

Wednesday 5th October 2022 – Public Meeting commenced at 7.30pm at Old Newton Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Miller (Chair), K Goudy, M Clements (Vice-Chair), S Moore, N Hardman, M Reeve, K Hall-Price (Clerk & RFO), District Cllr R Eburne, District Cllr K Welham and - 1 member of the public.

1. **Welcome & Apologies** - The Chairman welcomed everyone to the October meeting of the Parish Council and apologies have been received from County Cllr A Stringer, Cllr Helliwell, Baker, have sent their apologies for tonight's meeting. Cllr Ratcliffe was absent from the meeting.
2. **To receive any declarations of personal/prejudicial interest & to note dispensations**
Declaration from Cllr Clements regarding Planning Application DC/22/04707 | Householder Application - Erection of outbuilding | 45 Falconer Avenue Old Newton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4JP. Cllr Clements agreed to leave the meeting when this application is discussed.
 - 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.
3. **To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 7th September 2022** – Proposed by Cllr Hardman and seconded by Cllr Clements– All Cllrs in favour to approve the minutes.
4. **Clerks report following previous meeting (to be received as read – Cllr questions)**
 - The village website has been updated to include all minutes and information approved. The completed conclusion of audit documents are also available on the website. For information the Finance documents have to be legally made available for 5 years.
 - The Clerk has written to the village hall committee confirming the CIL funding towards to kitchen refurbishment. £5,000 agreed funds to be provided submitted for payment at tonight's meeting.
 - The Clerk wrote a letter of condolence to His Majesty the King at Buckingham Palace regarding the death of Queen Elizabeth II.
 - Dog mess is an issue again particularly on the Downs footpath which is the safe route to walk to school. Clerk has had several reports from different members of the public. To put in the crier and on the Facebook page again... Replacement dog bin is now in place at the village hall.
 - **Your report reference number is: 00372405 CHAPEL ROAD, OLD NEWTON**
Date reported: 12/09/2022. **Description:** asked to report again as this has still not been resolved. SCC have provided the following update:
*'Thank you for your report.
The work required to resolve the problem cannot be done as part of routine maintenance such as cleansing or jetting. We have therefore transferred your report to our specialist drainage team who will update you on what will happen next with your report. This should within a few days but in busy times, it could take up to 20 working days.'*
 - Area around the manhole cover on the green at Tyrell Oak has been damaged by vehicles parking on the green. Raised by parishioner to Cllr Goudy – Reported on the reporting tool by the Clerk.
Your report reference number is: 00374179 OLD NEWTON ROAD, GIPPING
Date reported: 04/10/2022
Description: residents have been parking / driving over the manhole cover which has damaged the concrete surround. The manhole cover itself is intact, but the concrete surround is breaking away. Correspondence received from MSDC stating the land is owned by SCC. Correspondence received from SCC say its not them... Any help would be appreciated from Cllrs Welham / Eburne.
 - FGBT invoice to Mr Carter has been issued – Clerk has asked if possible for the money to be paid in cash this year as clerk has still not sorted out a charity bank account. Finding the time to get into a branch has proved difficult given the amount of banks now closed or no longer accepting these types of accounts and those that are open have such ridiculous opening times.

Cemetery Issues

- David Lilly has approached the Clerk regarding conforming to the cemetery rules surrounding the placement of his daughter's memorial headstone. Mr Lilly has agreed but would like to see others following the rules. Updated new policy and notice to be printed and placed at entrance to the Cemetery.

- Letter received requesting permission for burial within Old Newton Cemetery from Mr & Mrs Ormes who are not residents within the parish – they live in Mendlesham but they are claiming familial connections to Old Newton. Mrs Ormes parents (Mr & Mrs Discombe) are buried in the cemetery and their granddaughter lives in the village. They also attend occasionally St Marys Church. Cllrs agreed that familial connections to the village are legitimate but will be charged the non-resident rate at the time of need. Proposed by Clements and seconded by Hardman. All in favour. Clerk to write to Mr & Mrs Ormes.
- The new pricing and policy amendments still need to be printed and issued and uploaded onto the website.

2023 Suggested Meeting Dates

| | |
|------------------|--|
| JANUARY | Wednesday 4 th January 2023 – 7.30pm |
| FEBRUARY | Wednesday 1 st February 2023- 7.30pm |
| MARCH | Wednesday 1 st March 2023- 7.30pm |
| APRIL | Wednesday 5 th April 2023- 7.30pm Wednesday 26th April 2022 – Annual Parish Meeting - 7.30pm |
| MAY | Wednesday 10 th May 2023 (AGM) Dependant on local election dates – 7.30pm |
| JUNE | Wednesday 7 th June 2023 – 7.30pm |
| JULY | Wednesday 5 th July 2023 - 7.30pm |
| AUGUST | There will not be a scheduled meeting in August, however if required a planning meeting will be scheduled separately. |
| SEPTEMBER | Wednesday 6 th September 2023 - 7.30pm |
| OCTOBER | Wednesday 4 th October 2023 - 7.30pm |
| NOVEMBER | Wednesday 1 st November 2023 – 7.30pm |
| DECEMBER | Wednesday 6 th December 2023 – 7.30pm |

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

- May 2022 – Nothing reported
- June 2022 – Nothing reported
- July 2022 – 7 reported incidents - 1 x violence / sexual offence on or near Station Road, Old Newton. 1 x burglary on or near Station Road, Old Newton. 1 x violence / sexual offence on or near Stowmarket Road, Old Newton. 3 x violence / sexual offence on or near Chapel Road, Old Newton. 1 x criminal damage / arson on or near Chapel Road, Old Newton.
- There is a police public meeting scheduled for 6th October at Cedars Hotel, Stowmarket if any Cllr would like to attend.

5. Financial matters & Financial report.

Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays Statement Balance = **£43,822.41** (29.09.2022)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,379.22** (30.06.22)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£253.55** (30.06.22)
- Public Works Loan – Balance outstanding = **£12,636.51** (06.04.2022)

Conclusion of Audit – PKF Littlejohn have issued the conclusion of audit notice. All AGAR documents are available on the village website and the notice has been displayed on the noticeboard. There has been an area of concern raised regarding the payment system, but the full report has not yet been provided.

Insurance – Clerk has received notification from CAS who currently provide our insurance that this is ceasing as from 1st October this year. Cllrs have received copies of the quotes and policy being offered which has changed to Ansvar Insurance as the new scheme insurer. To ensure continuing insurance cover the clerk has provisionally accepted the quote of £607.80 on a 3 year long term agreement with confirmation that we make a full council decision at the October meeting. The last 3 year long term provision was £580.68 so that is an increase of £27.12. We have 14 days to reject the clerk’s acceptance or pay the invoice for the cover in full. This insurance scheme is also fully supported and recommended by SALC. Proposed to accept by Cllr Hardman, seconded by Cllr Moore. Move to Ansvar and accept the 3 year long term cover.

Budget / Finance Review – Clerk will be commencing preparation on the budget papers to be issued for the November meeting. A finance review meeting will be scheduled in November and 6 mthly review with Cllr Hardman for the internal control procedure to be arranged before the December meeting. The budget and precept need to be finalised by the end of January. Clerk will have this tabled on the next three agendas for final approval in January.

In preparation for next year’s Local Elections - MSDC have calculated the estimated costs for Gipping and Old Newton with Dagworth split by Parish/Ward. There is an increase on the figures supplied for 2019, this is driven by a rise in the cost of paper, printing, postage, and staffing. This needs to be remembered when setting the budget for 23-24

| | Uncontested | Contested | Contested Combined with District Election |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------|---|
| Gipping | £113.73 | £1,206.63 | £873.18 |
| Old Newton with Dagworth | £137.17 | £2,163.12 | £1,614.97 |

Accounts for payment – September 2022:

| EXPENDITURE | CHQ/BA CS/SO/DDR | | NET | VAT | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|------------------|--|------------|--------|------------|
| Karen Price | Bacs | Salary £962.66 – holiday pay £116.19, less tax £6.20, NI £4.09, pension £43.16 plus expenses £78.70. | £1,104.10 | | £1,104.10 |
| HMRC PAYE | Bacs | Employee NI £4.09, Employee Tax £6.20, Employer NI £48.29 | £58.58 | | £58.58 |
| Nest Pension | DDR | Employee £43.16, Employer £32.37 | £75.53 | | £75.53 |
| CGM | Bacs | Grass cutting | £186.60 | £37.32 | £223.92 |
| Ian Hammond | Bacs | Cemetery maintenance August - Nil / September | £210.00 | | £210.00 |
| PKF LittleJohn | Bacs | External Audit | £200.00 | £40.00 | £240.00 |
| Adrian Stephens | Bacs | Plumber – Cemetery Tap / call out | £36.00 | | £36.00 |
| Community Action Suffolk | Bacs | Website hosting – Community website | £35.00 | £7.00 | £42.00 |
| Community Action Suffolk | Bacs | Ansvar Parish Council Insurance | £607.80 | | £607.80 |
| ICO | DDR | ICO – data protection certificate | £35.00 | | £35.00 |
| Village Hall Committee | Bacs | CIL Funded grant for kitchen refurbishment project agreed at Sept meeting | £5,000.00 | | £5,000.00 |
| RECEIPTS | Payslip | | | | |
| Dignity Funeral Services | 100143 | Burial – David Gant | £200.00 | | £200.00 |
| MSDC | Direct Credit | Precept receipt – 2 nd payment | £14,302.39 | | £14,302.39 |
| | | | | | |

Proposed by Cllr Clements seconded by Cllr Goudy – All in favour – Cllr Miller to authorise.

6. Correspondence Received / Circulars

- Old Bells Yard – Old Bells Farm – Mr Will Redmayne. Unable to attend due to personal circumstances. Has asked if he could attend the November meeting. Agreed.
- Cemetery request for burial for Mr & Mrs Ormes. Discussed as part of the Clerks report.

7. District Councillor’s Report (to be received as read – Cllr questions) – Mrs Rachel Eburne / Mr Keith Welham Cabinet Meeting on 3 October, Car Parking Strategy, Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Cabinet approved a Joint Car Parking Strategy which has the following aims:

- To ensure that everyone has access to sufficient, good quality, safe and welcoming car parking opportunities.
- Make a real difference to how we plan for the future.
- Supports economic growth opportunities.

- Reduces the impact of our lives on the environment.

Unfortunately, the strategy has no provisions for discouraging use of the private car or improving the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. The data collected for the study showed that around 50% of car trips to council owned car parks were of less than 1.5 miles. We consider that the impact on the environment would be reduced by using a bus, a cycle or walking. Cabinet also considered proposals to amend the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. Cabinet agreed to consult on a scheme to increase the council tax reduction for eligible household from 95% to 100%. Currently households who receive benefits such as Universal Credit have reduced council tax bills depending on the amount of benefit they receive; benefits may change from one month to the next and MSDC is then required to send a new council tax bill. Many households enter arrears and the cost of collecting arrears is often greater than the arrears themselves.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Around £130,000 in developer contributions has been allocated to:

- Funding a study into Thurston railway station pedestrian access improvements - £100,000
- Improvements to Ringshall Play Area and Botesdale Recreation Ground.

What's Next for Stowmarket

Almost 350 residents, businesses and community groups attended the John Peel Centre for the public exhibition to find out more about major projects underway in Stowmarket. The event was coordinated by the Stowmarket Vision Group which includes Mid Suffolk District Council, alongside partners including Stowmarket Town Council, the John Peel Centre, Old Fox Yard, and the National Food Museum.

The lease to the John Peel Centre of the former NatWest bank has finally been agreed, having been held up for far too long by MSDC.

Local Planning Issues

The site for 64 homes on land east of Greenacres has received approval of reserved matters such as appearance, layout and scale. Although the application was approved, many valid points were made by parish council representatives and ward councillors which can be taken into account by officers when considering future submissions in respect of this development, including the Construction Management Plan.

There is still no firm date for committee to consider the Finningham Road application.

Ashes Farm, land to the north of Newton Road, Stowmarket. Approval has been given to the outline planning application for the erection of up to 300 dwellings with a new single access onto Newton Road between the A14 bridge and Ashes Farm. This development will link with the Diapers Farm development which also has outline permission. The spine road of the combined development will link with Stowupland Road, just south of the A14 bridge as well as Newton Road.

Electric Bus Project

A Task and Finish Group of six MSDC Councillors has commenced work on planning how best to serve our residents with the two electric minibuses which are to be acquired by MSDC as a result of a Green and Liberal Democrat proposed budget amendment. Both Keith Welham and Andrew Stringer are members of that working group.

Suffolk Climate Change Partnership

The Partnership, which includes MSDC, is hosting a Suffolk Retrofit Conference on 13 October. The event is aimed at architects, engineers, contractors, consultants, surveyors and landlords among others. The hope is to unite local businesses, public sector leaders and training providers to explore the commercial, environmental, public health and socio-economic benefits of retrofitting homes at-scale and deliver a carbon-neutral Suffolk by 2030 in line with Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan.

Locality Funding

We still have funds available and would welcome applications from any local club or organisation in need of funding towards the cost of a local project.

8. County Councillor's Report – (to be received as read – Cllr questions) - Mr Andrew Stringer

[For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/healthier/cost-of-living-support/](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/healthier/cost-of-living-support/)

[For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk or ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk)

Queen Elizabeth II

[Following the sad loss of the Queen, in my role as a County Councillor, I attended the Proclamation in Eye, and the service if thanksgiving at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral](#)

Road Safety Improvements

We have a new officer framework in dealing with progressing our local highways issues that are not part of the Highways management operational plan, The issues the officer will be working on are for instance, the items from my Local Highways Budget. Our local officer is Josh White.

EV Charging – Expression of Interests!

SCC have been successful in a bid for funding towards new EV charging infrastructure. The £2.75m funding will focus on community-owned car parks, where charging can be accessed 24/7.

If you wish to express interest and make the Council aware of your area, please contact Peter Frost, Environment Strategy Officer - peter.frost2@suffolk.gov.uk

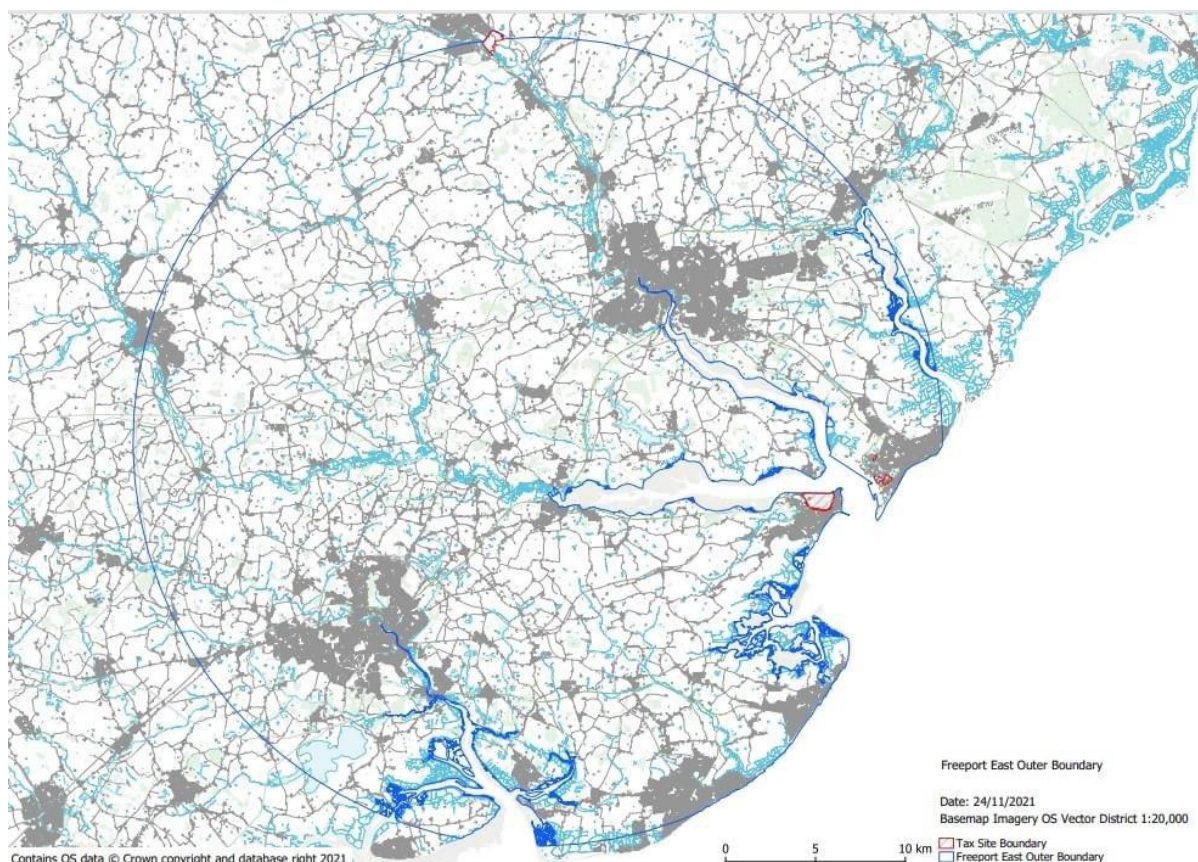
Suffolk in talks to become investment zone

Suffolk County Council has let it be known that it has agreed to start discussions with Government to become an investment zone as part of the PM's new growth and investment strategy.

Our political group has gone on record in the media that we are opposed to the idea since the Government says it wants to remove environmental controls and planning controls within these zones. Since the council began talks, the RSPB, National Trust and the Wildlife Trusts, including Suffolk Wildlife Trust have all described the plans, announced in Kwasi Kwarteng's mini budget, as "an attack on nature".

It is not yet clear which parts of Suffolk the council wants to be in the zone. The current Freeport East Zone, (investment zones are designed to replace Freeport zones) extends from the coast 50 miles inland to Sudbury and includes almost all villages in Mid Suffolk.

With advisors for the government clearly stating built development is not being able to be carried out quickly enough, and that the current planning system is holding back development, we await to see what planning rules will be changed or abolished.



9. Planning Applications

- **DC/22/04608** | Full Planning Application - Siting of ground mounted PV array. | Browns Place Farm Brown Street Old Newton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4QB. *Deadline for comments to MSDC 7th October*

It is understood that the application is for 24 solar panels on land at the rear of Browns Place Farm. Cllrs established that these are fairly low to the ground and won't be too visible as they are lower than the current raised beds and garden walls. Cllrs felt that there will be minimal disruption and impact on neighbouring properties. Additional fencing and general tidy up of the area will enhance the visual aspect and the proposals are far enough away from the main listed house to not have an adverse effect on the listed property. Proposed to accept this application by Cllr Clements, seconded by Cllr Hardman – 1 abstention with all other Cllrs in favour. Application approved at parish council level.

- **DC/22/04707** | Householder Application - Erection of outbuilding | 45 Falconer Avenue Old Newton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4JP. *Deadline for comments to MSDC 19th October. Cllr Clements left the meeting whilst this application was discussed.*

Although Cllrs know this is a retrospective application as the shed has commenced construction as the applicant has discovered that planning permission is required as it is slightly and marginally larger than that permitted without planning permission. In Cllrs opinions it cannot be adversely seen by neighbouring properties, even though you can clearly see the top of a mobile campervan in another neighbouring property, Cllrs did not feel that this would have anything more than minimal impact – No objection comments have been received to the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Moore to accept this application, seconded by Cllr Goudy, all Cllrs unanimously in favour.

- **Late Planning Application received**

DC/22/04850 | Planning Application. Installation of a ground-mounted solar PV array of 26no panels within land associated with Church Farm, Church Road, Old Newton. | Church Farm Church Road Old Newton IP14 4PH. Deadline for comments 25.10.22. Extension requested to 03.11.22

10. Planning Decisions from MSDC

- **BMSDC Committee Meeting 28.09.22 – DC/22/01159** - 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).

At the moment we haven't put anything up on Facebook. Clerk draft – for the spotted page. Waiting for further conditions list that will come with the planning approval.

11. Footpath Maps – Committee update

Walks have been done and edited. Waiting for map before going ahead to Gipping Press. Wait to order until locality grant funding from MSDC has been applied for and approved.

Footpath around the new development on Old Newton Spotted Facebook page. Clerk has responded.

- **Projector and screen** – Cllr Miller has obtained costings for a new projector. The Village Hall Committee have agreed to allow us to paint an area for use as a screen on the wall, so we won't need to purchase a screen. There are 2 projectors that would be suitable £369.00 incl VAT – basic projector. 2nd option is slightly dearer at £440 – Slightly brighter but has further options for video use etc. Replacement filaments are £120.00 or LEM £75.00. Proposed and seconded to purchase the dearer option – 3 in favour. Purchase via Chairman's credit card and paid by expenses at the following meeting, however wait to order until locality grant funding from MSDC has been applied for and approved.

- **Phone box – Community Library** – Quote for bespoke shelving from the Man Shed to go in the phone box. Books to be sorted and removed – These can be placed in the recycling bins for MSDC. Graphic sticker to be placed for "Community Library". Most of the sticky notices have been removed.

- **Queens Platinum Jubilee Benches / Trees** – Clerk has asked Jon Hines for an estimated installation date. He believes he will be in a position to start laying the bases for the benches in the next 3 weeks. Confirm the location of the bench on the opposite side of the notice board outside the wall on the entrance to the cemetery.

15. Ward Green – Wildflower plan – Cllrs Moore & Hardman.

Cllr Moore and Hardman – Allow it to grow and not mow the grass. Cut the grass in March and collect the grass and then leave it until August to evaluate. Change to management plan. Proposed alternative management plan for Ward Green. Advertise in the crier – Agenda for November and include on the Spotted in Old Newton Facebook page.

16. Tyrell Oak Gipping – Residents comments received - Cllr Moore. We think it was with reference to the noticeboard. Cllrs do not believe it would be of interest to remove the noticeboard. Cllr Moore will look at visiting Tyrell Oak again to understand better what the concerns may be and report back if needed.

17. Councillors matters to be brought to the attention of the Council.

- **Cllr Clements** – CIL money – Ask for MSDC CIL money for footpath to the school. This needs to be a project that has already commenced to apply for CIL funding.
- **Cllr Goudy** - Water at the bottom of School hill is apparently contaminated. Properties have been told not to drink the water. It's safe to wash in but not to drink it. Cllr Miller to make enquiries.

18. Public Forum

- Nothing raised

19. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the November 2022 meeting.

- Phone-box – Public Library
- Footpaths Map
- Benches - Update
- Budget preliminary papers
- Alternative management plan – Ward Green.

20. Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 2nd November 2022.

Thanks to District Cllrs for their input and support on the planning committee meeting. Their advice is invaluable. Cllr Clements apologies for the November meeting as he is not available.

Meeting closed at 21.38 hrs