

Wednesday 5th July 2023 – Public Meeting commenced at 7.30pm at Old Newton Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J Miller, N Hardman, K Goudy, K Baker, M Helliwell, K Hall-Price (Clerk & RFO), District Cllr R Eburne, County Cllr A Stringer arrived at 8.42pm and 2 members of the public.

1. **Welcome and to Receive and accept any apologies for absence.** Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Clements and County Cllr Andrew Stringer. District Cllr J Pearson. Cllrs would like to send Cllr Clements our best wishes for a speedy recovery.
2. **To receive any declarations of personal/prejudicial interest & to note dispensations.**
 - a) To consider any requests for dispensations – No new requests received. No existing requests to be recorded.
3. **To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 7th June 2023. Agreed as a true and accurate record.** Proposed by Cllr Goudy and seconded by Cllr Baker. All in favour. All Cllrs were in favour to approve the minutes. The minutes will be signed by the Chairman accordingly.
4. **Co-Option for 3 Cllr Positions** –There are 2 parishioners in attendance at tonight’s meeting that may wish to stand for co-option. Cllrs and the clerk introduced themselves to the two prospective Cllrs. Mr Andrew Tween and Simonne Graells both introduced themselves to the Parish Council and as they are both willing to stand it was agreed to accept the two volunteers and they signed their declaration of acceptance of office forms and joined the Parish Council in their newly appointed co-opted position of Councillor. Clerk agreed to re-advertise for the 3rd position and confirm with BMSDC if an official notice is required.
5. **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. All audit information and the notice for public exercise of rights have also been uploaded onto the website and displayed on the village noticeboard at the shop.
 - Co-Option notice has been put up again onto the spotted in Old Newton Facebook page and has been included in the July edition of the crier and is on the village website.
 - Complaints received regarding dogs being let loose in the cemetery. Clerk has included in the July edition of the crier as a reminder of the cemetery rules and all dogs must be kept on a lead.
 - Report received regarding the grass cutting on the village hall playing field having the area around the cricket pitch being continuously missed. Clerk has reported to CGM and they have promised to ensure this is not missed again in the future. Also reported that the front of the village hall and the compound is also not being done.
 - Know our Cllrs documents has been amended and uploaded to the parish council website. Our new Cllrs will need to provide a small piece of information and a photo to also be uploaded onto the document.
 - Clerk received request to level a grave that has not been levelled and was buried in 2021. Clerk has asked Cemetery maintenance contractor Ian to do this for us.
 - Clerk received a complaint regarding fly tipping on the pavement outside the end cottage of Greenacres. This was reported to SCC/BMSDC.
 - Clerk received a call regarding possible large area of hogg weed growing adjacent to the footpath opposite the church by the school. Clerk has reported to SCC and informed Cllr Stringer, Chair and Vice-Chair.
Your report reference number is: 00411149 CHURCH ROAD, OLD NEWTON
Date reported: 05/07/2023 Description: Reported that a large area of possibly Hogg Weed which is a highly toxic weed that can cause severe irritation especially on a route to school whereby children are passing regularly.

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

- 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
- Apr 2023 – No crimes reported.
- May 2023 – stats not available at time of print.

6. Financial matters & Financial report.

Financial Year 22-23 External Audit

- Review Standing Orders - The Model Standing Orders are submitted for review and approval that include the procurement threshold updated to £30,000.00 and tailored to Old Newton Parish Council. Standing orders need to be amended – change of wording, terms. Cllr Hardman has been through them and will forward via the Clerk her suggestions. To be reviewed at the September meeting – Agenda item.
- Review Financial Regulations - The Model Financial Regulations are submitted for review and approval that include the procurement threshold updated to £30,000.00 and tailored to Old Newton Parish Council. Qtrly show of spend against budget, and qtrly – summaries need to be done or amend the ruling. Cllr Hardman has been through them and will forward via the Clerk her suggestions. To be reviewed at the September meeting – Agenda item.
- Review Internal Control Statement / Sign off Internal Control report year ended March 23 - The Internal control statement has been issued for review and approval that includes online banking payments statement from within the model financial regulations. Annual review not qtrly – Include as part of the agenda item at the September meeting for amendment and approval. All Cllrs to be forwarded the notes that Nicola has made and to include on the agenda for review at the September meeting.
- The annual CIL report has been submitted to MSDC but does need to be approved / signed off at this meeting. Proposed by Cllr Harman and seconded by Cllr Baker. Clerk to update the website and submit signed copy to BMSDC.
- Insurance Fidelity Guarantee – Clerk asked following the internal audit if the insurance fidelity could be increased and at what cost to the premium. Our insurance provider confirmed that running the required amendment through the systems adding the overhead projector and case @ £500 (the minimum sum insured); and increasing fidelity guarantee to the next bracket up, which is £100,000 resulted in a ‘nil’ additional premium – Therefore the insurance has completed the adjustment and provided the clerk with an amended schedule and statement of fact.
- New sign off sheet for Cllrs authorising payments on behalf of the Parish Council to be signed following approval at each meeting.
- The audit documents have been sent to PKF LittleJohn for external audit by the deadline of 1st July 2023.

Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays Statement Balance = **£29,294.91** (29.06.2023)
- 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 – June 2023:

EXPENDITURE	CHQ/BA CS/SO/ DDR		NET	VAT	TOTAL
Karen Price	Bacs	Salary June £1,438.24 – holiday pay £173.60, less tax £112.80, less NI £67.66, pension £64.48 plus expenses £92.87	£1,459.77		£1,459.77
HMRC PAYE	Bacs	Employee NI £67.66, Employee Tax £112.80 Employer NI £117.83	£298.29		£298.29
Nest Pension	DDR	Employee £64.48, Employer £48.36	£112.84		£112.84
Ian Hammond	Bacs	Cemetery maintenance – June 23	£345.00		£345.00
SALC	Bacs	Internal Audit	£261.00	£52.20	£313.20
CGM	Bacs	Grass cutting V/Hall – 25/05/23			
Old Newton Graphics	Bacs	footpath maps	£250.00		£250.00
Gipping Press	Bacs	Re-print of the footpath maps	£400.00		£400.00
RECEIPTS	Payslip				

- Approval requested to pay July payments and sign off retrospectively at the September meeting as there is no scheduled meeting for August. All Cllrs Agreed.

Proposed to pay the accounts by Cllr Hardman and seconded by Cllr Helliwell. All Cllrs in favour - Cllr Miller agreed to authorise the BACS payments on Thursday 6th July 2023. Two Cllrs to sign the accounts for payment sheet present at the meeting.

7. **Correspondence Received / Circulars**

- Email regarding local footpaths in need of maintenance and cutting.
- BMSDC – Tour of Britain cycle race – 7th September
- CGM – now Nuture Landscapes Ltd
- SALC – D Day 80 – 6th June 2024

Keep Moat – Church Road / Greenacres Site – (To be discussed under correspondence)

- Clerk has received confirmation from MSDC Planning Enforcement team that they are investigating the alleged non-compliance with Condition 3 (Details of Gates) of planning permission **DC/22/01159**. Location: Land East Of, Greenacres, Old Newton, Suffolk, **EN/23/00284**. Does this have to be done before deliveries and traffic arriving on site. Clerk to ensure all Cllrs are kept aware of the situation moving forward.
- Complaint received regarding delivery drivers large heavy goods lorries reversing onto private properties / driveway again to gain access to the build site. Damage to posts being caused due to inconsiderate people and parking. Why have the gates not yet been addressed? Concerns regarding the private driveway is apparently built on old drainage from what was once the piggery and the driveway simply cannot tolerate the weight bearing of the heavy goods vehicles. Clerk asked to mention at the July meeting and report back to the resident who raised the concerns. Clerk has contact details.
- The footpath has been granted a Temporary Closure from the 1st July 2023 on the proviso that there are actually works taking place this time, otherwise SCC have said that the footpath will be opened up. We do not have a meeting in August and need to ensure this is monitored.

8. **District Councillor’s Report (to be received as read – Cllr questions).**

MSDC Meetings - Our new Administration at Mid Suffolk is ensuring more meetings are held outside of the Ipswich offices and within Mid Suffolk district. The next Cabinet meeting (11th July) will be held in the John Peel Centre in Stowmarket and the Council meeting (19th July) will be held in the Blackbourne Centre in Elmswell. Members of the public are welcome at both.

Planning committee - At the first Planning Committee meeting of the new council year, a controversial application for a solar farm was being dealt with. The Council took advice that it would not be able to win a legal appeal despite many local objections. In discussion with the main group of objectors (Community Alliance for a Rural Environment), a joint statement was issued. This is the first time this type of approach has been made and this including calling on Government for greater clarity on their strategic approach to energy developments.

National Grid “pylons” - National Grid has launched its latest public consultation on plans for a new high-voltage power line across East Anglia, including Mid Suffolk and Babergh. The Norwich to Tilbury project has previously been opposed by both councils amid significant concerns, particularly over the impact on the environment. The public consultation event in our area is on Tuesday 11th July, 11am-4pm at Blackbourne Community Centre in Elmswell. We will be lobbying Government, again, to review this process and ask National Grid to re-consider their current approach.

Local Planning - Janet has met with the team at Mid Suffolk regarding a “People and Place plan” and will report back to the Parish Council. There is potential for a scheme in Old Newton. This is currently a Government-funded pilot and MSDC is working with a number of parishes and would like to work with more.

Electric Vehicle Charging points - Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been awarded a £300k grant from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles to install 28 new 22kW EV charging points in several carparks including most of the Council carparks in Stowmarket. Anglia Car Charging are beginning the installation work this week.

Police and Crime Panel - The Police and Crime Panel is a county wide body which scrutinises the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Mid Suffolk has a representative on this body. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings and can ask questions relevant to an agenda item. The next meeting is to be held on Friday 14th July and questions need to be submitted in advance. More details can be found here:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/the-council-and-its-committees/committees/suffolk-police-and-crime-panel>

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

Concern over SCC budget position - At Cabinet on 13 June, my group raised concerns about the significant extra expenditure announced by the Conservative administration since the 2023-24 budget was set in February. Cabinet were reviewing the 2022-23 finances against the budget that was set, including an overspend of £27.7m and a significant £57.2m taken out of Council reserves – the council's 'safety net' funds to be used when needed. On 16 May 2023 the Cabinet announced that an extra unbudgeted £720k would be found to cover the £60k monthly shortfall for Suffolk Libraries for a year, and at the council AGM on 25 May the Leader of the Council, Cllr Matthew Hicks, announced a further unbudgeted additional £10m for road surfacing in the next 20 months. Given that neither of these items were budgeted for only a few months ago when the current budget was set, my group raised concerns in the meeting whether the administration's budget setting procedures were sufficiently robust.

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm - On 13 June, Cabinet reviewed the consultation response for the extension of the North Falls wind farm. The wind farm is situated just off the Essex coast so Suffolk County Council is a consultee rather than a decision maker. A number of issues were discussed which will be included in the consultation response, for example the impact on A12 traffic, the views from Suffolk coastal Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the need to consult with communities on the Suffolk coast. The developers will also be asked to time construction so it does not clash with the tourism season.

National Grid Reinforcement Works between Bramford and Twinstead - The Cabinet also reviewed and approved a response to the Planning Inspectorate on upgrading the power lines between the villages of Twinstead in Essex and Bramford in Mid Suffolk. There were concerns about the impact of the works to the local countryside, particularly the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, where the National Grid have agreed to lay cables underground. The government's aspiration is for 50GW of offshore wind power by 2023, and in East Anglia this means that our throughput must increase from 4.1GW currently to 24.5GW. The existing power line between Bramford and Twinstead is at full capacity and it was acknowledged that the works were necessary to facilitate the increases to wind farm development.

10. **Planning - BMSDC Pilot for Community-led planning for places – Elizabeth Ling.** Clerk to extend the invitation to attend the July meeting. Janet Pearson has met with the team and has provided a report – All Cllrs have received a copy via email. Defer to the September meeting.

11. Planning Applications

- **DC/23/02900** | Application under S73a for the Variation of a Condition following grant of Outline Planning Permission ref: DC/19/02878 dated 12/02/2021 and Reserved Matters Approval ref: DC/22/01159 dated 01/02/2023 - Erection of 64 dwellings (including up to 22 affordable dwellings). Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) To vary Condition 2 of DC/22/01159 (Approved Plans and Documents) as per covering letter. | Land Off Church Road Old Newton Suffolk. **Deadline for comments to BMSDC is 11th July 2023.**

Cllrs felt that the variation with the design was for approximately 5 or 6 houses across the site. Cllrs felt this would make a minimal difference to the plan with no objections to this change received. Proposed by Cllr Hardman and seconded by Cllr Graells. All Cllrs in favour. Application approved at parish council level. Clerk to respond to BMSDC by the deadline for comments.

- **DC/23/03067** | Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/22/01159 - Condition 4 (Written Liaison Scheme) | Land East Of Greenacres Old Newton Suffolk. **Deadline for comments to BMSDC is 21st July 2023.**

Keepmoat have requested that to discharge the condition they want to meet the Parish Council every 3 months once construction is on site. The mechanism they are proposing Cllrs do not believe adequately discharges condition 4. Cllrs feel that to discharge condition 4 they insist on a meeting prior to construction and would like all meetings to be face to face. Cllrs want to have a specific meeting to be consulted and agree the construction management plan before it is submitted so our concerns can be addressed. Cllrs feel that we need to jointly agree and set the meeting schedule with place, dates and times and hold an initial meeting 1 month prior to construction beginning. Once its under construction we would like a monthly and regular contact with the developer for an initial period of 6 months. This was Proposed and seconded and agreed unanimously by all Cllrs present. The parish council do not accept the proposal for discharge of condition 4. This was proposed by Cllr Hardman, Seconded by Cllr Tween, unanimously agreed to submit the above comments to MSDC.

- The planning application on Silver Street – whereby concerns were made regarding the delivery of building materials and storage. The resident has confirmed that nothing will be stored on the land but within the allocated parking spaces. This was discussed at the June meeting – No further comments made by Cllrs.
- 12. Planning Decisions from MSDC**
- **Appeal Ref: APP/W3520/W/22/3312096** Land at Rosemary Cottage, 60 Chapel Road, Old Newton, Suffolk IP14 4PP • The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant planning permission. • The appeal is made by Mr David Towler against the decision of Mid Suffolk District Council. • The application Ref DC/22/03345, dated 1 July 2022, was refused by notice dated 7 September 2022. • The development proposed is the erection of a detached dwelling following the demolition of the existing garage. Decision 1. **The appeal is dismissed.**
- 13. Footpaths Map Update.** The new re-printed map has gone out in the July edition of the Crier. The invoice is submitted for payment at tonight’s meeting. The landowner who offered to pay for the additional costs will be contacted by the Clerk.
- The original maps – What do we want to do them... Agreed to recycle them.
 Perspex of the map A2 on the side of the village hall. Footpath committee to investigate the layout for the large map to be made by Chapel Signs plus some display plastic holders to display at the church, village shop. Report back to the September meeting. A real achievement – well done to everyone involved.
- 14. Village Sign / Village maintenance update.**
- **Village Sign** – A piece of Oak is now available for Jon Hines when he is available to complete the remedial works. Clerk has tried to contact Mr Hines via email – Clerk does not have a contact telephone number. Cllr Clements / Miller to try to speak to Jon Hines. Nothing new to report. Mr Hines has still not made contact with the Clerk and is not responding to Clerks emails. Chair to visit and understand if Mr Hines is still willing to complete this job or if we need to investigate a replacement contractor.
 - Apologies from Cllr Hardman as the signs have been purchased for deep water and the cemetery gates and these will be installed this month.
- 15. Speeding – Gipping.** At the June meeting it was agreed that the council could use the SID if its on an unauthorised pole and not flashing to monitor the speed. Survey at Gipping and the top end of Chapel Road would be an interesting report to have as evidence moving forward. Speed camera battery charger has died. Clerk to ask Beccles if they have a charger available. Clerk to contact Westcotec regarding a replacement charger.
- 16. Councillors matters to be brought to the attention of the Council.**
- Cllr Goudy – Request for a dog Poo bin at the Methodist Chapel – Agenda for September – Clerk to investigate costs for purchase plus fixings and adding onto the MSDC collection route.
 - Consultation dates for the Pylons. Put them on facebook and make Cllrs aware.
 - Cemetery committee meeting – outstanding actions – Organise a meeting over the next month.
 - Clerks annual appraisal and review before the September meeting.
 - Finger posts for the footpaths
- 17. Public Forum** – No public present in the public gallery.
- 18. Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the September 2023 meeting.**
- Working Groups / Committees and whether we have terms of reference.
 - Government funded pilot for Community-led planning for places.
 - Standing Orders / Financial Regulations / Internal control Statement Amended / Approved
 - Village sign update
 - Dog bin for Methodist Chapel
 - Footpath Committee Report – Posters / Footpath signage - Fingerposts
 - SID unit – Update / Speeding
 - Cemetery Report
- 19. Date of the next meeting** – Wednesday 6th September 2023.

**Chair thanked our two new Cllrs for joining the Parish Council and wished everyone a lovely summer.
 Meeting closed at 21.31hrs**