficult to arrange / confirm a time. The power will need to be switched off whilst the work is completed. Half term has been suggested but confirmation of dates to be arranged.

13. **Phone Box / Public Library** – Cllr Clements has done some work on clearing the decals and the rubbish. The door staying open is highlighted as an issue and this is a work in progress. Philip Groom will be the caretaker for us and will remove any old and not suitable books as required.

14. **Mutton Meadow – Update** – There are 8 spaces apparently at the back of Mutton Meadow – Cllr Keith Welham has asked MSDC to check if these are allocated to properties or available for anyone to use. Cllrs agreed to wait to see if MSDC comes back with a response. Cllr Welham to chase on our behalf.

## 15. Cemetery – Update

- Our Cemetery Contractor has not felt he is capable or has the correct tools to tackle the trees and has provided a quote from Arboreal Tree Services for the trees in question and the work explained this will total to £350. This is for the removal of branches identified by the groundsman and all waste to be removed. Clerk has also requested a quote from Ben Stearn.
- The Cemetery Contractor has topped the graves of Harry Clarke, Charles and Dorothy Cook, Arthur George Smith and Emmeline Hayward. He's also topped 3 others that he has found and says there are a further 3 to do that will be completed in February.
- The Clerk has issued the cemetery committee with a revised policy document including the suggested amendments to the baby graves. Committee need to review the pricing and the burial fees document as this was last done in 2020. Cemetery to be an agenda item for the March meeting. The depth and width of the baby grave surround also needs to be specified.
- Cllr Hardman is still assisting the Clerk with the plotting of the cemetery records. Cllr Miller and Hardman are in the process of plotting the new part of the cemetery.

**16. Footpaths – Committee Update** – The routes have been circulated and if anyone would like a copy to make comments and review what's been done. Cllr Helliwell and Cllr Hardman have both done some amazing work on the revised footpath list. Cllr Hardman will email a digital copy of the map.

**17. SID / ANPR – Data Update.** ANPR dates have still not been confirmed but the Clerk has emailed our contact asking for an update if this project is still available to us. There have been some issues in getting the project started but I have been assured that as soon as they are able to they will be making contact and visiting Old Newton with the ANPR cameras. Cllr Helliwell stated that the batteries need replacing again and Cllr Clements agreed to ask for some prices for replacement batteries to be sent to the clerk for the March Meeting.

**18. To receive County Councillor's Report – Mr Andrew Stringer.** All Cllrs have received Cllr Stringer's report prior to the meeting.

**Levelling up!** - At midnight on the 1st of February, the government announced that Suffolk had been given the go ahead to negotiate a “county deal” although no agreement has been reached regarding if this deal will include a mayor, or the need to have unitary government etc. The leaders of Suffolk County Council are at pains to declare that no decisions have been made etc, but governments rarely relinquish power and funding to the regions without strings attached.

**Budget Scrutiny Meeting, 11th January** - The Scrutiny Committee met on 11th January to discuss the Conservative's budget proposals for this year. Our Group believes the budget did not raise the Social Care Precept tax to the necessary amount. Suffolk GLI believes this needs to be raised to a 3% increase instead of the proposed 2%, to aid in Suffolk's social care crisis. This recommendation was rejected by the Conservatives. Furthermore, the administration did not provide the Carbon Budget to work alongside the core budget. The Carbon Budget is aimed to help us understand the level of emissions the Council are responsible for and helps to achieve the Council's ambition of being carbon-neutral by 2030. It is important the Carbon Budget is scrutinised, as there are many issues with data collection and performance measures that are yet to be addressed.

**Cabinet Meeting, 1st February** - The Cabinet has met to discuss the core budget, and vote on whether to pass the budget through to Full Council to be finalised on 17th February. The Cabinet are also voted to approve adoption of the Carbon Budget, as well as the recommendations to enhance Suffolk Biodiversity – making this a key priority moving forward. Agreed Cabinet documents can be found here:

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(01-02-2022\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(01-02-2022),%20The%20Cabinet)

**Transport East** - Suffolk County Council's regional transport body, Transport East, has drafted its new strategy for the future. It explains the investment and priorities Transport East aims to provide, to develop a leading transportation network. Suffolk GLI are concerned with the emphasis on profit and growth. Instead, a strategy for the future should focus on improved public transportation, greener energy, and walking and cycling infrastructure. Suffolk GLI submitted their comments to Transport East, in the hope they reconsider their strategy. Visit the Suffolk GLI website for our response. For more information, visit: <https://www.transporteast.org.uk/>

**New Discovering Suffolk App** - As part of the two year 'Discovering Suffolk' project, Discover Suffolk has launched a free mobile app to help access and enjoy the countryside. The app provides over 100 guided walking, cycling and riding trails to explore. To download the app for free head over to the Discover Suffolk website

<https://www.discoversuffolk.org.uk/discover-suffolk-app/> or search for 'Discover Suffolk' in the app catalogue on your phone.

**Suffolk Libraries Day 2022** - Suffolk Libraries Jumpstart January wellbeing campaign ran again throughout January. Working with Wellbeing Suffolk, Suffolk Libraries offered a programme of free online fitness activities and wellbeing drop-ins. Hundreds of people enjoyed the activities already which include yoga, pilates and creative dance. Suffolk Libraries is running an online book festival in March, as part of Suffolk Libraries Day 2022. Suffolk Libraries Day is a celebration of the county's library service and the organisation's main fundraising event. Libraries will also be confirming special events nearer the time. For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/whats-on/festival/suffolk-libraries-day-book-festival>

- Drainage issue on School hill to be resolved hopefully during half term.
- Potential issue with defibrillator not being registered in Bacton. Need to check if ours is actually registered.

**19. Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022** – This was raised with the village hall committee. They could not agree where to place such a beacon. It is a considerable sum for an attraction that would be used once a year or every 2 – 3 years. The coronation bench was provided in 1953 and is used significantly at the front of the village hall. Suggested that we perhaps change our thinking and move away from the beacon and look towards purchasing 4 – 6 commemorative benches for placement in the village, Dagworth and Gipping, Ward Green and Village Hall. Proposed and seconded to get some prices and styles for the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr Helliwell, all Cllrs in favour to change from the beacon to benches. Agenda item for the March meeting.

There are some beacons that can be used at the top of the church. Cllr Miller to mention to the church for their consideration.

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

- Lorries cutting up the corner still on Wassicks lane – Clerk to report again. Cllr Stringer confirmed they are scheduled to be repaired in the next 10 days.
- Complaint re footpaths being used for cycle tracks. Mention in the crier. Footpaths not to be used by cyclists.
- Ditches that have been done on Silver Street – very well done – excellent job.

**21. Public Forum – No members of the public in the public gallery.**

**22. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the March 2022 meeting.**

- Footpaths
- Jubilee benches
- Cemetery
- Phone Box / Community Library
- SID Data

**23. Date of the next Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 – 7.30pm at the Woodward Room in the Village Hall.**

Meeting closed at 22.00 hrs