

Wednesday 10th May 2023 – Public Meeting commenced at 7.30pm at Old Newton Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J Miller, K Goudy, N Hardman, K Baker, M Helliwell, M Clements, K Hall-Price (Clerk & RFO), District Cllr R Eburne (arrived at 19.40hrs), District Cllr J Pearson and 3 members of the public.

1. **To elect a Chairman of the Council and to receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office or, if not then received, to decide when it shall be received.** Cllr Hardman nominated Cllr Miller, this was seconded by Cllr Baker – No other nominations received. Cllr Miller said that as we have dwindled in numbers and looking to co-opt 3 vacancies, he would be willing to stand again. This was unanimously supported, and Cllr Miller signed his acceptance of office letter.
2. **To elect a Vice-Chairman of the Council and to receive the Vice-Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office or, if not then received, to decide when it shall be received.** Nomination received from Cllr Clements for Cllr Hardman, this was seconded by Cllr Baker and unanimously agreed – Cllr Hardman stated that she would be willing to stand as vice-chair and signed the acceptance of office. The Chairman thanked Cllr Clements for his service and contribution as Vice Chair.
3. **To accept and acknowledge the non-contested election.** The Chairman welcomed all Cllrs who stood as Cllr and have been duly appointed. Declaration of acceptance of office were issued by the Clerk and signed and witnessed accordingly. Return of expenses form needs to be returned within 20 days. Register of interest's forms have been issued by email and some blank copies are available from the Clerk – please return these to the Clerk who will ensure these are submitted to BMSDC. As we have 3 vacancies for Old Newton Parish Council we can now co-opt at the earliest opportunity and if there are any members of the public wishing to stand then co-option can take place immediately without the need to advertise the vacancy.
4. **Welcome and to Receive any apologies for absence.** Apologies received and accepted from County Cllr Andrew Stringer. Cllr Eburne will hopefully arrive later.
5. **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. As Mary Reeve has now stood down as a Cllr her dispensation for the Development of the land at the Greenacres site is now void.
6. **To appoint representatives to outside bodies.** – Chairman suggested that Cllrs wait until the additional 3 vacancies have been co-opted and then look to appoint representatives, committee and sub-committee members. In the meantime we leave existing Cllrs on the relevant committees and working groups appointed previously.
 - Village Hall Committee Cllr Baker
 - SALC Cllr Clements
 - Suffolk Acre Cllr Miller
 - Community Council Cllr Miller
 - School Representative Vacant
7. **To appoint committees, sub-committees and/or working groups.** Leave until we have co-opted additional Cllrs.
 - Planning Cllrs Miller, Helliwell, Hardman, Clements,
 - Footpaths & Environment Cllrs Helliwell, Baker & Hardman
 - Cemetery Cllrs Miller, Goudy, Hardman
 - Finance Cllrs Miller, Goudy, Clements & Clerk/RFO
 - Finance Internal Control Cllr Hardman (Not on finance committee)
 - Employment Cllrs Baker, Miller, Helliwell
 - Allotments Cllrs Clements, Goudy,
 - Highways, Infrastructure, Potholes Cllrs Goudy, Miller, Baker
 - SID / ANPR Cllrs Helliwell
 - Tree Warden Vacancy - Supervision from the ONCE team.

8. **To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 12th April 2023. Agreed as a true and accurate record.** Proposed by Cllr Goudy and seconded by Cllr Hardman. All in favour. All Cllrs were in favour to approve the minutes. The minutes will be signed by the Chairman accordingly.
9. **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 art exhibition in May and the open gardens have also been advertised.
 - CAS have used the review provided by Mortech and have implemented the changes without charge. Clerk has also initiated the permanent SSL certificate with them at an additional cost of £39.00 presented for payment at tonight's meeting. This will be an annual cost moving forward.
 - Westcotec SID units potentially for sale from Beccles Town Council. Clerk has requested costs for information, but the council were hoping for offers rather than setting a price. Is this of interest to us in Old Newton. The purchase price for our SID unit was over £3,000. Cllrs felt that potentially having something permanently at both sites could decrease the impact of the SID unit. Cllr Clements reported that the dates have reset and Westcotec are getting more of these issues with some of the older units and they may need an additional software upgrade. £250 to do the upgrade and re-calibrate the camera and a service on the unit. If we invest in another device Cllrs felt, they will look to go to solar panels. Potentially CIL money could be used to buy a solar panel one moving forward. Cllrs felt that by purchasing additional older versions we could inherit issues and costs with needing to upgrade software whereas, if we wait, we may be able to purchase a better higher tech solar version.
 - The ANPR project will be back in the village on Bank Holiday Monday 29th May on the B1113. Cllrs Helliwell and Miller have been made aware.

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

- Jan 2023 – 1 x violence / sexual offence on or around Greenacres
- Feb 2023 – No crimes reported.
- Mar 2023 – 3 x crimes reported - 1 x theft on or near Cross Green, 1 x public order on or near Greenacres, 1 x theft on or near Elm Tree Close

10. **Financial matters & Financial report.**

- Clerk has had to renew the licence for the Moneysoft payroll package £93.60 is submitted as part of the clerks' expenses for payment at tonight's meeting.
- It was raised as part of the budget process that we provide a donation towards the printing costs of the Crier on an annual basis. It was approved at the setting of the budget that we should provide an annual amount of £500.00 – This was budgeted for and can be covered using S137 powers. £500 is submitted for payment at tonight's meeting. *(S137 enables the parish council to spend a limited amount of money for purpose for which they have no other specific statutory expenditure. The basic power is for the parish council to spend money on purposes for the direct benefit of the parish or all or some of its inhabitants – a maximum of £8.82 per elector is available (Circa £4,000)).*
- Internal & External Audit Update. Our internal audit is due to be completed before the June meeting. Clerk is busy getting everything required uploaded to the SALC secure website for the auditor.

Bank Account Balances:

- **Barclays Statement Balance = £35,595.47 (28.04.2023)**
- **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 – April 2023:

EXPENDITURE	CHQ/BA CS/SO/ DDR		NET	VAT	TOTAL
Karen Price	Bacs	Salary April £1,195.84 – holiday pay £144.34, less tax £58.40, less NI £35.06, pension £53.61 plus expenses £169.11	£1,362.22		£1,362.22
HMRC PAYE	Bacs	Employee NI £35.06, Employee Tax £58.40 Employer NI £80.34	£173.80		£173.80
Nest Pension	DDR	Employee £53.61, Employer £40.21	£93.82		£93.82
Ian Hammond	Bacs	Cemetery maintenance –April 23	£180.00		£180.00
J Lawes Ltd	Bacs	Various – Telephone library goods	£64.89	£12.98	£77.87
CAS	Bacs	SSL website certificate	£32.50	£6.50	£39.00
CGM	Bacs	Grass Cutting Village Hall playing field – 05.04.23	£87.81	£17.56	£105.37
Scarff Family	Bacs	Allotment rent 2023-2024	£420.00		£420.00
Community Council	Bacs	Printing costs – annual donation S137	£500.00		£500.00
RECEIPTS	Payslip				
BMSDC	DC	Precept Instalment 1	£15,015.26		£15,015.26
ONGAA	100148	Allotment rent 2023-2024	£420.00		£420.00
Hanchets	100148	Cemetery memorial – David Gant	£75.00		£75.00

Proposed to pay the accounts by Cllr Baker and seconded by Cllr Helliwell. All Cllrs in favour - Cllr Miller agreed to authorise the BACS payments tomorrow.

11. Correspondence Received / Circulars

- BMSDC – Pilot Scheme for Community led planning for places. Request to attend the next PC meeting.
- Lamppost EV Charging infrastructure webinar – Interest?
- Beccles Town Council – Sale of Westcotec SID units – Cllr Clements raised from SALC newsletter.
- Ward Green Resident – Green maintenance – Summer 2023
- CAS – Website Accessibility Review
- Speeding Traffic – Gipping Cllr Baker letter. On Monday there was quite a lot of speeding traffic coming through Gipping from Old Newton. Residents have stated that it is getting more common and there have been a number of close shaves with speeding cars and is becoming a real issue – residents would like to ask if the Parish Council could look at reducing the speed on this road. Cllr Baker has encouraged residents to write to the Clerk independently requesting if the 30mph speed limit could be extended through and into Gipping. Clerk to put forward a request for an investigation to reduce the speed around the village into Gipping and to include Brown Street to SCC and to Cllr Stringer. Suggested that speed bumps are an effective option but it is not felt to be appropriate for the road through Gipping.

12. District Councillor’s Report (to be received as read – Cllr questions). Chairman congratulated the Green Party for their recent success in the local election.

District Council elections - The elections were held on 4th May 2023. The results were Green Party 24 seats, Conservatives 6, Liberal Democrats 4 and as a result the Green Party now hold the Administration at the Council. New roles are being established and the Annual Council Meeting will be held on Monday 22nd May when roles and Committee places will be confirmed. Locally, Keith Welham stood down as District Councillor and Janet Pearson was elected with Rachel Eburne who was re-elected. We are very grateful to Keith for his work and commitment over the past four years. Voter ID was used for the first time at an election and while we are not aware of any issues, would be interested to know if others experienced any. A full review of the process of nominations and the organisation of the elections will be conducted by Mid Suffolk following mistakes that were made prior to the election.

Joint Local Plan - The consultation on Part 1 stage of the Joint Local Plan closed on 3rd May. The Joint Local Plan was, at the Planning Inspectors' direction, split into two parts – Part 1 contains local policies and Part 2 the housing distribution policies and allocations. It is expected that Part 1 will be adopted sometime in late summer or early autumn. Work continues on Part 2 as the Planning Inspectors have noted that Mid Suffolk already has all the housing requirements (amounts of planning permissions and planned sites) to fulfil the plan's time scale. Adoption of this is not expected until end of 2025 and we will have further updates on this in due course. The Council held briefings separately for members and Neighbourhood Plan groups on this. Where a parish has a Neighbourhood Plan, this remains the most up to date planning document for any planning application to be decided against. The old plan is the one that should be used for planning decisions until the plan has been adopted.

National planning - East Anglia Green is due to hold further public consultation on installation of overhead power lines from Norwich to Bramford. There is no date yet for this although it is expected in spring / early summer.

Local Planning Issues - We have still heard nothing further on the Moat Farm development off Finningham Road (DC/21/03874). We will continue to follow up as necessary the planning conditions for the Land east of Greenacres (DC/22/01159).

Cllr Clements – grass cutting season – when the grass is cut can we include the grass edges of the pavements on the contract as the grass is encroaching further onto the footpaths and pavements.

Public Question – Is the process of the changeover of the leader of the council seamless. Cllr Eburne explained that it will be fairly quick and the annual meeting will take place on the 22nd May. All incoming Cllrs have email addresses set up and they are already in situ.

13. **County Councillor's Report – (to be received as read – Cllr questions)**

Support for Ukrainian refugees moving to private rented accommodation. - Suffolk County Council has announced a one-off £2,000 support grant for Ukrainian refugees moving on from their host into their own accommodation. The Independent Living Payment will be available to Ukrainian Refugees, who are moving into private rented accommodation after 1 April 2023. Guests must have been living in Suffolk for a minimum of two months and be registered on the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine scheme to be eligible for the payment. The funding can be used for any associated housing costs, including furniture, moving costs or travel to work. The support can be used towards accommodation which is furnished or unfurnished, and accommodation can be in Suffolk or out of county. Ukrainian guests can apply for the Independent Living Payment by visiting <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-engagement/support-for-refugees/support-for-ukraine/ukraine-information-for-guests> and completing the application form. Application forms can also be requested by emailing refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk. Please note that applicants must provide a copy of their tenancy agreement for the property they are claiming for, in order to receive the support.

Cassius Digital Service - Cassius, Suffolk County Council's digital care programme, has released figures for its first 18 months in action. Since its launch in July '21 Cassius has:

- reached 3,000 people with the installation of over 4,000 devices;
- saved residents of Suffolk a collective 67,825 days in care homes;
- avoided 400 ambulance call outs;
- prevented hospital admissions and amounting to a saving of 500 hospital days, freeing up beds for those most in need;
- saved £8.8 million of social care funding and £480,000 for the local NHS;
- achieved a happiness rating of 98.45% among Cassius users.

Cassius has also been recognised with a hat-trick of awards from leading health technology publications. Last month, Cassius was awarded 'Best Innovation Project of the Year' in the Health Tech Digital Awards 2023 and 'Best New Assistive Technology Solution of the Year' at the Assistive Technology Awards 2023. Meanwhile, Cassius+, which is being trialled in West Suffolk and introduces additional health monitoring and assessment tools, such as blood pressure monitors, oximeters, scales, and thermometers alongside the established care technology offered by Cassius, has won 'Best Innovation Project of the Year'.

As the UK's leading digital care technology service, Cassius delivers more safety, independence and confidence to Suffolk people and their families. A range of care technologies – video carephones, smart watches, monitoring sensors and falls wearables – support users to live their normal lives around their home and makes it simpler for loved ones to check in with them. The devices also give care professionals valuable

insights into people's habits and vulnerabilities, helping build more personalised, empowering and less intrusive care packages that also reduce costly interventions and deteriorations in wellbeing. Crucially, Cassius relieves worry and increases wellbeing at a time that can be fraught with anxieties for more vulnerable people and their families. Increased face-to-face connectivity via the video smartphones, and peace-of-mind delivered by wearable devices and sensors that enable carers and families to check their loved one is up and about, bring huge benefits to people's lived experiences. The user happiness rating (98.45%) sits alongside endless user and family testimonies to show how Cassius really can be life enhancing. If you think that someone would benefit from this service please look it up on the SCC website.

14. **Planning Applications** – None received for consideration at tonight's meeting.
 - **Keep Moat – Church Road / Greenacres Site** - Clerk has requested confirmation from MSDC regarding the timescale for the gates to be moved and set back as this was a condition and has not yet been met.
15. **Planning Decisions from MSDC4**
 - **DC/23/01015** Application for Listed Building Consent - Internal and external roof repairs, replacement of rainwater goods and upgrading of flashing as detailed within Schedule of Works. The Cottage, 1 Chapel Road, Old Newton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4PP. *Listed Building Consent Granted by MSDC.*
 - **DC/23/00731** Planning Application - Retention of subdivision of existing B2 unit to provide additional B2 Unit for car repair business. Applewhites Furniture Ltd, Finningham Road, Old Newton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4EU. *Planning Permission Granted by MSDC.*
 - **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). Church Farm, Church Road, Old Newton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4PH. *Listed Building Consent Granted by MSDC.*
 - **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. *Planning Permission Granted by MSDC.*
 - **DC/20/03735** Discharge of Conditions Application for - Condition 3 (Action required following removal of roof coverings) (Part discharge for manufacturer's literature of roof coverings) Yew Tree Farm, Ward Green, Old Newton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4EZ. Detailed schedule of works with annotated photographs and materials specification of any timber frame repairs and manufacturers literature of roof coverings – In the interest of the character, integrity and preservation of the building.
16. **Annual Parish Meeting – Update / review.** The Annual Parish Meeting took place on Wednesday 26th May. 9 reports plus the Chairman of the Parish Council, District and County Council reports were received and have been uploaded onto the parish website. 57% of the organisations were represented. Thanks to the Clerk and Mrs Goudy for refreshments provided.
17. **Kings Coronation Medals – Distribution / Update.** Kings Coronation list of children in addition to the allocations given to the school and pre-school were collated and passed to Cllr Kerry Baker to merge with the list that she also has. Cllr Baker reported that a total of 33 coins have been distributed separately to the ones issued for the school and under 5's. 17 left – Wait until the next meeting to decide what we should do with the remaining medals.
18. **Footpaths Map Update.** The footpaths map is to be re-printed. The key for bridal ways and footpaths needed to be clarified. The telephone box at the top of Brown Street has been removed and there was a query about the accuracy of the map – This was checked with OS maps and is consistent and is accurate. Cllr Helliwell to ask Colin Barber to modify the map by removing bridal ways and the telephone and send for re-print. Our map is not an OS Map. The landowner has agreed to meet the costs of the re-print.
19. **Village Sign / Village maintenance update.**
 - **Village Sign** – A piece of Oak will be provided for the village sign. 2.7m x 6x6 and will be cut this week. Jon Hines to be contacted to replace the post and complete the radial works. Waiting to see if we have a piece of local Oak available.
 - **Ward Green Grass Cutting** – A decision needs to be made on what is to be done with the green this coming year. Chairman has been asked and the Clerk has also received an email from a Ward Green resident requesting that something be done sooner than later as the grass is getting overdue the first cut. It was agreed to instruct the contractor to continue the original contract for cutting the green as in previous years.

- 20. Risk Assessment recommendations and quotes – Cllr Hardman.** Signs to be ordered for the Cemetery – Caution Uneven Ground and for Ward Green pond – Caution Deep water. Cllr Hardman provided some costings for the signs. £18.00 for the signs. Proposed for Cllr Hardman Seconded by Cllr Goudy up to £40 to purchase. Broken fencing around the pond will also need to be replaced – Cllr Miller to investigate replacement.
- 21. Councillors matters to be brought to the attention of the Council.** - Nothing raised.
- 22. Public Forum**
- Mr Arnold – Review of the annual parish meeting – Are these needed when we have a functioning parish council. It is felt that it is a great shame if they don't attend the annual meeting.
 - Piip – Interesting for the parish council to have an idea of what organisations would like to see in the village moving forward and where investment would be best placed.
 - Cllr Stringer / Parish council highways matter – the frustration of the road closed signs as to where the closure is until you actually get to it. The indications need to be so far back to allow the HGVs. Also the road signs are there for a long time after the works have been completed which can cause confusion.
 - Honeypot Lane flooding to be reported to SCC Highways.
- 23. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the June 2023 meeting.**
- Audit / AGAR sign off.
 - Remaining Coronation Coins
 - Speeding – Gipping
- 24. Date of the next meeting** – Wednesday 7th June 2023. Cllr Hardman will be absent and submitted her apologies to be received for the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 21.09hrs