

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 – Public Meeting commenced at 7.30pm at Old Newton Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr J Miller (Chair), K Goudy, S Moore, N Hardman, M Reeve, K Baker, W Ratcliffe, M Helliwell, K Hall-Price (Clerk & RFO), District Cllr R Eburne, District Cllr K Welham, County Cllr A Stringer and - 3 members of the public.

1. **Welcome & Apologies** - The Chairman welcomed everyone to the November meeting of the Parish Council and apologies have been received from M Clements (Vice-Chair). Cllr Ratcliffe who was absent from the October meeting did in fact inform the Clerk prior to the meeting that he had work commitments and would be unable to attend. This was not documented at the October meeting and for the purposes of correct minute referencing the clerk would like to submit those apologies today.
2. **To receive any declarations of personal/prejudicial interest & to note dispensations**
  - 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 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022** – Proposed by Cllr Hardman and seconded by Cllr Moore– All Cllrs in favour to approve the minutes. The minutes will be signed at the end of the meeting by the Chairman.
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 available on the website.
  - Dog mess was raised as an issue again at the October meeting particularly on the Downs footpath which is the safe route to walk to school. The Clerk apologises but missed the opportunity to include in the Crier for the November edition. Clerk will endeavour to include in the December edition of the crier.
  - 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. Clerk has not received a satisfactory response from this report – SCC say contact MSDC, MSDC say contact SCC... Nothing received so far...
  - Cleansing grant form for 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr ending September has been requested to MSDC. Confirmed by Philip Groom the number of litter picking hrs exceeds the maximum hrs allowed to claim, therefore the maximum of 19.5hrs for the qtr has been submitted and will be scheduled for payment to ONWOODS / ONEG at the December meeting.
  - The extra amount of PAYE paid that was owed from previous months of incorrect employer's allowance claimed was showing as an unexplained credit on our PAYE Account. The Clerk has rectified this by submitting earlier years updates and hopefully this is now resolved.

**Cemetery Issues**

- Grave of Mr & Mrs Lambert near the front of the cemetery has been reported as sinking again. This was addressed some time back but apparently is continuing to sink. Clerk has requested Ian – Cemetery maintenance to look at it again and top up where necessary.
- Ian has also agreed to make sure the cemetery is tidy ahead of Remembrance Sunday – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

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

- 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.
- Aug 2022 – Nothing reported
- Sept 2022 – 4 reported incidents – 1 x violent / sexual offence on or near Ward Green, 1 x Burglary on or near Church Road, 1 public order on or near Greenacres, 1 x violence / sexual offence on or near Station Road.

## 5. Financial matters & Financial report.

### Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays Statement Balance = **£36,236.96** (28.10.2022)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,380.13** (30.09.22)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£253.62** (30.09.22)
- Public Works Loan – Balance outstanding = **£12,636.51** (06.04.2022)

**Budget / Finance Review** – Clerk will be commencing preparation on the budget papers to be issued. A finance review meeting will be scheduled in November and the 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 agendas for final approval in January.

We are also going to need to look at the budget for streetlights as the maintenance costs are likely to increase. SCC have emailed correspondence to this effect – Finance committee have received this email. We should look to increase the budget by 12 – 20%.

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
<b>Gipping</b>	<b>£113.73</b>	<b>£1,206.63</b>	<b>£873.18</b>
<b>Old Newton with Dagworth</b>	<b>£137.17</b>	<b>£2,163.12</b>	<b>£1,614.97</b>
	<b>£250.90</b>	<b>£3,369.75</b>	<b>£2,488.15</b>

Clerk has submitted the application for grant funding to Cllrs Welham and Eburne to assist with the costs of the footpath maps and the purchase of the overhead projector. Clerk has requested £1,200 towards the total costs estimated to be circa £1,560.00. Clerk has received confirmation that the request has been granted and payment is on its way so we have the funding and should be in a position to go ahead and order the leaflets and the projector.

### Accounts for payment – October 2022:

EXPENDITURE	CHQ/BA CS/SO/DDR		NET	VAT	TOTAL
Karen Price	Bacs	Salary £905.81 – holiday pay £109.33, tax refund £6.60, NI NIL, pension £40.61 plus expenses £59.55.	£1,040.68		£1,040.68
HMRC PAYE	Bacs	Employee NI NIL, Employee Tax refund £6.60, Employer NI £35.48	£28.88		£28.88
Nest Pension	DDR	Employee £40.61, Employer £30.46	£71.07		£71.07
CGM	Bacs	Grass cutting – 26/10, 12/10	£186.60	£37.32	£223.92
Ian Hammond	Bacs	Cemetery maintenance October	£60.00		£60.00
Methodist Chapel	Bacs	Hire of hall – 10.08.22	£9.00		£9.00
Ken Goudy	Bacs	RBL – Poppy Remembrance wreath	£20.00		£20.00
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	Payslip				
UKPN	100144	Wayleaves payment received	£12.48		£12.48

Proposed by Cllr Baker seconded by Cllr Helliwell – All in favour – Cllr Miller to authorise as one of the payments is for Cllr Goudy.

## 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. Mr Redmayne in attendance at this evening's meeting. Wanted to make it clear that any damage being caused is not being caused by his business. That he is exceptionally aware of the issues and makes every effort to minimise and repair any damage being caused including damage being caused by

network rail. The largest type of vehicle that comes in for their business is an articulated lorry about twice a month. They always meet in Old Newton and escort them in to ensure safe route in and out. Advised to keep the parish council in the loop with any third-party damage and any repairs undertaken.

- Email – Old Newton Bowls Club – request for grant funding towards changing room facilities.
- Email BMSDC – Naming bin lorries – BMSDC Newsletter.
- Street Name and Numbering – Greenacres site to be discussed under item 9 – Planning
- Rural Mobility Survey – Cllrs need to look at this but we need to co-ordinate one response
- Woolpit PC Clerk has tried to set up a meeting to discuss the reduced bus service 384 / 385. Suggested date for this meeting is 30<sup>th</sup> November in the Woolpit Institute. Thurston PC and County Cllr Andrew Stringer will be attending. This route affects Old Newton. Cllr Miller will attend. The service is not sponsored and is the only bus that comes in our village.
- Mid Suffolk CAB – AGM invitation 24<sup>th</sup> November.
- Roundtable and Broadcast – Skills for the future of Suffolk invite – 4<sup>th</sup> November at Portman Road Stadium 5pm – 7.30pm
- ONGAA – AGM – Allotments committee members / Parish Cllrs able to attend – 15<sup>th</sup> November – 7.30pm in the Woodward Room – Village Hall.
- Confirmation received that the ANPR will be deployed in the village on 5<sup>th</sup> December on Stowmarket Road. Can we ensure that we have moved our SID unit for this date.
- Kay Ewan email regarding lights at the school. The lights are visible in the village, she believes it's a phenomenal waste of power – It is recognised that the lights are exceedingly efficient but recognised that the timings need modifying. This is being looked at and the school is fully aware.
- Information – Naming Bin lorries – Clerk asked to include in the Crier / perhaps get the school involved. New bin lorries need to be named...

**7. District Councillor's Report (to be received as read – Cllr questions) – Mrs Rachel Eburne / Mr Keith Welham Cabinet Meeting on 7 November-** Cabinet will be considering the CIL for £67,914 as a contribution toward improvement works at Old Newton Village Hall. The bid is recommended for approval. Cabinet will also be discussing an exemplar low carbon housing scheme of around 50 new dwellings in Elmswell, a mix of affordable homes and market housing. Cabinet are being recommended to agree that the development is carried out by MSDC and funded by the Council; the estimated cost is £16million.

**Council Meeting on 27 October** - Members received several documents relating to the performance of CIFCO – the company set up by Mid Suffolk and Babergh Councils to borrow in order to invest in property in the expectation that there would be an annual income to contribute towards funding the annual budgets of the two authorities and, over a period of 50 years, repay the loans. CIFCO provided £1.7 million of income in 2021/22; however, there is a concern that this rate will not continue given the current economic uncertainty.

The value of the properties increased during 2021/22; this is no surprise following the drop in value during the pandemic. Overall, the income from the investment is less than would have been received if, instead of investing in commercial properties (such as shops, car salerooms and office accommodation across a wide area outside Suffolk), the loans had been used to build low energy homes for our residents to rent or to buy.

Members were updated on progress with the Joint Local Plan and asked to agree a programme which shows adoption of Part 1 of the Plan (the overarching policies) by summer 2023 and adoption of Part 2, including the supplementary planning documents, by the end of 2025. We are concerned about the lengthy delays; members agreed the programme – any other decision would have led to further delays. The next milestone will be receipt of the Inspectors' report which we hope to receive during spring 2023.

Members agreed a revised councillor remuneration package to come into effect after the District Council elections in May 2023. The basic councillor allowance will become £6510; committee chairs will receive a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) of £6510. The Leader of the Council will receive an SRA of £16,275. Improved childcare allowances and dependants' care allowances were agreed to ensure that there should be no constraints on full or part-time carers becoming councillors.

### Local Planning Issues

**DC/22/01159** – Land East of Greenacres. The Planning Officers' Action Sheet drawn up following the planning committee meeting at which approval of reserved matters such as appearance, layout and scale was granted lists several conditions to be met by the developer. These are listed on the planning portal and include:

- No commencement to development of any plot on the line of FP47 until such time as a temporary diversion order has been agreed by SCC and no occupation until permanent diversion.
- New footpath from Greenacres southwards to be 2m wide.
- Additional traditional vernacular roof materials on specific plots.

**DC/21/03874** – Moat Meadow, Finningham Road. There is still no firm date for a decision on the application. It is anticipated that the decision will be made by the Chief Planning Officer taking account of comments made at the informal development control held virtually on 26 January 2022. They have dropped the application to change to 100% affordable.

Keepmoat have upset the neighbours again by driving their hospitality / toilets onto neighbouring driveways. The site is now extremely muddy, and the road is also being affected. Parking on the village hall has also been raised and complained about. Apologies have been received. If they fail to keep the road clean this could be an enforcement issue.

**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**

**Cost of Living Budget Survey – SCC Open up for your thoughts** - SCC has released a survey to residents, asking for their thoughts on the upcoming 2023/24 budget. A summary of responses will be considered when deciding how to spend your money. With inflationary pressures, our Group expects government to seek spending cuts – meaning public services could be cut and council Reserves may have to be used. To share your thoughts on how the Council should prioritise their budget, as well as highlight vulnerabilities you see in your communities that need further addressing. For a link to the online survey, click here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/7BQY0J/>

**Cost-of-Living Leaflet: Updated to Show Support** - Over 85,000 leaflets, highlighting information and guidance during the crisis, were distributed amongst Suffolk communities. The leaflet shows all the help Suffolk offers with finances and household expenses, as well as how to stay warm this winter. I would encourage anyone to take a look at how Suffolk can help. For a link to the leaflet, click here: <https://suffolk.pagetiger.com/cost-of-living-support/scc1>

**SCC's Launch of 'Winter Matters' Campaign** - SCC have launched their Winter Matters campaign, which aims to help ease the pressures of winter for Suffolk residents. This is a signposting campaign that centres around five key themes: Finances, Safety, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, and Highways. For more information and advice on how SCC can support you during winter, visit: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/wintermatters](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/wintermatters)

**Full Council – 20<sup>th</sup> October – GLI Motion** - Suffolk GLI submitted a motion calling for Suffolk County Council to reject the idea of an “Anti-Growth Coalition” exists. The term, coined by former PM Liz Truss, suggests anyone who criticised the government's economic policy was part of a coordinated group against growing our economy. Our Group wanted Suffolk County Council to denounce this term and acknowledge the importance in different opinions – including the view that growth should consider social responsibilities, community voices, sound financial policy, and environmental limits. Something we believed the government was not adhering to. Conservative councillors voted against our motion; however we still feel it is important that our local authorities debate untruthful and divisive claims made by any Prime Minister.

**Cabinet Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> October** - The Cabinet met for the first time since the summer political recess. The Cabinet agreed to spend £2m on new care provision for Children and Young People in Felixstowe. In addition, SEND services received £10m to provide another round of specialist units in Suffolk. Our Group was hugely supportive, as we want to remove the pattern of families travelling cross-county, or even country for support.

The Suffolk Local Access Forum submitted their annual report, which included their concerns about Sizewell C and its effect on green networks and Rights of Way. Our Group have strongly campaigned in support of the Forum's position, and we will continue to voice concerns over the damaging effects of energy infrastructure our coastal landscape and biodiversity. In addition, the Cabinet endorsed Transport East's new 2050 strategy, which focusses more on green travel and linking rural communities to local economies. Our Group recognises the importance of connecting isolated residents for both profession and pleasure, and we will ensure SCC adopts all priorities into its own policy.

Guidance and advice on avian flu. Andrew to re-send the report.

## **9. Planning Applications**

- 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**

Cllrs felt that overall, the proposed panels were unobtrusive in height, they are mounted at an angle and will be only 1.8 meters tall. Initial cause for concern would be if they would impact the view from the Church but Cllrs

do not believe this will be an issue and probably won't impact on anyone else. The Farmhouse is a listed building, and the solar panels will be fairly detached from the host dwelling, the only other concern raised was with regard to if there would be any glare and or reflection from the panels, but it was confirmed that the panels are ultra matt black and designed to not be visually intrusive in any way. The owner of the property demonstrated that they are not wishing to impose a detrimental impact on the setting. Cllrs felt that the shrouding of the solar panels by the established hedging, bushes and trees should remain to ensure the panels are not visible and to ensure there is no negative impact to the aesthetics and the setting. It was proposed by Cllr Hardman that this is a good use of sympathetic and environmentally friendly solar panels and provided the camouflage shrouding of the solar panels remains then the Council should fully support this application. This was seconded by Cllr Baker, with all Cllrs unanimously in favour. Application approved at Parish Council level.

- **DC/22/05203** | Householder Application - Erection of a conservatory (retention of) | 3 Bridge Cottage Newton Road Old Newton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4PD. ***Deadline for comments 11th November 2022.***

Cllrs have looked at the frontage of the property that is visible from the road and confirmed that you can't see anything from the road. There is an enforcement order on the property, it would appear that the conservatory has been built with no planning permission and this is a retrospective planning application. Cllrs cannot see that this impact or affects any neighbouring properties. There are no complaints received wither to the Clerk or online. It was proposed by Cllr Goudy to accept this application, this was seconded by Cllr Ratcliffe, all Cllrs were unanimously in favour. Application approved at parish council level.

### **Greenacres Site**

The developer has submitted another request to close this footpath with the diversion being suggested as along the B1113. The clerk has informed District Cllrs and written to SCC to object and insist that the footpath be routed around the site as the B1113 is not a suitable diversionary route.

Clerk has also received a request for suggested street / road names for the development. Email received 01.11.22, deadline for comments was 28.10.22. This was apparently issued on 28.09.22 but Clerk has checked emails and spam folders and the email was not received. We have however been given the grace to discuss and submit tonight /tomorrow. The land was owned originally by Tim Woodward. There were many names suggested but it was recognised that not everyone might be happy with road names being named after a person or their family connections to the village. The following names were suggested: -

- Bermins, Banners and Copperfield were all the original field names on which this development is being built or neighboured so Cllrs felt would be appropriate names for the development.
- Church Rise was suggested as the development is off Church Road.
- Ashburnham View as this development neighbours a grade II cottage called Ashburnham Cottage.
- Newton Close as we are in the village of Old Newton and ton is an old word for farm and this will be a new development on old farmland.

Clerk to respond accordingly.

### **Planning Permissions – Applewhite Furniture.**

Letter received regarding the planning permissions approved for this site as there appears to be several businesses working from the site and residents are concerned that this is becoming an industrial zone without consultation / permissions from MSDC planning team. Cllr Welham has confirmed that Permission for a new building of 420 square metres was granted in 2006 – application 0208/06 – in addition to the already existing 480 square metre building. Proposed use was specified in the application as 'Manufacture and storage of furniture and general joinery'. Vehicle use quoted in the application: 9 cars and 1 light van per day; 2 HGVs per week. Hours of working 7 to 7 weekdays, 7 to 1 on Saturdays. There were a number of conditions included in the permission letter, mostly standard, but also no retail sales and no storage of materials except inside the buildings. If there is more going on there, this might need to be a request for planning enforcement.

There are 3 businesses operating from the site. We believe this contravenes the planning application and would like to investigate if there is any breach of planning. Cllr Welham will ask enforcement on our behalf.

Falconer avenue – the DPD van is parking there regularly within the visibility of the junction. BMSDC are looking into it.

## **10. Planning Decisions from MSDC – None received**

**11. Quiet Lanes Project** – This was raised on the Spotted in Old Newton Face Book page and was raised briefly by Cllr Moore a couple of meetings back. It was raised back in July 2020 where Cllr Stringer advised that Quiet lanes was apparently having mixed success. They are quite restrictive and supposed to be embracing Walkers and cyclists etc using our quieter lanes. It appeared that some of the Quiet lanes were being used often by Motorcycles and Cllrs felt that this wasn't necessarily a good idea at the time as they did not have any legal status and Cllrs did not want to encourage the use by motorbikes as this would go against what Cllrs believed Quiet Lanes was for.

Currently Mid Suffolk do not have many Quiet Lanes at the moment. Consultation would need to be undertaken by Highways and the criteria for quiet lanes will not be allowed if there is enough room for two vehicles to pass. Cllrs believe there are other ways we could possibly make the lanes around our village safer. Our lanes are often well known shortcuts and not all Cllrs are convinced that Quiet Lanes will have the affect to calm the roads down.

CPRE guide – The general minor rural roads or unclassified roads – Suggests that a quiet lane is a circular route and it doesn't change any highway codes. Most of it comes down to clear and obvious signage to make it socially unacceptable to use the quiet lane. Stonebridge was identified as an ideal road for Quiet lanes. Silver Street, Hundred Lane, Brown Street were also suggested. SCC had funding available for signage but it is not clear if this is still the case, and there are no traffic orders to apply for. If we try to designate them as quiet lanes it should encourage people to use them for other activities. There is a check list – we need to identify how many of our roads qualify. Map out which roads are single track and suitable. Cllrs Miller and Cllr Clements was suggested to work with Mrs Luxford to form a committee to investigate if this is a viable project to move forward.

**12. Footpath Maps – Committee update**

Colin to be contacted to see if we can go ahead to print. Report back at the December meeting.

**13. Phone Box – Community Library**

Cllr Miller has removed all the BT signs away and cleaned it. It has been measured for shelving. Philip Groom confirmed that the books are gone through on a regular basis. Measurement has also been obtained for new signage for the community library. Cllr Miller will liaise with Philip Groom.

**14. Queens Platinum Jubilee Benches – Update**

Clerk has chased Jon Hines for an update and possible start date for the bases to be commenced for installation. He has been off work due to injury but has confirmed he has now secured some assistance / help and is due to commence works on the bases towards the end of November 2022.

**15. Ward Green (Old Newton) Wilding Strategy 2023/24 – Submitted by Cllrs Moore and Hardman**

**Summary Overview** - The Ward Green area has been identified as a potential wilding site within the village. Suffolk Council advice suggests we adapt the mowing plan to identify what currently grows. Review the growth and then plant additional wildflower seeds when we have a clear understanding. Philip Groom – ONCE would like to liaise with Cllr Moore and operate in a joined-up capacity and collectively move this forward as a working party. Cllr Moore to still try and canvass / speak to residents at Ward Green.

**Revised Mowing Plan** - This is the revised suggested mowing plan for 2023.

- Grass collection when its cut should start to help reduce the impact of mulching
- Last 2022 cut in late autumn. First 2023 cut in / around March. Last pre-summer cut EARLY May 2023
- No mowing from around 10<sup>th</sup> May until September 2023. Review what is growing during the summer (Plant Survey). Seek guidance on additional planting opportunities from Suffolk Council using the survey
- Cut in March 2024 – no mulching. Plant following this cut
- Cut the circles in early May 2024 – no mulching

**Suggested Mowing Plan** - The mowing plan from May 2024 will use different size circles cut to intersect with each other. The path that is mown should be around 3 or 4 ft wide (or wider if needed).

- The new Jubilee bench is marked in RED at the rear of the green.
- The circles will be close to the roadside.
- A clear area around the edge of the green should be cut to increase visibility when emerging from the tall grass around the circles especially for small children.



**16. Councillors matters to be brought to the attention of the Council.**

- Speed Cameras up but isn't flashing – Data suggests 5 – 10% higher than when it is flashing.
- Budget setting – To include accessibility coding. Change of the button colours and the clarity on the text and type face. CMS and the back end – Coding fix. Budget and costings.
- Fly tipping in and around the village. They have been reported and cleared quickly.
- Coronation in May. The village needs to prepare / discuss.
- Clerks appraisal / review.
- White van driving around the village looking for cars for sale. Police are aware and the white van has been put on the spotted page.
- December meeting – we generally have nibbles and a festive drink after the meeting. Chair will provide wine, Sausage rolls, and cake will be provided but if anyone would like to bring anything along to share.

**17. Public Forum**

- Thanks to the Cllrs for the project funding from CIL money to the Village Hall. If the village sign up for the Neighbourhood plan moving forward this would enable more money to be provided from the CIL but this is a huge task and not something to be taken on lightly and without support not just from the Parish Council. A separate meeting to discuss the possibility of moving the neighbourhood plan forward again.

**18. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the December 2022 meeting.**

- Phone-box – Public Library
- Footpaths Map
- Benches - Update
- Budget papers / Finance Review
- Quiet Lanes.
- Neighbourhood Plan – January 2023
- Ward Green Wilding Strategy 2023 - 2024

**19. Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022.**

Reminder that the Remembrance service will be held at 10.50am – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**Meeting closed at 21.48 hrs**