

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – Public Meeting commenced at 7.30pm at Old Newton Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr J Miller (Chair), K Goudy, N Hardman, M Reeve, K Hall-Price (Clerk & RFO),  
District Cllr R Eburne, District Cllr K Welham (arrived late – pm),  
County Cllr A Stringer and 0 members of the public.

1. **Welcome & Apologies** - The Chairman welcomed everyone to the April meeting of the Parish Council. Apologies received from Cllrs M Helliwell, K Baker, M Clements (Vice-Chair), Cllr W Ratcliffe and Cllr Welham and Cllr Eburne will be arriving late as they are attending 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> March 2023.** Proposed by Cllr Goudy, seconded by Cllr Hardman. All in favour. **The extra planning meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023** –Proposed by Cllr Hardman and seconded by Cllr Reeve. All in favour. All Cllrs were in favour to approve both sets of minutes. The minutes will be signed by the Chairman accordingly.
4. **Clerks report following previous meeting (to be received as read – Cllr questions)**
  - The Clerk advertised in the Crier that we will be looking for additional Cllrs following the election in May. Clerk hand delivered all forms for nomination as a Cllr on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March. There are 5 cllrs applied for Old Newton and 1 for Gipping. We will therefore have an uncontested election.
  - The village website has been updated to include all minutes and information approved. The art exhibition in May and the open gardens have also been advertised.
  - Development on the house at the start of Whitehall Road – A garage being built, change use from ag land to garden land. Clerk reported to planning enforcement as a query and received confirmation that planning approval was granted 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

[DC/21/04701 | Planning Application - Change of use of agricultural land to garden land associated with Mill Hill Cottage North, Erection of garage/studio outbuilding \(following demolition of existing garage\) and erection of garden room | Mill Hill Cottages North 66 Church Road Old Newton Suffolk IP14 4ED \(babergmidssuffolk.gov.uk\)](#)

**Police Report** – (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 – 1 x burglary / theft Church on Church Road.
- Jan 2023 – 1 x violence / sexual offence on or around Greenacres
- Feb 2023 – No crimes reported
  
- Motorcyclists across Suffolk are once again being given the opportunity to improve their riding skills and to enhance their awareness and ability while on the road at ‘Safe Rider’ motorcycle workshops to be held in 2023.
- Four men who were arrested after being found at a scheduled ancient monument with metal detecting equipment in October last year have been charged. The four men were discovered and arrested at the site in Mid Suffolk which is protected. Metal detecting on sites scheduled as ancient monuments is illegal without permission from the secretary of state for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

**5. Financial matters & Financial report.**

**Bank Account Balances:**

- Barclays Statement Balance = **£26,589.65** (30.03.2023)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,385.86** (31.03.23)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£254.05** (31.03.23)
- Public Works Loan – Balance outstanding = **£7,666.93** (06.04.2023)

**Accounts for payment in arrears – March / April 2023:**

EXPENDITURE	CHQ/BA CS/SO/ DDR		NET	VAT	TOTAL
Karen Price	Bacs	Salary March £1,284.72 – holiday pay £155.07, tax £78.20, NI £47.01, pension £57.60 plus expenses £177.90	£1,434.88		£1,434.88
HMRC PAYE	Bacs	Employee NI £47.01, Employee Tax £78.20 Employer NI £94.09	£219.30		£219.30
Nest Pension	DDR	Employee £57.60, Employer £43.20	£100.80		£100.80
Ian Hammond	Bacs	Cemetery maintenance –March/April 23	£210.00		£210.00
Onwoods / ONEG	Bacs	Cleansing Grant – Litter picking Qtr 4	£185.25		£185.25
Tower Mint Ltd	Bacs	Kings Coronation Medal x 170	£518.30	£103.66	£621.96
Jon Hines	Bacs	Concrete pad installation at cemetery	£200.00		£200.00
Mor Tech Computing Services	Bacs	Annual Domain renewal	£15.00	£3.00	£18.00
SALC	Bacs	Annual membership subscription	£463.16		£463.16
Suffolk County Council	Bacs	Streetlighting charges	£1966.96	£393.39	£2,360.35
Gipping Press	Bacs	1000 x Footpath Maps	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00
CGM	Bacs	Grass cutting 07/03 & 21/03	£175.62	£35.12	£210.74
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	Payslip				
J Wright Stonemason	Dc	Buckle memorial	£25.00		£25.00
MSDC	Dc	Cleansing Grant Qtr 4	£185.25		£185.25
J Wright Stonemason	Dc	Hinks Woolnough memorial	£100.00		£100.00

Proposed by Cllr Hardman seconded by Cllr Reeve – All in favour. Cllr Miller to authorise the payments.

**6. Correspondence Received / Circulars**

- ANPR Rota has been postponed due to vandalism of the devices. They will be in contact as soon as a new date has been scheduled.
- PKF Littlejohn confirmed they have been appointed the external auditor for the parish council for the 5 years 22/23 – 26/27.
- A14 Haughley to Tothill concrete reconstruction scheme update and newsletter is being received and circulated to all Cllrs. Teams meeting attended by Cllrs Hardman and Clements.
- Essex, Suffolk Norfolk Pylons National Grid review information has been circulated to all Cllrs.
- National living wage increase to £10.42 in April 23. Information provided for all Cllrs.
- Information provided if street parties being organised in honour of the Kings Coronation.
- Kay Ewan in Trafford Close email regarding the grass in Trafford Close that apparently was cut by the council but they want to turn it into a wild meadow. Cllrs are unsure who is responsible for the land. Cllr Eburne checked if the land is MSDC. Ownership is unknown and if Kay Ewan wishes to form a residential committee to manage the land and all residents are in agreement to move forward with her plan to create a wild meadow this shouldn't be an issue.

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

- **SCC Cabinet Meeting** - The latest Cabinet meeting approved an additional £32.013 million of investment in the Children and Young People's Directorate to ensure the Council could continue to meet its statutory duties in providing and maintaining safe, secure and appropriate accommodation for young people to learn and for those in need of care support; The Cabinet approved additional borrowing of £26.066 million in order to fund part of the £32.013 million increase with the remaining balance of £5.947 million being funded from other capital sources, The cabinet approved the application of £1.488 million from the Central Contingency Budget in 2023-24 to the Capital Financing Budget to fund the revenue cost of the £26.066 million of borrowing. This extra borrowing is needed to fund increased school places needed due to high levels of housing growth, these spaces are the county councils statutory duty, concerning to note that SCC is not able to secure enough funding to cover this cost from developer contributions.

- **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., £5,000 for a pair of dropped kerbs, £7,500 to cut down a single tree, £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: <https://suffolk.pagetiger.com/cost-of-living-support/scc1>.

## 8. Planning Applications

- **Keepmoat Liaison** - Clerk has made further contact with Keepmoat and has received an additional 2 names for contact purposes from their planning agent. Clerk had invited Keepmoat to attend a meeting with Cllrs and also offered them to attend the monthly April meeting and the Parish Annual meeting – Clerk has received an email back.  
*“We currently, and over the next month, have various members of staff on leave. We will look into the best person to meet / communicate with yourselves going forward but in the meantime, I can confirm that we don't intend to start on site before July this year.”*
- **DC/23/01513 | Full Planning Application** - Change of use and conversion of redundant store/office to 1no. dwelling including construction of dormer windows | 22 Stowmarket Road Old Newton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4EE. **Deadline for comments to BMSDC is 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**  
This is a different proposal to the previous as it is now only 2 beds which Cllrs felt was a better plan. Cllrs were in support of this application in principle but concerned about the loss of the solar panels and felt the dormer windows should be subordinate to the principal ridgeline. This was proposed by Cllr Hardman and seconded by Cllr Goudy – All Cllrs were unanimously in favour. Clerk to submit comments by the deadline date.

## 9. Planning Decisions from MSDC

- Discharge of Conditions Application for **DC/20/03735** - Condition 4 (Repair Works - Part Discharge) Location: Yew Tree Farm, Ward Green, Old Newton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4EZ Mid Suffolk District Council hereby gives notice that the details submitted in pursuance to the conditions referred to above have been determined as summarised below in relation to each relevant condition together with any appropriate comments, limitations or advice.
- Discharge of Conditions Application for **DC/19/02878**- Condition 9 (Biodiversity, Mitigation and Landscaping) Location: Land Off Church Road , Church Road, Old Newton, IP14 4EF Mid Suffolk District Council hereby gives notice that the details submitted in pursuance to the conditions referred to above have been determined as summarised below in relation to each relevant condition together with any appropriate comments, limitations or advice.
- Discharge of Conditions Application for **DC/22/01159** - Condition 3 (Details of Gates) Location: Land East Of, Greenacres, Old Newton, Suffolk Mid Suffolk District Council hereby gives notice that the details submitted in pursuance to the conditions referred to above have been determined as summarised below in relation to each relevant condition together with any appropriate comments, limitations or advice. Cllr Hardman has worked out that 15 working days from 6<sup>th</sup> April is 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

10. **Website and Accessibility / SSL Certificate** - Mortech have completed the review on our website accessibility issues identified previously by Stephen Moore. There has also been an issue raised that we need to have our website SSL secured. This has to be done by CAS who host the Suffolk One website. There is an additional cost for this of £39.00. Clerk to arrange for this to ensure we are compliant. Mortech have said a new website will be circa £1,800 plus VAT and there will be an annual hosting fee of £120. Clerk has asked CAS how much they would charge for updating and making the review recommendations. Clerk to report at the next meeting.

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 under 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. There are a number of projects coming forward in the village, there is an art exhibition and possible a picnic being organised.

Grant application for a garden out the front and a gazebo in the area of the play area - Cllr Baker has received a quote from Realise Futures for a bespoke Gazebo. Quoted cost is £15,219.18. Cllr Baker has also approached the village hall and their only concern was who would be responsible for the maintenance etc of the Gazebo. Cllr Baker suggests that if we go ahead, we list this as one of the Parish Council assets and include under our insurance. There is also perhaps a way of reducing the costs by scaling back the specification of the gazebo?

Recent vandalism on the playing field was a concern raised by Cllrs- It would seem an awful lot of money for something to be potentially damaged. The Parish Council also don't have the funding for this project yet and Cllrs decided that we should be re-visit the project once any CIL monies have been received and the cemetery works have been taken into consideration.

12. **Footpath Maps – Committee update** - There is an issue that has been raised by a landowner regarding the recently printed footpaths map and does need to be addressed and possibly re-printed. Cllrs feel that this really does need to be correct before it is issued. The key has an added Bridleway marker that unfortunately needs to be removed. Landowner has offered to pay for the re-print. There is also a telephone marker for a telephone box on Brown Street which is no longer there. Cllr Goudy wanted land boundaries adding but Cllr Hardman explained that this is not an OS Map and therefore cannot be included. Cllr Reeve said there is no footpath on her land on Ward Green. Cllr Hardman will double check the footpaths and make sure the OS Map confirms the paths shown on our village map. Proposed by Cllr Miller that subject to clarification on the footpaths on Ward Green, the telephone marker and the bridleways key being removed, that we go-ahead and make the changes and arrange the re-print so as not to lose the summer. This was seconded by Cllr Hardman. Cllrs Goudy and Reeve objected. Chair had the casting vote. Approved.
13. **Risk Assessments – Cllr Hardman update.** The cemetery risk assessment was approved and accepted at the last meeting. Thanks to all Cllrs involved in getting these set up and done. From the recommendations from the risk assessments there are some signs to be ordered for the Cemetery – Caution Uneven Ground and for Ward Green pond – Caution Deep water. Cllr Hardman agreed to get some quotes for the next meeting. Proposed to accept the risk assessments for Ward Green, Village Sign, Phone Box Library, Noticeboards and Allotments to be reviewed annually. Proposed by Cllr Goudy seconded by Cllr Reeve – All Cllrs were in favour. Clerk to make the risk assessments available on the website.
14. **District Councillor's Report (to be received as read – Cllr questions) – Mrs Rachel Eburne / Mr Keith Welham**
- **Stowmarket Sport, Health and Wellbeing, Education and Leisure Facilities (SHELF)** - A full planning application for the SHELF project has been submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council. The aim of the new facility is to bring together a range of community services which will include health and wellbeing services, increased sport and leisure activities with education spaces. The site will be available for use by the local people, sports groups, and clubs as well as schools. The planning application was developed using feedback gathered at public events and online over several months in summer 2022. The site is designed to be flexible to accommodate a range of sports including football, basketball, badminton, cricket, rugby, and volleyball across both indoor and outdoor spaces. There will also be an all-weather track, a multi-use games area and a new multi-sports pavilion. The health and wellbeing hub will include spaces for a range of community health services and family activities.
  - **Pre-election Period** - There will be no Cabinet or Full Council meetings until after the elections on 4 May. Regulatory Committee meetings, such as Development Control, will be held.
  - **Election Changes** - Most electors should by now be aware that photo ID will be required to vote in person at a polling station. It's not too late to apply for a postal vote, to avoid concerns about photo ID. Postal voter applications must be with MSDC by 5.00 pm on 19 April. For details visit [www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote). If you know of anyone who is not registered to vote, they need to register by 11.59 pm on 28 April. For details, visit [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). Anyone without photo ID will need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. For details, visit [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk).
  - **Local Planning Issues** - We have still heard nothing further on the Moat Farm development. Land east of Greenacres: Planning Officers have been dealing with Reserved Matters.

## **Cllr Questions / Comments**

- The Shelf project is on both sides of Chiltern Way and will be complimentary to the existing sporting facilities.
- Kay Ewan in Trafford Close email regarding the grass in Trafford Close that apparently was cut by the council but they want to turn it into a wild meadow. Cllrs are unsure who is responsible for the land. Cllr Eburne checked if the land is MSDC. Ownership is unknown and if Kay Ewan wishes to form a residential committee to manage the land and all residents are in agreement to move forward with her plan to create a wild meadow this shouldn't be an issue.
- It was acknowledged that this evening's meeting would be Cllr Welham and Cllr Reeves' last meeting in their official capacity as Cllrs. Chairman extended our appreciation for all their hard work and assistance over the years.

### **15. A14 Reconstruction works – Update (Cllr Hardman)**

Continue to have parish liaison meetings to keep Cllrs informed. They would liaise with police and County Council regarding weight limits. Link for the road whereby you can get updates – clerk to include in the crier.

Email: [info@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:info@nationalhighways.co.uk)

Website to register for the SMS: [www.nationalhighways.co.uk/A14Haughley](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/A14Haughley)

- 16. Village Sign / Post and Maintenance issues** – Clerk has emailed and agreed for Jon Hines to quote and identify his proposals for the post and village sign. Mr Jon Hines to quote for the job minus the cost of the replacement post which we will try to source ourselves. As yet nothing received from Mr Hines. Clerk / Cllr Clements to chase. Dog bin post – Mr Hines also to look at and report at the May meeting.

- 17. Phone Box – Public Library** – Phone Box Librarian – Mr Melvyn Barnes has offered to manage and curate the phone box library for us. Cllrs were asked prior to this meeting and Philip Groom has been consulted. It was a unanimous decision that everyone thought Melvyn would be an excellent volunteer for this position. Chairman has spoken to Melvyn and confirmed that he has officially been designated. Clerk to ensure notice in the crier regarding not leaving anything other than books in the phone box and not to leave them on the floor or they could be at risk of weather damage as the phone box is not weather tight at the bottom.

It should be noted that the phone box library is not for items other than books – any furniture, paintings and items parishioners do not want should be recycled elsewhere. The only things to be recycled in the phone box library should be books. Signs are being printed to cover the BT signage and a laminated notice will be displayed reminding parishioners to only recycle books in the phone box. Chairman thanked all for the work that has been done on the library.

### **18. Councillors matters to be brought to the attention of the Council.**

- Chairman wanted to officially recognise the contribution that Cllr Mary Reeve has given to our parish – she has been on the parish council for a considerable number of years and is one of the longest standing Cllrs in our parish history. Thank you so much to Mary for all her support and efforts over the years for our village and parish.

### **19. Public Forum - No public in attendance**

### **20. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the May 2023 meeting.**

- Appoint Chairman and Vice Chairman
- Outside Bodies, Committees and working groups to be discussed.
- Annual Parish Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- Footpaths Map update
- Village Sign Update
- Risk Assessments Recommendations / Quotes

- 21. Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023** – Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

**Meeting closed at 21.11hrs**