## Wednesday 1st March 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 Baker, K Hall-Price (Clerk & RFO), District Cllr R Eburne, District Cllr K Welham (arrived late – 8.01 pm), County Cllr A Stringer and 3 members of the public.

1. Welcome & Apologies - The Chairman welcomed everyone to the March meeting of the Parish Council. Apologies received from Cllr W Ratcliffe due to work commitments and Cllr Welham will be arriving late as he in attendance at a meeting in Stowmarket first.

#### 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 1**<sup>st</sup> **February 2023** Amendment raised by Cllr Helliwell to the January minutes has been done and printed ready for signature tonight. Proposed by Cllr Hardman and seconded by Cllr Baker to approve the February minutes. All Cllrs were in favour to approve the minutes. The minutes will be signed by the Chairman accordingly.

### 4. Clerks report following previous meeting (to be received as read – Cllr questions)

### **Clerks report required for Cllrs Reeve**

- For information and transparency, the Clerk has been offered work through my own business of KP Admin Services to work for SALC as an internal auditor for the current tax year. This will not cause a conflict of interests as obviously I will not be allowed to audit our own accounts but will have a better understanding of the requirements for audit and will be in addition to my usual work activities from April July 2023.
- The Clerk advertised in the Crier that we will be looking for additional Cllrs following the election in May. A lady by the name of Laura Griffiths has contacted the clerk giving notification that she is interested in a position as a Parish Councillor. Clerk has invited Laura to attend the meetings and offered any assistance with any questions she may have. Clerk will ensure that when the forms for standing as a Cllr are received from MSDC they will be forwarded to any interested parties including existing Cllrs.
- The Clerk responded to the school regarding the new lighting and the issues regarding weekend lighting and school holidays and direction of splay of the lights. Mr James Harbidge has asked if he may attend tonight's meeting to address the council directly. He explained again why the lighting has been installed. The contractors have been back and dipped the lights down and turned them down as much as they can. A switch has been installed to switch them off during holidays. If we could let James Harbidge know if they are coming on at weekends mornings and evenings. They think they have them right but please let them know if they are in the wrong place and where the lights are being seen from. They are now being switched off by 8pm.
- The village website has been updated to include all minutes and information approved. The change of date for the April meeting has been issued and all notices are now displaying the revised date. The new footpaths have been uploaded onto the website These were what Colin has issued to the Clerk.
- Mortech have confirmed they will commence work on our website accessibility issues identified previously by Stephen Moore w/c 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
- It would appear the proposed works on the A14 have been postponed, however confirmation that the works have started from week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> February was received on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb and the letter received copied to the face-book page and Cllrs for information.
- Clerk has forwarded copies of the invoices for the OHP and case recently purchased as part of the localilty grant funding received from our District Cllrs. The footpath map element cannot be reported on until an invoice for payment has been presented.
- The Clerk has found 6-8 slabs that can be used under the tap in the cemetery.
- Cemetery Tap The local plumber used has said he can't actually quote for the job as its difficult to guess how much work / time will be required as the tap is on steel and he will need to dig down and follow the pipe to hopefully the stop cock which we suspect is buried. He can do it but it could cost a little or a lot. The Clerk trusts the plumber and he will only charge the PC what is necessary. Clerk wanted confirmation whether to approve the works or leave it alone for now. Cllrs agreed that at the moment leave it alone and address it as and when it becomes an issue.

- MSDC have installed some bollards onto the green verge in Falconer Avenue, but Cllr Ratcliffe has confirmed that this has not stopped the offending van from parking on the kerbstones as the posts are quite set back. The bylaws sign is in place but we do need to perhaps report to DPD. It has been repaired twice now and future erosion could well be invoiced to DPD.
- Cllr Clements and Miller attended the Mix for the latest Parish Liaison Meeting. The slides have been emailed to all Cllrs for information.

### **Greenacres – Parking on Verges**

SCC have suggested the following potential solutions:

- Low level bollards, that do not impede visibility, and they would require approval by SCC asset team. Clerk to get some costings for the bollards.
- Double Yellow Lines A TRO would be required and that would prevent motorists parking here.
- Low level planting, that does not impede visibility, and would require approval from SCC asset manager.

If the PC wish to enquire regarding a licence, we can review the following link : <u>Street furniture licence - Suffolk County</u> <u>Council</u>

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

- Nov 2022 2 x vehicle crimes reported on or near Sandford Road.
- Dec 2022 Statistics not available at time of print but we are aware of the 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.
- <u>Police campaign to target motorists using mobile phones while driving</u> Monday 27 February, sees the start of a national campaign which aims to raise awareness amongst drivers who choose to use their mobile phone behind the wheel. This campaign runs in parallel with National Eye Health Week which works to highlight the importance of maintaining roadworthy vision. Suffolk Police are supporting both campaigns which are led by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and run until Sunday 12 March. The use of a mobile phone whilst driving or whilst stationary with the engine switched on has been illegal since December 2003 but this has not stopped a significant number of drivers from using their handheld devices behind the wheel. Mobile phone use whilst driving is one of the 'Fatal Four' offences. The fatal four refer to the four leading contributing factors which cause serious and fatal collisions. This means it is a priority for our roads policing team.
- Police are appealing for information following the theft of heating oil in Stowupland. Approximately 200 litres of heating oil was stolen from a tank at a home on Saxham Street between 12 midday Thursday 23 February and 8am Saturday 25 February. An unknown person or persons have gained entry to the garden, removed the lid off the oil tank and syphoned the fuel out.
- Police are appealing for information after a brass lectern was stolen from a church in Hemingstone. A large bronze eagle that sits on top of the lectern had been moved near to the door of St Gregory's Church in Church Lane and officers believe the burglars planned a second visit to remove it. It has now been moved out of the church to a secure location. The lectern itself is a heavy item and would probably require at least two people to move it. The theft took place between 12 and 23 February (reported Saturday 25 February).

### 5. Financial matters & Financial report.

The Clerk has submitted the VAT re-claim from July 2021 – December 2022. A total amount of £1,989.28 has been requested and paid into our account on  $28^{th}$  February 2023.

The final Qtr for the litter pick / cleansing grant has been submitted -  $\pounds$ 185.25 is due to be received which will in turn then be paid to Onwoods / ONEG for their litter pick duties.

### **Bank Account Balances:**

- Barclays Statement Balance = **£25,926.17** (27.02.2023)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,382.15** (31.12.22)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account =  $\pounds 253.77$  (31.12.22)
- Public Works Loan Balance outstanding =  $\pounds 12,636.51$  (06.04.2022)

## Accounts for payment in arrears – February 2023:

EXPENDITURE	CHQ/BA CS/SO/ DDR		NET	VAT	TOTAL
Karen Price	Bacs	Salary £1,155.44 – holiday pay £139.46, tax £49.40, NI £29.63, pension £51.80 plus expenses £78.21	£1,242.28		£1,242.28
HMRC PAYE	Bacs	Employee NI £29.63, Employee Tax £49.40, Employer NI £74.09	£153.12		£153.12
Nest Pension	DDR	Employee £51.80, Employer £38.85	£90.65		£90.65
Ian Hammond	Bacs	Cemetery maintenance - February	£150.00		£150.00
RECEIPTS	Payslip				
Dignity Funeral Services	100147	Burial fees – Brenda Audrey Bugg	£150.00		£150.00
HMRC VAT Received 28.02.23	DC	VAT repayment – Claim	£1,989.28		£1,989.28

Proposed by Cllr Goudy seconded by Cllr Hardman - All in favour. Cllr Goudy to authorise the payments.

### 6. Correspondence Received / Circulars

- Village Hall New terms and conditions and costs increases. We have booked the Woodward room through to December and paid to date. I have been assured there are no additional costs to pay on what has already been booked but any additional bookings will be subject to the new rates.
- Clerk replied to the school regarding the new lighting and the direction of the splay of light and the switch off during holiday and weekends. Mr James Harbidge Chair of Governors for the School has asked to attend this evening to discuss directly with the Parish Council.
- Letter received from Old Newton Bowls Club in thanks for the grant to the Bowls Club enabling them to get on with the planned works. They have also stated that they will be looking towards building an open sided covered area for players and spectators and will be looking to raise circa £2,500 towards this over the next year. Cllrs should consider including this within our Piip and for future consideration regarding CIL funded grants.
- MSDC Parish Liaison Slides Briefing emailed to all Cllrs.

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

• **Council Meeting 23 February** - Mid Suffolk District Council will not be raising Council Tax for 2023/24. Within the 2023/24 budget, the Conservative Administration is proposing a £3.5 million surplus, most of which will be put into a "strategic transformation infrastructure fund". This may be used on the Stowmarket sports and leisure project and an innovation centre at Gateway 14 if plans are agreed. Total reserves are just under £21 million. Our Group's proposal that £2 million of this is allocated towards energy efficiency measures was agreed and will be used to provide better insulation to housing across the district to help with the energy and cost of living crises as well as climate change.

Last year's agreement (included in the 2022/23 budget as a result of an opposition amendment) to fund the delivery of the electric bus rural transport project has been put on hold by the Cabinet.

A 7% increase in council house rents is being proposed – just over £6 for social rents and £9 for affordable rents. Also, a 10% increase in garage rents – in line with the increase in CPI – and increases in sheltered housing service and utility charges.

A reminder that of your Council Tax bill, approximately 78% goes to Suffolk County Council, 14% to the Police and 9% to Mid Suffolk District Council (as well as a proportion for each Parish).

Members approved a capital expenditure of £6 million to deliver improved depot facilities, primarily for the waste collection service. This could result in a new depot for Mid Suffolk to replace the Creeting Road, Stowmarket depot or a new site to serve both districts. Council also approved funding for the development of a detailed design and planning application for the Stowmarket Health, Education and Leisure Facilities (SHELF) project. A full business case will then be prepared and bids made for external funding.

- **Cabinet meeting 6 March** Cabinet is recommended to approve a Private Sector Housing and Civil Penalties Policy which would empower the council to use civil penalties as an alternative to prosecution in cases of unsatisfactory conditions in private sector housing. Civil penalties would be a last resort if all attempts to persuade the landlord to make good deficiencies within the rented property had failed. Cabinet will also receive an update on recent changes to the regulation of social housing and the outcome of the Council's recent referral to the Regulator of Social Housing. Future governance and monitoring arrangements and a new set of key performance indicators for the Housing Service are recommended for approval. Cabinet is being asked to adopt a new Culture, Heritage and Visitor Strategy; one of its aims is to encourage development of the Visitor and Tourism Sector and to encourage residents to enjoy what Mid Suffolk has to offer, as well as encouraging tourism. Approval is also being sought to consult on revised taxi fares: an overall increase of just over 10%. All parish councils are on the list of consultees. Cabinet will receive an update on progress towards developing proposals for a Skills and Innovation Centre on Gateway 14. The Centre could include a space for high-tech start-up businesses, opportunities for training and advice, meeting rooms and flexible working spaces.
- Local Planning Issues A planning appeal has been lodged against the refusal of permission for a new dwelling on land at Bush Farm, Stowmarket Road. Nothing further has been heard in respect of the Moat Farm Meadow development.
- Locality Funding All the funds for 2022/23 have now been allocated. In Old Newton, the following have received funding: Village Hall, Parish Council for footpath map and projector, Old Newton Bowls Club and Old Newton Indoor Bowls Club.
- Falconer Avenue Report to DPD with photos and evidence with the bylaws notice.

### **Cllr Questions / Comments**

• Locality funding – needs to be spent by end of February but a new budget will be allocated for the new financial year and Cllrs have been told that they can use this towards Coronation events etc if necessary.

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

- Homes for Ukraine: One Year Anniversary of War The 24th February marked the one-year anniversary since Russia's illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine. Suffolk continues to do its part through the Homes for Ukraine programme hosting refugees fleeing the war. In total, 1256 Ukrainian refugees have arrived in Suffolk through the programme. Currently, we have around 330 host families, supporting 750 Ukrainians with others in private accommodation. Suffolk needs new hosts, to continue to offer a safe haven for Ukrainian refugees who are not yet ready to enter private accommodation. Based on numbers, Suffolk needs 50 new hosts in the coming months. If you think you can help, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/Ukraine. Hosts are entitled to £350 per month, which increases to £500 after 12 months.
- SCC Finance Budget At the beginning of February, the Council's budget for 2023/24 was voted in. The budget will now increase tax by 2.99% broken down into a 2% rise in the Social Care Precept and a .99% increase in general tax. Council services have faced a gruelling year of demand and additional cost pressures. In addition, the Council is not on track to achieve Net Zero by 2030, our group proposed an additional 0.89% increase (19p weekly increase) to ensure vital care services were protected from cutting support to residents, and that more direct action is taken to close the gap on our carbon emissions. Our Group proposed to invest in a Carbon Budget Officer, to help develop a stronger pathway towards Net Zero. In addition, we proposed to facilitate a review into Suffolk's speed limits, in the hope to provide residents with a clearer path to more appropriate travel in their communities. We proposed using £1m to actively recruit, retain and reward frontline staff in adult social care, as well as providing more for Suffolk Libraries to help maintain services through the cost-of-living crisis. In addition, we wanted to invest £1m in providing wider capacity of community transport to be used to help achieve Net Zero through EV vehicle usage. The Conservatives voted against our budget amendments.
- SCC Cabinet Meeting Cabinet agreed to move the West Suffolk Archives in Bury St Edmunds to a new location in the town on Western Way. Our Group were concerned about the lack of sufficient public transport access to the new location being far from the train station with an irregular bus service. Finally, the Cabinet discussed the Fire & Rescue Service's new risk management plan. The plan outlines all foreseeable risks in Suffolk and indicates the service's priorities and proposals to improve the service. Currently, the service suffers from low recruitment, poor retainment of officers, unmet response targets, and an increase in demand through extreme heatwaves caused by climate change. Our Group support the plan, hoping more investment can now be provided to the essential and increasingly ever-needed service.
- New Highways Services: Contract Agreed Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services, has been awarded SCC's new highways services contract. The contract, worth between £800m-£1bn, will begin 1st October 2023 and will last up to 20 years. The service will provide maintenance of roads, pavement, Rights of Way, drainage, hedges, construction of new roads, and snow clearing etc. Our Group campaigned last year for Suffolk Highways maintenance to quote for the service to be brought back in-house. This was due to the extortionate prices the previous

provider, Kier, gave for simple jobs such as tree cutting and speed bump designs (i.e.,  $\pm 5,000$  for a pair of dropped kerbs,  $\pm 7,500$  to cut down a single tree,  $\pm 10,000$  to design four humps in a road). Our Group has been given reassurance from Suffolk Highways that the same mistakes will not be repeated, and that the contract is more robust to deal with the inflated quotes previously received. However, our Group will closely monitor to ensure this is the case.

• Household Support Fund: Extension Granted by Government - The Government has agreed to extend the Household Support Fund, meaning local authorities will continue to receive funding to help residents through the current cost-of-living crisis. The grant is distributed through small payments to support vulnerable household meet daily needs such as food, clothing, and utilities. To apply for help, visit Suffolk's Cost-of-Living support leaflet at: <a href="https://suffolk.pagetiger.com/cost-of-living-support/scc1">https://suffolk.pagetiger.com/cost-of-living-support/scc1</a>.

## **Cllrs Questions / Comments**

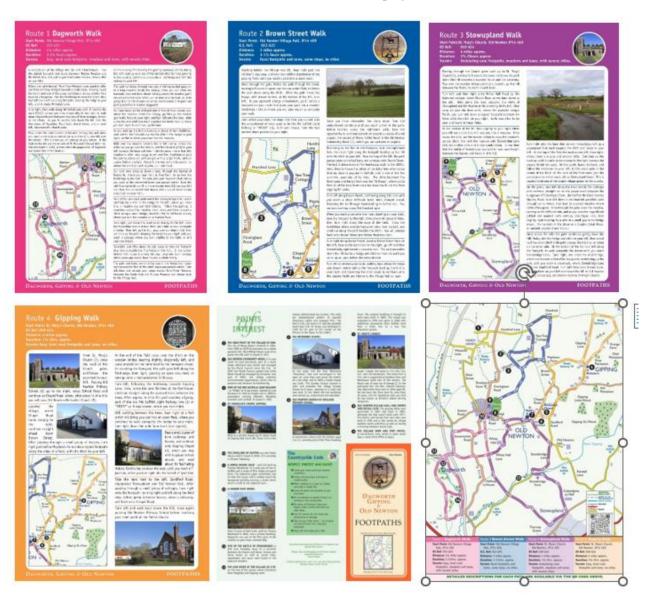
- Grass verges MSDC are responsible for the area of grass on Falconer Avenue.
- Cllr Goudy queries whose responsibility is it to remove signs when roadworks have been completed. Gipping towards Mendlesham There is a sign stating the road will be closed but the work was completed in January. Cllr Stringer to report.

## 9. Planning Applications

- Keepmoat Liaison Meeting Update Church Road Development The Clerk has received notice that James Whelan has left KeepMoat and a new Technical Manager Jason Baker has been employed. Clerk has spoken with Dale Radford who is their planning specialist, and he has made contact with KeepMoat on the Clerks behalf to try and make some headway. It has been confirmed that Keepmoat will be in touch once Jason has caught up to speed with the development issues on Church Road. Clerk has tried to speak to Jason before tonight's meeting to no avail and has sent an email. Failing to meet the condition already.
- DC/23/00310 | Listed Building Consent Replacement of 2No. Softwood windows with 2No. Hardwood windows. | Church Farm Church Road Old Newton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4PH. Deadline for comments 01.03.23. Extension on deadline was approved. The applicants wish to restore the windows to the original depth and size. They are restoring this property in line with national heritage guidelines and with great consideration for the historic features of this property. It was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Hardman to support exactly what they are asking for and within the application. All the works so far and to date are consistent, considerate and of a high standard for renovating any listed building. All Cllrs were unanimously in favour of supporting this application. *Approved at Parish Council level*.
- Additional Planning Application Received too late for inclusion on the March Agenda but as this property is on the agenda for a different listed building application Cllrs believe they are within the realms of permission to include as part of this application DC/23/00954: Application for Listed Building Consent Remove areas of sand cement render on expanded metal lath and replace with lime render on Savolit plus boards (wood wool). Location: Church Farm, Church Road, Old Newton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4PH. Deadline for comments to BMSDC is set for 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Cllrs believe that leaving the sand cement render as it is. will ensure that the beams rot over time. Restoring the historic element of this house before it was repaired in the 60s and 70s is a work in progress. The applicants are restoring this property in line with national heritage guidelines and with great consideration for the historic features of this property. All the works so far and to date are consistent, considerate and of a high standard for renovating any listed building. It was proposed to support this by Cllr Baker and Seconded by Cllr Clements giving the same reasons for approval of the other works discussed this evening. All Cllrs unanimously in favour. *Application approved at parish Council level*.
- DC/23/00517 | Full Planning Application Erection of B8 Storage and Distribution Warehouse together with associated works. | E J Farrow Haulage Ltd Bridge Farm Stowmarket Road Old Newton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4PA. Deadline for comments 08.03.23. This application was originally discussed at the September 2022 monthly parish council meeting. Cllrs comments were that the yard is a very big yard and a very tidy space and is well considered and well utilised. The proposed warehouse is in a hollow and will be shielded behind the existing warehouse. The site has good access to the roads, is protected from neighbouring properties and Cllrs did not have any objections to this application This application was proposed and seconded with all Cllrs unanimously supportive of this application. The difference for this application appears to be the infiltration pond that is needed. This application was Proposed to support by Cllr Hardman and seconded by Cllr Baker with all Cllrs unanimously in favour. *Application approved at Parish Council level*.
- Appeal: Planning Application Erection of 1no detached dwelling (following demolition of barn) (revised scheme to **DC/21/03499**) Location: Land At Bush Farm, Stowmarket Road, Old Newton, IP14 4EB. Appeal start date 07.02.23.

## 10. Planning Decisions from MSDC

- Discharge of Conditions Application for **DC/19/02878** Condition 6 (Archaeology) Location: Land Off Church Road, Church Road, Old Newton, IP14 4EF *Accepted*.
- DC/22/06306 Date Registered: 23-Dec-22: 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. *Application has been refused by MSDC*.
- DC/22/06307 Date Registered: 22-Dec-22: Application for Listed Building Consent Erection of single storey rear extension and demolition of existing conservatory. Rosemary Cottage, 60 Chapel Road, Old Newton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4PP. *Application has been refused by MSDC*.
- 11. Kings Coronation Celebrations Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Clerk has included in the Crier and on the Facebook page that the commemorative medals are for all children under the age of 16 years and any not included within the pre-school or primary school need to contact the Clerk to be added to the list. The Clerk has started to compile a list as they are received. 86 primary school plus the unders 5's x 26. 170 coins have been ordered and delivered. Cllr Baker ordered the coins in line with what was agreed at the February meeting. Clerk and Cllr Baker pulling together a list of children wanting to order a coin. A number of projects coming forward in the village. Grant application for a garden out the front and a gazebo in the area of the play area but need to approach the Village Hall for permission to site. Cllr Baker to ask Realise Futures for a quote for a bespoke Gazebo and approach the village hall at their next meeting. All Cllrs were in support of doing this moving forward.
- 12. Footpath Maps Committee update QR code to be included. Points of interest page and the map are now complete. 800 copies £354.00 + VAT 1000 copies for £400.00 + VAT. Cllrs agreed to order 1000. Thanks to Cllr Helliwell and Hardman for all of their work on this project.



- 13. Risk Assessments Cllr Hardman update. The cemetery risk assessment was issued at the last meeting. Proposed to adopt this by Cllr Clements, seconded by Cllr Baker. All Cllrs were in favour. The remaining risk assessments will be done end of this week and issued to Cllrs for the April meeting.
- 14. Village Sign / Post Maintenance Clerk has emailed and agreed for Jon Hines to quote and identify his proposals for the post and village sign. As yet nothing received from Jon. Clerk / Cllr Clements to chase. Source the post Cllr Baker may be able to source a piece of oak. Mr Jon Hines to quote for the job minus the cost of the replacement post which we will try to source ourselves. Clerk to copy Cllr Clements and Jon into any correspondence.
- 15. Phone Box Public Library This has been emptied and cleared. A notice has been displayed stating that the phone box community public library is temporarily closed and will be receiving some bespoke shelving in the coming weeks. Cllrs previously agreed a budget of circa £100.00 towards materials. Member of the public has offered to make the bespoke shelving for us. The books are currently being stored with Cllr Baker. A new platform to be provided which may increase the costs. L Shaped shelving going in. Clerk to approve with Lawes to put it onto the parish council account. Chair to speak to member of the public regarding commencement of the works.
- **16.** Queens Platinum Jubilee Benches Update The pad is complete at the cemetery and the installation of the 4<sup>th</sup> bench has now been completed. All four benches are now in place and in use at the Cemetery, Ward Green, Tyrell Oak and Village Hall Playing Field. Successful project now completed.

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

- Speed Camera 75mph recorded on Finningham Road last week Friday evening early Saturday mornings. Interested to see how much more traffic coming through the village from the road closure works at Bacton.
- Development on the house at the start of Whitehall Road A garage being built, looks as though its bigger than the cottage. There are no planning applications online There was a wooden garage previously. New structure is approx. 8 meters long and is going to be higher than 3.8 meters Was also on agricultural land. There may be a planning application to change use from ag land to garden land but not one for the new garage. Clerk to report to planning enforcement as a query. It's also in close proximity to listed buildings.

# 18. Public Forum

• Mrs Libby Brookes commented that ONEG / Onwoods – now ONCE and clerk needs new bank details to ensure cleansing grant / litter picking payments are made to the relevant bank account.

# 19. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the April 2023 meeting.

- Annual Parish Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- Coronation celebrations
- Risk Assessments update
- Footpaths Map update
- Phone box Library update
- Village Sign Update
- Keep Moat Liaison meeting Church Road Development
- 20. Date of the next meeting Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 Chairman thanked everyone for attending. Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The Clerk has put notice into the crier for March and will do again for April. Clerk will also try to email as many contacts as possible for village groups that she has. It is also on the Facebook page and a reminder will be issued.

### Meeting closed at 21.10hrs