

Wednesday 4th January 2023 – Public Meeting commenced at 7.30pm at Old Newton Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Miller (Chair), K Goudy, N Hardman, M Reeve, M Helliwell, M Clements (Vice-Chair)
K Hall-Price (Clerk & RFO), District Cllr R Eburne, County Cllr A Stringer Arriving after 8pm
And 2 members of the public.

1. **Welcome & Apologies** - The Chairman welcomed everyone to the January meeting of the Parish Council and apologies have been received from Cllrs W Ratcliffe and K Baker. County Cllr Stringer will arrive later after 8pm
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 for Cllr Reeve in respect of the proposed development of the Greenacres Site.
3. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2022** – Proposed by Cllr Goudy and seconded by Cllr Helliwell . All Cllrs in favour to approve the minutes. The November minutes are also submitted for signature following the approved amendments. Both sets of 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)**
 - Cllr Will Ratcliffe has also submitted his resignation from the position of Cllr at the end of the current term of office. His last meeting will be April 2023. With the resignation received from Stephen Moore this will mean there will be 2 positions available following the May elections as it stands. As 2023 is an election year all Cllrs will need to re-submit their papers as intention to stand as a Cllr for Old Newton and Gipping. If a Cllr is co-opted before the May election they would still need to submit their papers for the election in 2023 and upon discussion with the Chairman and if Cllrs are in agreement it is suggested that we defer co-option until after the election. Cllrs comments / views requested. Advertise that we are potentially looking for 2 Cllrs. Include the crier, noticeboards and the face-book page.
 - The village website has been updated to include all minutes and information approved, including the amendments agreed to the November minutes. The revised waste collection notice has been posted on the Spotted in Old Newton Facebook page.
 - The Clerk has asked Mortech to quote to look at our website accessibility issues identified previously by Stephen Moore. Nothing received over the Christmas holidays.
 - The defibrillator was taken for potential use over the Christmas period. Thankfully, it wasn't required and has been returned – The member of the public who accessed it couldn't remember the code so the defibrillator was left on top of the cabinet. Fortunately, this was reported to the Clerk and the Chairman quickly attended and returned the AED to the cabinet. The Circuit system used by the ambulance service has been reset and the defibrillator is now available for use again.
 - Christmas and New Year all night lighting was confirmed to SCC in line with what we have done in previous years.
 - Clerk has emailed the school regarding the extreme lighting and light pollution. Confirmation that the lighting issues have hopefully now been rectified as the timer has been amended to only be on when teaching staff are entering and leaving the school. The lighting has been paid for by the DFE as part of a school condition improvement grant to ensure greater safety for those using the school. The previous lighting was deemed inadequate, less efficient and economic than the new LED lighting. Email back from the head teacher and phone call received from the chair of governors. Any further issues to contact them again. Cllrs asked if the lighting could be angled slightly so that oncoming vehicles are not dazzled and can they be switched off when the school is closed during weekends and holidays. Clerk asked to email back to the school.

Greenacres Site

- The Blue gates were reported open again and reported to the developer again, although no response has been received. Clerk to copy MSDC – no response yet and they are still not secure.

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

- 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.
- Oct 2022 – 3 reported incidents - 1 x violence / sexual offence on or near Station Road, 1 x criminal damage / arson on or near Station Road, 1 x violence / sexual offence on or near Greenacres.
- Nov 2022 – Zero reported incidents

Officers are asking members of the public, especially those living in rural locations to be vigilant following a burglary at St Mary's Church in Old Newton. It took place on Saturday 24th December sometime between 10am and 11.30pm when an unknown person or persons entered the unlocked Church on Church Road. A safe was forced open and church objects, including a silver dish, a pewter box and chalice were stolen.

5. Financial matters & Financial report.

Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays Statement Balance = **£32,603.04** (30.12.2022)
- 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 – Precept papers to be approved and signed off in order that the Clerk can submit to MSDC prior to the deadline of 31.01.23. The budget was discussed at the December meeting and the amount of precept agreed to be requested is £30,030.52 to be paid in 2 instalments in April and September of £15,015.26. This is an increase on last year of 4.98% keeping the precept as low as possible for everyone. Proposed by Cllr Hardman, seconded Clements, all Cllrs in favour.

Accounts for payment – December 2022:

EXPENDITURE	CHQ/BA CS/SO/ DDR		NET	VAT	TOTAL
Karen Price	Bacs	Salary £1,090.80 – holiday pay £131.66, tax £34.80, NI £20.93, pension £48.90 plus expenses £93.14	£1,210.97		£1,210.97
HMRC PAYE	Bacs	Employee NI £20.93, Employee Tax £34.80, Employer NI £64.09	£119.82		£119.82
Nest Pension	DDR	Employee £48.90, Employer £36.68	£85.58		£85.58
Old Newton Bowls Club	Bacs	CIL Contribution towards external cladding of the bowls club facilities.	£1,100.00		£1,100.00
Onwoods / Oneg	Bacs	Qtr 2 ending Sept £185.25 and Qtr 3 ending Dec £185.25	£370.50		£370.50
RECEIPTS	Payslip				
SALC	DC	Refund of training booked for Stephen Moore	£124.80		£124.80

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

6. Correspondence Received / Circulars

- Dog Bins review – We currently have 12 Dog bins and 5 Litter bins being emptied by MSDC. We need to confirm these are all in use before the next financial invoice is prepared and issued. Cllr Hardman agreed to check the list at the December meeting but admitted she had not done this but would do it over the next week or so.

7. District Councillor's Report (to be received as read – Cllr questions) – Mrs Rachel Eburne / Mr Keith Welham

Solar Car Ports - 70 solar carports have been erected within the car park at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket; they should provide around 20% of the centre's annual electricity demand. The scheme includes battery storage, so excess energy produced during sunnier periods can be saved for later, and electric vehicle charging points, including one rapid charger.

Cabinet Meeting 9 January - This meeting has a long agenda including:

Council Tax Reduction (Working Age) Scheme 2022/23

Fees and Charges – includes garden waste bin charges; Licencing Fees etc

Council House Tenancy Policy

Risk Management Improvements

Suffolk Housing Board - Councils across Suffolk are working as the Suffolk Housing Board reviewing available housing (empty homes, second homes, homes available for rent and sale) and trying to match it with demand. This is to attempt to reduce the number of households in temporary or unsuitable accommodation.

Refuse Collection Vehicles - Babergh and Mid Suffolk asked residents to suggest names for their new environmentally friendly bin lorries. Amongst the winning names are Ed Sheerbin, Gary Bineker and Bindiana Jones.

Gateway 14 - The spine road connecting A1120 through the site to Mill Lane, Creeting St Peter, opened to traffic just before Christmas; landscape planting has commenced and will continue through to March 2023.

Parish Liaison Meeting - Mid Suffolk District Council will be holding a Parish Liaison Meeting on Tuesday 7 February, 1.30 to 3.30pm, at The Mix in Stowmarket. This will be an opportunity for MSDC Officers to share current thinking on Mid Suffolk budget setting, and update parishes on progress with the Joint Local Plan and plans for the 2023 elections. Parishes will be encouraged to share plans for Coronation celebrations. Recently appointed Locality Officers will be on hand to explain their role. Clerk to forward to all Cllrs.

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. Planning Applications

- **DC/22/04126** | Full Planning Application - Change of use of redundant store/office to 3 bedroom dwelling with new south facing extension, north facing conservatory and new windows at first floor. | 22 Stowmarket Road Old Newton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4EE **Deadline for comments 04.01.23 – Extension approved.**

Cllrs Comments – This is a proposed conversion of a redundant office and stores for a local business. It was commented that the only window will be obscured, the original ridge height is unchanged and although Cllrs commented that it appears a squeeze as a 3 bedroomed property, there are no comments received from any neighbouring residents. Cllrs were interested if it will retain the weatherboard effect to the front of the property, but it was proposed by Cllr Hardman, to accept this application as we have not received any comments and the proposal seems a reasonable use of a now redundant building. This was seconded by Cllr Clements. All Cllrs were unanimously in favour of approval. Application approved at parish council level.

- **DC/22/06306** | Householder Application - Erection of single storey rear extension, single bay cart lodge and associated vehicular access (following demolition of conservatory) | Rosemary Cottage 60 Chapel Road Old Newton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4PP. **Deadline for comments 12.01.23**

Cllrs Comments – The conservatory was not an issue previously and as such has not changed with this new planning application and Cllrs have nothing further to add / amend. The cart lodge is a single garage with log store and has reduced in height from the previous application. Cllrs still believe that access onto the road is still going to be tight. The visibility splay has to be 2.4 meters for a 90 meters either way. Previously Cllrs commented on the size of the cart lodge in comparison to the main dwelling, access and the removal of the hedge. The applicant had indicated that most of the hedge will be reinstated once the visibility splay has been catered for. Cllrs feel that if highways are happy with the access amendments Cllrs cannot see any further reasons to object to this application as it has addressed most concerns that were raised previously. It was Proposed by Cllr Helliwell to accept this application on the above comments, seconded by Cllr Hardman with all Cllrs in favour. Application approved at Parish Council level.

- **DC/22/06307** | Application for Listed Building Consent - Erection of single storey rear extension, single bay cartlodge and associated vehicular access (following demolition of conservatory) | Rosemary Cottage 60 Chapel Road Old Newton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4PP. **Deadline for comments 12.01.23**

Proposed by Cllr Hardman and seconded by Cllr Clements to repeat the above comments for both applications. Unanimously agreed.

9. **Planning Decisions from MSDC**

- **DC/20/03735** - Condition 4 (Repair Works - Part Discharge) Location: Yew Tree Farm, Ward Green, Old Newton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4EZ. *Planning Permission from MSDC has been granted.*
- **DC/22/05203** - Retention of conservatory 3 Bridge Cottage, Newton Road, Old Newton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4PD. *Planning Permission from MSDC has been granted.*
- **DC/22/05612** - Erection of garage and wood store and extension to driveway (following removal of Walnut Tree). Burnham Barn, 38 Church Road, Old Newton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4ED. *Planning Permission from MSDC has been granted.*

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

Budget! Budget! Budget! - The first proposals for the 2023/24 budget have been released. SCC plan to increase tax by 3.99% (1.99% increase in Council Tax, 2% increase in Social Care Precept). Our Group feels the Administration are in complete denial of the government contributing significantly to the economic turmoil which has led to a need to sharply increase council tax and pressure on services. The administration had opportunities to prepare us for post-Brexit, post-pandemic. Instead, they rejected our proposals last year to increase funding for social care – which has resulted in a sharp increase in tax this year for residents.

County Deal Update - National government met with Suffolk County Council to sign a provisional County Deal. The Deal will agree to devolve additional powers and funding to the County, including housing, transport and adult education. The Deal has been lauded as a momentous, however our Group believes that this Deal has been massively overstated. The headline '£480m' is in fact over 30 years – equating to only around £16m a year. Just under £6m has been agreed for new affordable housing, this equates to under 30 homes – not even enough to replace the council houses lost in six months in Suffolk under the right to buy. We were promised we wouldn't have a Mayor, however the deal agrees to create a Mayoral Development Corporation. Politically, there is also a potential risk of stagnation – with the elected Mayor potentially from one party and the majority of Councillors from another. Our Group are strongly in favour of devolving national powers to local authorities. There was a real opportunity to make a difference here, but our Group sees the current deal as merely a token gesture rather than a Big deal. For our full press release, visit our website: <https://suffolkgli.wordpress.com/2022/12/12/suffolks-county-deal-big-deal/>

New SCC Website - Suffolk County Council have launched their new website. The new site is aimed to be easier and simpler. Our Group understands that this platform is often the first point of contact for residents and so it is important the website continues to engage and adapt to the needs of the Suffolk communities. To see the new site, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/>

Modern Slavery - As the Council's modern slavery annual statement was voted through cabinet, SCC have released an information bulletin to report any possible signs of modern slavery within your local communities. General signs of modern slavery cant include: Isolation, restricted movement, poor living conditions, unusual travel arrangements, and physical appearance of abuse. If you suspect a modern slavery crime is being committed, but there is no immediate risk of harm, you can report it to the Police on 101, or the Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline on 0800 121 700 – if there is immediate danger, phone 999. For further contact, email: community.safety@suffolk.gov.uk. For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-safety/modern-slavery>

Suffolk looks for more hosts! - Suffolk is looking for new hosts to help support refugees. Accommodation must be available to guests for a minimum of 6 months. Hosts will be eligible to receive the £350 thank you payment for up to 6 months or more, depending on the date your guests arrived in the UK (12 months starting from the date your guests first arrived in the UK). If you know anyone that might be interested, please encourage them sign up via the Suffolk County Council website, or by emailing refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk.

Footpath 47 – Is currently still open but it is believed they are looking at a diversionary route around the perimeter.

Closed cases of flooding – School Hill has been flagged as completed. The water issue has technically been done. The drainage works have been done, the safety barrier and the surface dressings are still outstanding.

Flooding on honeypot lane – the ditch is empty but the road is flooded. Cllr Stringer agreed to report.

- ## 11. **Footpath Maps – Committee update**
- Meetings with Colin Barber have taken place and the layout has been agreed. We do now have some lovely photos to include on the map. Cllr Helliwell and Hardman to have another meeting over the next couple of weeks.

12. **Risk Assessments** – other than financial risk assessments we do need to look at physical risk assessments for things like the Phonebox library, Cemetery and ward Green. Risk assessment from ONGAA and Onwoods to be requested. Cllr Hardman and Cllr Helliwell to work on these with Cllr Goudy wanting to be involved with the one for the cemetery with Cllr Hardman. Clerk to speak to Claire Pizzey – Clerk for Stowupland and Haughley to investigate if there are any templates in use in neighbouring parishes that we could potentially utilise.
13. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Project came to a halt at the pandemic. Chair to establish where the project got to and whether it can be reinstated.
14. **Cemetery**
 - Mapping of the ashes plots still to be done.
 - Request has been received regarding the raising of the small ashes markers to the left of the memorial wall. Ian will look at this in the new year. Ian has not completed any hrs for payment in December due to the Christmas holidays and the wet weather.
 - Tap – running again. Chair addressed it and has sprayed it with WD40. Clerk to see if the plumber can look to put an isolator in for the future.
15. **Phone Box – Public Library** – Chair has not met with Philip but the pallet is now full again. Chair to **work with Philip and remove all the books to enable accurate** measurements for the shelving.
16. **Queens Platinum Jubilee Benches – Update.** The pad at Dagworth has been gratefully received by the landowners. The landowner is happy to purchase his own bench. The cemetery site has been identified and Jon Hines will complete the base at his earliest opportunity. Cllr Miller and Clements will site the benches once the final pad is in place.
17. **Councillors matters to be brought to the attention of the Council.**
 - Cllr Helliwell – SID camera was moved and rectified by Cllr Miller. Cllr Helliwell has made it higher and tightened it up to hopefully deter it being moved again by persons unknown.
 - Cllr Baker – Next month’s agenda – Coronation celebrations 6th May.
 - Thanks to our District Cllrs for the locality funding received - we are now using the new overhead projector; the case is still enroute.
18. **Public Forum**
 - Mr Brett McGregor in attendance at the meeting has volunteered to make up some shelving for the phone box – He has admitted to being very handy as a carpenter. The Chairman accepted the offer and will be in touch with some measurements and to meet Mr McGregor at the Phone box library - Excellent thank you to Mr McGregor.
19. **Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the February 2023 meeting.**
 - Coronation celebrations
 - Risk Assessments update
 - Benches update
 - Footpaths Map update
 - Phone box Library update
20. **Date of the next meeting** – Wednesday 1st February 2023. Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed at 21.01hrs