

Wednesday 6th April 2022 – Public Meeting commenced at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Miller (Chair), M Clements (Vice-Chair), K Baker, N Hardman, Will Ratcliffe, K Goudy, S Moore, K Hall-Price, (Clerk), District Cllr K Welham, 1 member of the public.

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the April 2022 meeting. Apologies received from, Cllr M Reeve, M Helliwell, District Cllr R Eburne, District Cllr Stringer will be attending late as he is attending Mendlesham first – Arrived at 8.15pm.
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 meetings held on 2nd March 2022 -** It was proposed by Cllr Baker and seconded by Cllr Moore to accept the March minutes as true and accurate, and they will be signed accordingly by the Chairman.
887 – Cemetery query – lived in the village for over 6 years.

The extra Planning meeting held on 23rd March 2022 - It was proposed by Cllr Clements and seconded by Cllr Goudy to accept the March minutes as true and accurate, and they will be signed accordingly by the Chairman.

4. Clerks Report following March meeting.

- **The village website** has been updated to include all minutes and information approved. The Clerk has included the latest District and County reports on the website. The art and flower exhibition has been added onto the parish website for information. The Clerk has also looked at a website accessibility statement and once our website has been tested will be uploaded onto the public pages. One Suffolk can perform a full audit and fix service and brief summary report for a one off fee of £108.00. Apparently it can be done by ourselves but will require someone with more IT skills than the Clerk. Cllr Stephen Moore agreed to take a look before we need to perhaps pay for this service.
- **Planning responses** were issued / uploaded onto BMSDC website by the deadline dates specified.
- **Parish Annual Meeting** – Meeting agreed to be held on 27th April, following the easter holidays. Clerk has advertised in the Crier and has written / emailed all village organisations.
- **FGBT Committee Member resignation** – Resignation letter has been received from Mrs Pat Dorling who has been a long standing committee / Trustee for the FGBT. Mrs Pat Dorling has sadly retired her position as a trustee for the charity FGBT with immediate effect. Sincere and grateful thanks to Mrs Dorling for her support of this village charity over the many years and all her efforts, support and assistance with the management and running of this trust. Cllr Kenneth Goudy has stepped in and will replace Mrs Dorling as the second trustee with Cllr Mary Reeve. A new bank account is still to be opened following the closure of the Nationwide account last year and needs to be sorted as soon as possible now – This is presenting its own issues that many of the banks are now withdrawing the charity accounts. Agreed to check with our internal auditor the level if impact if the Parish Council agree to ring fence and bank the FGBT charity money on behalf of the trust.
- **Know our Cllrs** - Just waiting for a photo and confirmation that Cllr Moore is happy with the content for the revised know our Cllrs information sheet and this will be uploaded to the village website.
- **Dog Bins / Waste – Collection List** – Clerk still needs to advise BMSDC if the waste and dog bins are still installed and we still require them to be emptied, this is in preparation for the next annual invoice from MSDC. A new replacement red Fido 25 ltr dog bin and fixings has been ordered for the village hall. Invoice presented for approval tonight and payment will be made once delivery has been received. Clerk to inform Cllr Miller once received.

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

- December – No crimes reported in the parish in December.
- January 2022 – 1 x criminal damage / arson on or near Knights Close / 2 x violent / sexual offences on or near Greenacres and Knights Close.
- February 2022 – 3 x violence / sexual offences on or near Greenacres / 1 x criminal damage / arson on or near Cross Green / 1 x anti social behaviour and 1 x burglary on or near Rookery Way.

5. Financial matters & Financial report

Online banking – All invoices for payment for the March 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 Thursday 3rd March 2022 following the meeting. The Sid batteries were approved but payment was not submitted until the order had been placed. Batteries were paid by BACS and authorised by Cllr Miller on Wednesday 23rd March and collected by Cllr Clements.

Internal & External Council Audit Meetings and Finance Committee Meeting dates to be arranged prior to official internal audit on Friday 27th May with Trevor Brown ahead of the year end PKF LittleJohn external audit – 1st July deadline. We will need to approve the AGAR at the June meeting.

Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays Statement Balance = **£36,639.01** (30.03.2022)
- 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 = **£12,636.51** (06.04.2022)

Accounts for payment – March 2022: Approval and payment in April 2022.

EXPENDITURE	CHQ/BA CS/SO/ DDR		NET	VAT	TOTAL
Karen Price	Bacs	Salary £847.36 – March + £98.54 April, Pay increase for financial year 21-22 back pay £194.52, holiday pay £137.65 less tax £45.80, NI £60.30, pension £51.13 plus expenses £77.95	£1,198.79		£1,198.79
HMRC PAYE	Bacs	Employee NI £60.30, Employee Tax £45.80, Employer NI £78.27 less employment allowance £78.27	£106.10		£106.10
Nest Pension	DDR	Employee £51.13, Employer £38.35	£89.48		£89.48
ONEG / Onwoods	Bacs	Cleansing Grant – qtr 4	£240.57		
Suffolk County Council	Bacs	Streetlighting and maintenance costs	£1307.06	£261.41	£1568.47
Mor-Tech	Bacs	Yrly domain renewal	£15.00	£3.00	£18.00
SALC	Bacs	Salc membership subscription 22/23	£459.01		£459.01
Glasdon UK Ltd	Bacs	Fido 25 replacement dog bin – red	£118.60	£25.38	£152.27
CGM Group	Bacs	Grass cutting 30.03.22	£93.30	£18.66	£111.96
Ian Hammond	Bacs	Cemetery maintenance – March 22	£225.00		£225.00
Scarff Farms	Bacs	Annual rental for the allotments	£420.00		£420.00

RECEIPTS	Payslip			
BMSDC	DC	Cleansing Grant – qtr 4	£240.57	£240.57
HL Perfitt	100140	Cemetery fees – Headstone – Gloria May Smith	£50.00	£50.00
Fulcher / Dignity	100140	Cemetery fees – Ashes burial – Clifford & Pamela Alexander	£75.00	£75.00

Proposed by Cllr Clements seconded by Cllr Hardman to pay the accounts by BACS transfer. Cllr Miller to authorise the payments following the meeting.

6. Correspondence Received

- The Pensions regulator – Re-enrolment of our legal duties – Clerk action.

- BMSDC – Street Naming have confirmed the 2 names they will be using for the Moat Meadow Finningham Road site will be Fosse Meadow and Wheatfield Close.
- FGBT Trustee letter – Resignation letter from Mrs Pat Dorling. Discussed under Clerks report.
- Pot hole on Honey Pot Lane is so severe it is going to cause an accident. Reported to SCC – 00357730 today 06.04.22. Clerk has received several complaints regarding this pot hole and has been caught out herself.
- Litter Picking email – Philip Groom. They must submit their hours in order to claim the maximum.
- Resident complaint made to Chair regarding the Greenacres development regarding hedge cutting without permission etc. Cllr Miller to update the meeting. Passed info to Cllrs and District and Keep Moat are not keeping the neighbours consulted and informed. District Cllr Welham will report and follow up with the enforcement officers in the planning department.

The circulars folder was circulated to all Cllrs in attendance at the meeting.

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

Support for Ukraine - At the March meeting of Mid Suffolk District, members condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and pledged support for refugees. Council voted unanimously to:

- condemn the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine and stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and their families and friends, including those local to Suffolk
- stand ready to provide support to those affected by the war and to open their arms to people displaced and affected and to work with, and support, the efforts of local communities to provide and comfort to those in need.

Motion on Neighbourhood Plans - Our group proposed a motion at the same meeting urging the Council to allocate resources to actively promote and encourage the process of developing Neighbourhood Plans, including making contact with all core villages which have not yet produced a Plan. This motion was agreed.

Motion on Net Zero Carbon - Our group also proposed a motion to adopt the Net Zero Carbon Toolkit as technical guidance for developers and homeowners to help reduce the carbon footprint in new and existing buildings. Three district councils in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire developed the toolkit in conjunction with the Local Government Association and is available as an open resource for all Councils in England. The Council will now promote the toolkit to applicants at all stages of the planning and building control process.

Remote and Hybrid Meetings - Council has written to Government to urge a change in the law to allow councils the flexibility to hold remote and hybrid meetings when they deem appropriate within rules and procedures to be agreed.

Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan (LCWIP) - On 4 April, Cabinet will consider plans to improve the walking and cycling network across Mid Suffolk to encourage active travel and help reduce the effects of climate change. The plan sets out the council’s approach to improving and developing the local cycling and walking network across the district over the next 10 years, to support residents in shifting towards more sustainable transport.

Examples of schemes included in the plan are:

- improvements to Junction 49 roundabout to link with an existing cycle path in Stowmarket
- pedestrian access to schools and a new crossing on Church Road in Stowupland
- extending the footpath on Hoxne Road in Eye to connect it to other walking routes.

It should be noted that the crossing on Church Road has already been completed. A cycle route from Old Newton to Stowmarket has been listed as a low priority. Asked to include again in the list a safe footpath to school from the village.

Freeport East - Gateway 14, along with Felixstowe and Harwich, form Freeport East, a company limited by guarantee of which MSDC is a partner. There will be huge tax and other advantages for companies moving to Gateway 14. Our group is concerned about the clear financial advantages for companies moving into Gateway 14, especially as preference is being given to attracting multinational companies rather than encouraging local companies onto the development.

Development East of Greenacres - We have held a virtual meeting with Vincent Pearce, the Planning Officer who is assessing the application and comments received. We discussed the comments made at your extraordinary meeting and a number of our own concerns. Vincent agreed to raise these comments and concerns with Keepmoat and arrange another meeting with us. Not a sustainable development without a safe route to school. Heritage and SCC holding

objection regarding triple parking. Affordable homes too close together and the properties to be set back further off the road. The roads not to be adopted. Attenuation of ponds – no water flowing in but flowing out. Mistakes are in the plans and have been highlighted. Explanation requested for the ecology gains that they are stating will be of benefit.

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

International Women's Month, and Day 2022 – #BreaktheBias - In March, we celebrated International Women's Month 2022. This is a time to acknowledge and celebrate the amazing achievements of women and push further for equality around the world. This year's theme revolved around breaking the bias, focussing on a world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination. Our group was immensely supportive of this celebration. Suffolk GLI's Spokesperson for Women, Cllr Caroline Page, called for the flag for Women's History Month to be flown high next year at Endeavour House. Suffolk County Council agreed this was an important step forward.

Cabinet 1st March - The Cabinet met to vote on the disapproval of the current plans by Sunnica to build the country's largest solar farm in Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire. Suffolk County Council have asked the Government to reject the plans in its current form, arguing the application fails to properly mitigate the impacts of such a large project. In addition, the Cabinet voted on approving the National Grid's project to scale up its energy infrastructure from Bramford to Twinstead, as part of the Government's Net-Zero plan to increase low-carbon energy in the UK. Our Group, while we approve of the increased capacity for low-carbon energy, argue that this rush into large projects is a result of decades of inaction from Government. This means it is now a lot harder to develop a coordinated plan with regards to energy supply, disruption, and sufficient mitigation. Policy framework is loose to say the least regarding development of solar and energy developments. Both were voted for by the Cabinet unanimously.

Full Council 24th March - Full Council presented a rare opportunity of solidarity between Councillors, as our Group and the Conservatives shared a single motion in support of Ukraine. Our Group recommended a motion condemning the actions of the Russian government, as well as commitment to supporting and welcoming refugees as they become a part of our Suffolk communities. The Conservatives supported our idea and together we showed how politics can be put aside through difficult times.

Cabinet 29th March - The Cabinet met to vote on a plan to establish 'Freeport East'. This is part of a national strategy to create freeports across the country, in an attempt to generate economic activity through tax incentives. Felixstowe Port, Harwich Port, and Stowmarket's 'Gateway 14' Business Park are set to become part of Freeport East. Our Group is severely concerned with this project, as foreign direct investment is being prioritised over local businesses, many of which will find it difficult to compete with the overseas businesses receiving Business Rates, VAT and National Insurance Tax relief. The project poses many other challenges, such as potential increase in money laundering etc, a lack of clear strategy towards net-zero, and a risk of high-skilled jobs being imported, excluding the Suffolk workforce. The Cabinet also voted on the Enhanced Partnership between SCC and bus operators, in line with the new Bus Back Better strategy, aimed at improving services across Suffolk. The improvement plan was voted for in October 2021, and this partnership outlines how the various stakeholders will interact with one another during the implementation of the improvement plan. Our Group have concerns on the Government's promise of funding, as the pot was cut in half in an announcement last month, this week it has been confirmed by the Department for Transport that Suffolk will not get any funding from this initiative, while Norfolk will get circa £49,000,000.00.

9. Planning Applications

- **DC/22/00780** | Application for Listed Building Consent. Internal alterations, renovation, repairs and maintenance as per Schedule of Works. | The Cottage 1 Chapel Road Old Newton IP14 4PP. **Comments to be submitted to MSDC by 08.04.22**
Cllrs felt that as all the internal works are upgrading and restoring the cottage and replacing of roof timbers – Cllrs could not see any reason to object to any of the proposed works. Cllrs feel that the proposed works will make a considerable difference to modern day family living and all works are in keeping with the heritage of the cottage. This application is fully supported by the Parish Council. – Proposed by Cllr Hardman and seconded by Cllr Clements with all Cllrs present unanimous. Application approved at Parish Council level.
- **DC/22/01633** | Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (C3) and for building operations reasonably necessary for conversion. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development)(England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of former poultry/livestock barn to 1no. single storey

dwellinghouse. | Agricultural Barn Land South Of Old Newton Hall Sandford Road Old Newton Suffolk IP14 4PL. *Comments to be submitted to MSDC by 18.04.22*

Cllrs felt that this plot is in a prime position, but it would need to be structurally sound to convert to a dwelling and would need to be in-keeping with the heritage of the site as it's within the curtilage of the listed building. Cllrs have concerns if this truly is a structurally sound and free standing as it appears to have telegraph poles assisting it to remain standing. Cllrs are concerned that this barn is not structurally sound for it to be found to be within permitted development - especially since the second of the barns that was adjacent collapsed some years ago. The structural survey provided also highlights this concern.

Cllrs were also very mindful that this barn is within the curtilage of a 16th Century Grade 2 * moated manor house and does not feel appropriate to be creating the new access in front of the Manor House. It was proposed that given the concerns of structural integrity of the building and the impact of the additional access across and very close to the 16th Century Grade 2 * moated manor house that this application be denied under general permitted development and a full planning application should be sought. Proposed by Cllr Hardman, Seconded by Cllr Clements - Cllr Baker abstained from voting- all other Cllrs agreed that this should be denied under schedule 2, part 3, class Q of a General Permitted Development.

10. Planning Decisions from MSDC

- **DC/22/00864** – Barn North of Hill Farm, School Road, Old Newton – Discharge of conditions Approved.
- **DC/22/00159** – 47 Church Road – Construction of new internal walls and re-instate stairs. Listed Building Consent approved by MSDC.

11. Phone Box / Public Library – Cllr Clements has a hook back to attach to the door. The Ivy trunk needs to be cut back so the door can be opened properly. Decals still need to be removed. Cllr Clements to liaise with Chair and Philip Groom.

12. Cemetery – Update

- Cllr Hardman has now completed assisting the Clerk with the plotting of the cemetery records onto a digital format. Cllr Miller and Hardman are in the process of plotting the new part of the cemetery. Clerk now needs to ensure the paper records are up to date in the grave record / death books.
- Cllr Miller has measured the paths – 20m and 27m – 1.17m wide. There is a technical problem on the longer path as the roots of the trees are higher than the path and a proposal for a raised walkway over the roots. Cllr Miller to draw as a specification that can be then passed to local contractors for quotes.
- 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 – Ben has agreed to complete the works for £120.00 +VAT. Ben holds the contract for Ward Green annual maintenance and has been our local preferred contractor for these types of works previously. Proposed by Cllr Hardman to use Ben and start the works as soon as he is available – seconded by Cllr Ratcliffe – all Cllrs unanimously in favour.
- Cemetery meeting to be fixed – Suggested date of 16th April 2022. Clerk is away so Cllr Hardman has agreed to take notes and provide update for the next meeting.

13. Footpaths – Committee Update. Cllrs to walk the proposed walks and would really appreciate any feedback.

14. SID Data / Update

- Suggestion by Cllr Helliwell for the Stowmarket Road pole to be moved to a new site to be somewhere on top end of Chapel Road. Cllr Clements to liaise with Cllr Helliwell and suggest a couple of places – and whether a pole is required or if a streetlight can be used.
- New batteries have been ordered and received / collected and delivered by Cllr Clements to Cllr Helliwell.

15. Area adjacent to Mutton Meadow – Trees / Orchard to be planted. 8 trees have already been gifted and it might be that we could look to gift further trees as part of the Queens Jubilee initiative. Particularly look at the possibility of fruit trees, natural and ancient to Suffolk. East of England Apple and orchards project would be a good place to start and get some prices together for the next meeting.

16. Queens Platinum Jubilee Benches – Clerk has spoken with Realise Futures, Ipswich who make recycled plastic park benches. They range from £300 - £650 per bench depending on type of bench required. They can be engraved to commemorate the Queens Jubilee year. Lead time is approximately 8 weeks. Jon Hines has agreed

he would be happy to do the work but his quote will depend on the size of the bases / benches and location etc. He previously charged £290.00 for 2 x bench bases 2400x1000x100mm (circa £150.00 per bench base).

Brown in colour and estimate circa £850 per bench to include bases x 4 benches = £3,400. Proposed by Cllr Clements, seconded by Cllr Baker. Clerk to order the benches.

Tyrell Oak – MSDC, Clerk to request permission

Village Hall – Committee to approve / comment

Dagworth – Cllr Clements to investigate – possible siting

Ward Green – Parish Council approval

17. Village Hall Request for Support Letter for Improvement Project. Project revamping the kitchen costs are significant but they have managed to acquire grants – They need a letter of support from the Parish Council similar to what has been provided previously. Clerk to action.

18. Councillors Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

- Cllr Clements – Footpaths regarding the Midi Railway – Clerk to chase again as this is now urgent. The steps are not stable – the wooden edges are also not stable and as we have reported this several times they are liable if an accident happens. Now missing off the SCC reporting tool – Clerk to re-report.
- Training email to all cllrs – Cllrs will need to respond their wish to attend for the Clerk to book.

19. Public Forum – Nothing from the public gallery.

20. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the May 2022 meeting.

- Footpaths
- Jubilee Benches / Trees
- Cemetery
- Phone Box / Community Library

21. Date of the next Parish Council meeting

- **Parish Annual Meeting** – Wednesday 27th April 2022 (first annual meeting in 2 years). Clerk to write to the village organisations – Ask if village organisations would be prepared to attend, provide a report and ideas on where the parish council should be spending the CIL money and update the Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP).
- **Wednesday 4th May 2022 – 7.30pm at the Woodward Room in the Village Hall.** This will be the AGM of the Parish Council.

Meeting closed at 21.31 hrs