

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 – Public Meeting commenced at 7.30pm at the Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr J Miller - Chair, M Clements – Vice-Chair, S Moore, N Hardman, K Baker, K Goudy, K Hall-Price, (Clerk), District Cllr K Welham, and 4 members of the public.

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the July 2022 meeting. Apologies received from, Cllrs M Reeve, W Ratcliffe, M Helliwell, District Cllr R Eburne and Cllr A Stringer. Cllr Miller informed the meeting of the passing away of Mr Tony Reeve – Cllr Mary Reeve’s husband. Tony was also a previous Parish Councillor and Chairman of Old Newton with Dagworth & Gipping Parish Council and our thoughts are with Mary and their Son – Martyn. Cllr Miller requested a minutes’ silence in honour of Tony’s life and service to our village which was observed by all.
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 Cllr Reeve in respect of the proposed development of the Greenacres Site. The dispensation for Cllr Clements in respect of the Moat Meadow Silver Street / Finningham Road development has been removed as Cllr Clements has moved house and is no longer neighbouring the development and therefore no longer has a potential pecuniary interest. All Cllrs agreed to remove this dispensation with immediate effect.
3. **To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022** - It was proposed by Cllr Hardman and seconded by Cllr Moore to accept the June minutes as true and accurate, unanimously agreed and they will be signed accordingly by the Chairman.
4. **Clerks Report following June 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 and the new cemetery policy has also been uploaded.
  - **The website accessibility statement** has been reviewed by Cllr Stephen Moore and admin access rights to the website have been provided. Cllr Moore has tested the website and identified some changes and amendment’s need to be made moving forward. Cllr Moore needs to confirm date the website was tested and whether the council should accept this statement. Clerk will then issue.
  - **Crier submission** and finance summary for the audit were published in the Crier for July.
  - **Green Energy Consultation** - The information regarding the Pylon survey was issued via the facebook page and Cllr Moore promoted it until the deadline for completion had passed. Parish council comments were submitted via the survey link.

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

- March 2022 – 3 x violence / sexual offences on or near Greenacres / 1 x theft and 1 x violence / sexual offence on or near Cross Green / 1 x theft and 2 x violence / sexual offences on or near Knights Close.
- April 2022 – 1 x possession of weapon on or near Silver Street / 1 x Violence / sexual offence on or near Greenacres / 1 x public order offence on or near the playing field / 1 x theft from a person on or near Wassicks Lane.
- Police are appealing for information after a catalytic converter was stolen from a van in Ladyfield, Haughley sometime between 7am on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> & 7am on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June.
- A 39-year-old man has died following a serious road traffic collision on the A14 westbound near Woolpit. Police were called at just after 1.30am, Tuesday 14 June, to reports of a two-vehicle collision between Haughley and Woolpit, involving a white Audi A3 and a lorry parked in a layby. Ambulance and Suffolk Fire and Rescue crews were also in attendance and the driver of the car was taken to Addenbrooke’s Hospital, where he later sadly died.
- There have also been reports of vehicles being broken into and other catalytic converters being stolen in Rickinghall and Botesdale during the month.
- A shed was broken into in Westhorpe. The incident took place between 8.45pm Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and 6.30am Tuesday 5 July. An unknown person gained access to a garden of a home on The Crescent via an insecure side gate. They forced off the padlock to gain entry to the shed. A lawnmower and electric drill were stolen.

- Police are appealing for information after items were stolen from a vehicle parked on a driveway in Poppy Way in Gislingham. A wallet containing bank cards, and a mobile phone were removed sometime between 3pm Monday 4 July and 8am Tuesday 5 July. It is unknown how entry was gained to the vehicle.

## 5. Financial matters & Financial report

**Online banking** – All invoices for payment for the June 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 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 following the meeting.

**Financial Audit** – The audit was submitted to PKF LittleJohn by the 1<sup>st</sup> July deadline.

### FGBT

- Savings account with Barclays still to be investigated.
- Auditor guidelines that we should not be all Cllrs on the trustees. Suggested that an additional trustee be identified moving forward.

### Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays Statement Balance = **£37,583.75** (29.06.2022)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,379.14** (01.04.22)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£253.54** (01.04.22)
- Public Works Loan – Balance outstanding = **£12,636.51** (06.04.2022)

### Accounts for payment – June 2022: Approval and payment in July 2022.

EXPENDITURE	CHQ/BAC S/SO/ DDR		NET	VAT	TOTAL
Karen Price	Bacs	Salary £1,212.80 – June, holiday pay £146.38 less tax £62.20, NI £41.23, pension £54.37 plus expenses £59.30	£1260.68		£1260.68
HMRC PAYE	Bacs	Employee NI £41.23, Employee Tax £62.20, Employer NI £90.48	£193.91		£193.91
Nest Pension	DDR	Employee £54.37, Employer £40.78	£95.15		£95.15
CGM	Bacs	Grass cutting 11/05/22	£93.30	£18.66	£111.96
CGM	Bacs	Grass cutting 08/06/22	£93.30	£18.66	£111.96
SALC	Bacs	Training Cllr Hardman Mods 1-3	£78.00	£15.60	£93.60
SALC	Bacs	Training Cllr Hardman Mod 5	£26.00	£5.20	£31.20
Ian Hammond	Bacs	Cemetery maintenance June	£300.00		£300.00
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>Payslip</b>				
Bierton & Woods	100142	Cemetery fees – Haags memorial	£25.00		£25.00
H L Perfitt	100142	Cemetery fees – T/L Joyce Bloom	£40.00		£40.00

Proposed by Cllr Clements, seconded by Cllr Goudy to pay the accounts by BACS transfer. Cllr Goudy to approve.

July payments for August to be approved by Cllrs remotely in the absence of a monthly meeting in August. Clerk to email all Cllrs for approval prior to setting up bacs payments.

## 6. Correspondence Received

- Email received from Libby Brooks regarding contribution for the flowers / plants to be planted twice a year by the village sign and bus shelter. This has been done previously by Mr & Mrs Walls, costs have previously been met by ONCE but they are asking if the parish council would make the contribution requested at £20 per annum. A more formal arrangement of a one-off annual payment to ONCE. Philip Groom to take back to ONCE committee.
- Keepmoat development
- Bin at the Bus Shelter has been reported as overflowing.
- Comments from ONGAA regarding Keepmoat offering financial sponsorship.

- Various comments and emails received regarding the planning permission DC/21/05459 at 27 Church Road Old Newton Suffolk IP14 4ED Planning Application - 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. Building works have been ongoing on weekends and start up times on a Sunday have been as early as 7am. It is believed that this not permitted, and Clerk has emailed planning if this can be reported to the enforcement team at MSDC 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.

- **Residents' survey** - Babergh and Mid Suffolk are carrying out their annual survey of residents. Hopefully this will enable the Councils to understand more about residents' and communities' resilience and to help improve the Councils' services. Up to 8,000 households from districts have been randomly selected and invited to take part.
- **Mid Suffolk Council finances** - For 2021/22, Mid Suffolk District Council has announced an underspend of £1.2 million against budget with net expenditure on services down by £1.6 million against a budget of £12.7 million. Total reserves stand at just over £24 million up nearly £4 million on the previous financial year. Capital expenditure was £13.3 million against a budget of £30 million. Recent capital expenditure includes £756,000 on the solar carport at the Stowmarket Leisure Centre (not yet operational due to issues with obtaining inverters), £666,000 on the Needham Lake café and £4.5 million on Gateway 14.
- **Gateway 14** - The Range has announced a £200 million investment to base a major distribution centre at Gateway 14 creating 1,650 jobs (across three shifts). Once a reserved matters planning application has been approved, work is expected to start in January 2023 and occupation of the new distribution centre in Autumn 2023.
- **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** - This Fund has been set up by Government as a replacement for EU funding (although with less funds available) and, to access it, Councils must submit an investment plan. Funding is expected to be approximately £140,000 for the rest of this year, £280,000 next year and £780,000 the year after.
- **Local Planning Issues - Development east of Greenacres:** This application is now out for re-consultation following changes the developer has made in response to comments by ourselves, the Parish Council, and the planning officer. Changes include leaving some open space at the entrance to the site, increased landscaping across the whole site including boundaries to neighbouring homes, along the edge of the site and along the public footpath, and changes to parking arrangements.
- **Moat Farm Development:** This application is now out for re-consultation following the developer's agreement with Havebury Homes for the whole site to be for affordable housing. We have asked planning officers what impact this will have on all aspects of the development.
- **Grants for carbon-reduction** - A new fund for community-based carbon-reduction projects is now open. Projects could include promoting cycling/walking, improving energy efficiency, and raising awareness of climate change. Applications can be made via the Green Suffolk website.
- **Stowmarket Health, Education and Leisure Facilities (SHELF)** - Mid Suffolk District Council have produced plans for developing outdoor and indoor sports facilities and a wellness hub on land off Chilton Way. Proposals include grass pitches for cricket football and rugby, artificial turf pitches, a mini athletics track, a Park Run track, a multi-use games area and sports hall. There will be limited on-site parking so we are pressing for walking and cycling routes, and public transport to be provided.
- **Locality Funding** - We would welcome applications from any local club or organisation in need of funding towards the cost of a local project. Any organisations to contact Cllr Welham.

Complaint regarding building works on Sundays. Conditions are no work on Sundays and 1pm on Saturdays. Cllr Welham stated that we should wait the outcome of the enforcement team as this has now been commenced.

Cllr Clements asked regarding resident on Silver Street buying an electric car and parking as the cable could potentially be hazardous as it is across a public footpath. Advised to contact Cllr Stringer.

8. **To receive County Councillor's Report – Mr Andrew Stringer.** All Cllrs have received Cllr Stringer's report prior to the meeting.
- For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/>
  - Latest SCC COVID information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>
  - For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: [refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk)

### **Suffolk GLI to propose that Suffolk has a Cost-of-Living Emergency**

Full Council is on the 7th July. Our Group have submitted a motion calling for SCC to declare a Cost-of-Living Emergency, and for the Council to redirect funds and efforts towards targeting those most vulnerable. Prices for fuel, food and energy are increasing as wages take real terms cut from the raising inflation. Our Group calls on this government for further support to those falling below the poverty line. In addition, we are calling on the government to make it easier and cheaper to insulate homes. Our motion asks to waive VAT on energy-saving materials, such as insulation, and adequately fund a retrofitting programme so communities can save money on their bills during winter where energy price caps are due to rise even further.

### **Cabinet Meeting: SEND Capital Programme**

Cabinet met on 20th June to vote on funding the next phase of SCC's programme to build more capacity for SEND children in education. The cabinet agreed a package of £15.9m, as part of a £45m programme. Currently, there is a high demand for SEND services, with requests for placement going up by 32% since 2020. The funding Cabinet have agreed will create three new specialist units across Suffolk. Our Group supported such a project but was mindful of the rising demand and what was needed for the future. The Cabinet agreed a third phase was required, which will be discuss later this year.

### **National Grid consultation: SCC submit a response**

Last month our Group said we would put pressure on SCC to respond to the consultation, rejecting the current proposals for expanding the onshore pylon network in Suffolk. Our Group are strongly against the development of more pylon networks impacting Suffolk's rural landscape and cultural heritage. The proposals are even criticised by Conservative MPs Dan Poulter and James Cartledge. After a meeting with Cabinet member, Cllr Rout, the Conservatives states they will also reject the proposals. SCC have now submitted a response to National Grid, agreeing with our position. They have stated that the application cannot be supported in its current form, and that an offshore alternative must be provided to be considered.

## 9. **Planning Applications**

- **DC/22/01159** | Application for approval of Reserved Matters following Outline Planning Permission DC/19/02878 dated 12/02/2021. Town and Country Planning 2015. Submission of details for Appearance, Layout and Scale for the Erection of 64No dwellings (including 22 affordable). | Land East Of Greenacres Old Newton Suffolk.  
*Deadline for comments to MSDC is 22<sup>nd</sup> July.*

Separate extra planning meeting scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> July to discuss this application. Rachel and Keith have arranged a separate meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> August. They have asked for copies of our summary notes following any planning discussions relevant to the two Keepmoat developments in the village.

- **DC/21/03874 | AMENDED DESCRIPTION** – Full Planning Application - Erection of 47no. dwellings (100% affordable scheme), together with open space, landscaping, earthworks and drainage. As per Planning Statement Addendum, dated 22nd June 2022. | Moat Meadow Finningham Road Old Newton Suffolk.

Clerk has forwarded to all Cllrs emails and Facebook comments for consideration. The Parish Council object to the proposed change of the Moat Meadow development to a 100% affordable scheme. Conversion to a 100% affordable development means the village will receive no CIL contribution, which will have a detrimental impact on the ability of the village to complete the infrastructure improvements needed to sustain the additional 111 new homes being built within the Parish. Our present village infrastructure won't withstand the planned development without investment, and the removal of the expected ~£75,000 CIL will require a radical reassessment of which of the already planned infrastructure improvements within our PiiP will need to be removed. Councillors believe that developments of this size must provide the opportunity to increase facilities within the village.

Cllrs do not believe that the development is suitable to be converted to 100% affordable. Over half of the properties are 3 or 4 bedroom, meaning costs even for shared ownership or affordable rent will be high. The development's roadways are not being adopted, and there are considerable greenspaces that will require ongoing management and

upkeep, all costs for which will fall to the housing association. Previously the Parish Council had considered adopting these community spaces, but with no CIL being derived from the development this is now unlikely to be affordable. Core Strategy Objective SO9 from Mid Suffolk District Core Strategy PDD (2008) states that planning and housing policies will maximise the provision of affordable homes to meet local need. However as of May 2021 there were only 11 applicants on the Mid Suffolk Housing Register with a local connection to Old Newton and Dagworth, With the originally proposed 17 affordable homes on this development plus the 22 affordable homes planned for the Church Road development, local need is significantly exceeded. It is therefore likely that most residents on the new development, if approved and without a Section 106 having been signed, would have no direct connection to the Parish; Cllrs believe that shared ownership locks people in, and should house values fall, homeowners with little connection to the Parish will find themselves in negative equity and unable to move up the housing ladder. Cllrs strenuously object to the contention that Old Newton's provision of affordable houses is 'well below' the Mid Suffolk average. Of the 11 villages quoted within the Planning Statement Addendum only 4 have a higher proportion of shared ownership and affordable rented properties than Old Newton, and with the existing approved developments this percentage would increase from 15.6% to 19.2%. If the proposed change to 100% affordable for Moat Meadow were passed, 24% of houses within Old Newton would then be affordable, which Cllrs do not believe is sustainable, and *would* result in 'a significant impact upon the overall mix or balance of market and affordable housing within the village' [5.0 Summary, Planning Statement Addendum] Furthermore, Cllrs believe the dismissal of Old Newton's status as a hinterland village, due to the dismissal of the "as yet unratified" new Joint Local Plan, is sophistry, as the concerns raised at the Hearing Sessions related to the distribution of development along the A14 corridor, not the classification of the county's villages.

In light of the above, and the taking into consideration the fact that in the past 5 years Mid Suffolk has delivered on its commitment within the Local Plan to build 127 affordable dwelling per annum, Cllrs do not believe that the need for this change has been made. Cllrs strongly believe that mixed developments should have priority.

The village cannot cope with the extra pressure that 100% affordable housing will bring. The school is already at full capacity with no safe pedestrian access to the school, and there are no regular bus services from the village, meaning two car households are essential. This application appears to be financially motivated and detrimental to the long-term sustainability and viability of the Parish. Cllrs and parishioners are very worried that this could also happen on the Church Road development and would like to understand what is reasonable and feasible for a hinterland village to be expected to accept.

Proposed by Cllr Hardman that we are against the change from the original mixed housing to a 100% affordable due to the impact the lack of CIL will have on the ability of the Parish Council to upgrade the village's infrastructure as per the PiiP, as we do not believe the development is suitable to be 100% affordable, and there is no identified need for this many affordable properties within the Parish. This was seconded by Cllr Baker – All Cllrs unanimously in favour. Application refused at Parish Council level.

**10. Planning Decisions from MSDC** – None received during the month of June.

**11. Cemetery – Committee Update.** The new revised version of the cemetery policy has been issued. Pricing meeting to be arranged.

**12. Footpaths – Committee Update.** Cllrs Baker and Hardman have walked the Dagworth route and will provide detailed comments to Cllr Helliwell. Cllr Helliwell has met with Cllr Hardman and draft notes will soon be available so we can see where we go from there. Cllr Hardman to speak to Cllrs Welham and Eburne to discuss ways to fund the printing. Can we roll into the pricing a wall display on the village hall with the comments? Leaflet to be loaded onto the website. Thanks to both Cllrs Hardman and Helliwell for their efforts.

- **Temporary Footpath 47 Closure Notice** – Clerk and County Cllr Stringer received notification that the footpath closure had been revoked due to the miss information that the developer provided and not sharing details of meetings with the parish. The route is not blocked off. Clerk communicated to the parish via the Facebook page.

**13. SID Data** – Cllr Moore very kindly helped resolve Cllr Helliwell IT issues, and the latest data continue to show 20-25% drivers over the speed limit on both sites with maximum speeds of 60-70mph recorded! Application for Brown Street to potentially be re-visited as a suitable site for the SID unit.

**14. Locality funding application towards costs of Projector & Screen** – This would be for use in the Woodward Room of the village hall. There are some deals on amazon for projectors and screens that are under £100.00 for the package. There are also some projectors that are considerably more expensive. There is a separate pull-down

screen for £130.00 but there are some foldable anti-crease ones for less than £40. Cllrs need to provide the Clerk with an understanding of the level of quality and pricing expected. 1600 lumens – could do with being brighter. Cllrs agreed to look at a similar version that is currently being borrowed (Epson) with an electric screen. Limit to projector first. Best projectors are minimum 1600 – 2000 lumens – Clerk to also check for bulb replacement costs. Consider the lens replacement costs. Also costs for a stand.

**15. Queens Platinum Jubilee Benches** – The benches are currently in storage at Chapel Farm Gipping ready for Jon Hines when he is available to install the concrete bases. Cllr Mark Clements and Cllr Stephen Moore have visited each site to decide the exact location of the bases and measurements required to be forwarded to Jon Hines for the work instruction. Cllr Clements has also taken Jon Hines to each site.

- Tyrell Oak – MSDC have provided confirmation of approval for the bench to be positioned.
- Village Hall – Committee have approved the bench to be sited by the older children’s play area.
- Cemetery outside the memorial gates opposite side to the noticeboard
- Ward Green – Parish Council to discuss with Cllr Reeve and Martin re siting of the Ward Green bench.

Cllr Clements has been with Jon Hines to discuss the locations and the new revised quote for the base works has been received. Quote for 2400mm x 1200mm x 125mm bases at Gipping, Ward Green and playing field is £980. Dagworth if it goes ahead at the same time would be another £150. It was previously agreed that the fourth bench would be outside the cemetery gates.

Dagworth would like an ornamental cherry. Would the parish council be prepared to donate a free bench. Full costs of the whole project to be provided before a decision can be made.

**Jubilee Trees** – East of England Apples and Orchards Project sell the trees at approximately £15.50 per tree but are currently out of stock so maybe something that is more seasonal to plant. Clerk has emailed the company and is awaiting a response. The tree guards can be bought for approximately £95.00 each x 6 online **£570.00** but these are flimsy and not bespoke. I have asked a local engineering company who says they could not make them for less but would be happy to quote for something more bespoke. A local blacksmith has said that he could provide heavy steel, 4ft tall, 18” diameter, 16 uprights in halves for installation forged and flared at the top to look like a crown for £150 each labour costs x 6 = £900 plus the cost of the steel which is currently circa £700. This could then be galvanised which would be additional circa £600 or they could be painted as a cheaper option. **£1,600** plus additional for the painting or galvanising. The bespoke route would ensure longevity as these wouldn’t need replacing for about 100 years. We need to allocate a funding amount to the project and decide the number required and the level of quality Cllrs would be happy with.

Tyrell Oak – Some residents have made comments that they would like the notice board to be moved. Cllr Moore to speak to residents.

**16. Ward Green** – Concerned that all of the wildflowers are lost when the grass is cut and Cllrs feel this is an ecological issue and perhaps should not be cut from April – July and would love to see a flower meadow. Cllrs would like to see the grass cut and kept tidy the rest of the year. Cllrs asked if a designated area could be mowed twice a year perhaps end of March and then September. Discussions led to suggestions of cutting an area in front of the new bench once installed and creating perhaps a Union Jack style pathway across the green. Cllr Moore and Hardman to pull together a plan to be included as an agenda item for the September meeting.

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

- Cllr Hardman – recommended the SALC training modules. Cllr Moore has signed up to complete all modules later this year.
- Cllr Baker - Tree guard for the Village Hall tree – Would the parish council like to donate one but they do not wish for a tree. Cllrs decided that they are not now looking to purchase any tree guards. Stoneybridge dog waste bin is reportedly overflowing – Clerk to report to MSDC.
- Cllr Clements – Grass cutting of verges. They cut the grass but not the pathways. County Council portal complaint to be made Knights Close / Falconer avenue – Clerk to action.
- Cllr Moore – Development in the village. Offset this with designated quiet lanes. Gives priority to walkers, cyclists, and residents rather than vehicles. This has been discussed previously and Cllr Stringer would be the best person to discuss with.

**18. Public Forum** – Nothing from the public gallery.

- Mr Abbott – Litter picking worst area is Greenacres. 4 bins always on the pavement. They shouldn't be left on the pavement.

**19. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the September 2022 meeting.**

- Phone box / community library
- Footpath Map
- Jubilee Benches update / Trees – pricing / Total costs breakdown
- Cemetery pricing – Committee review
- SID Data
- Projector & Screen
- Ward Green Wildflower Plan – Cllrs Moore & Hardman

**20. Date of the next Parish Council meeting**

- **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – 7.30pm at the Woodward Room in the Village Hall.**

Chair thanked everyone for attending. Meeting closed at 22.02 hrs