

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

Present: Cllrs J Miller, N Hardman, K Goudy, K Baker, A Tween, S Graells, M Clements, K Hall-Price (Clerk & RFO) District Cllr R Eburne, County Cllr A Stringer arrived at 19.50hrs and 1 member of the public.

1. **Welcome and to Receive and accept any apologies for absence.** Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Tween, Helliwell and Griffiths.
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 6th September 2023. Agreed as true and accurate records.** Minutes Proposed by Cllr Baker and seconded by Cllr Hardman - All in favour. The minutes will be signed by the Chair accordingly.
4. **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 finance documents and interim audit reports are also all available on the website. The revised Standing Orders, Finance Regulations and Internal control statement have also been uploaded onto the website.
 - All new Cllrs have been set up with parish council emails and forwarded all relevant information. MSDC are chasing completion of the register of interests forms.... Asking if they can be submitted again. I have received Cllr Graells.
 - Cllr Laura Griffiths father has suddenly passed away and Cllr Griffiths has offered to withdraw from the position of Cllr. I have said for her for now to not worry about the parish council and not to make any knee jerk reactions but to focus on dealing with her family. I have passed on our deepest condolences and will check in on her this month to see how things are and will keep Cllrs apprised of the situation.
 - SALC – Clerk has registered for the SALC conference on 29th November 2023. This is the first face to face meeting arranged since pre Covid lockdowns. The cost is £15 per delegate and only 1 place has been allocated per parish council at the moment. If a second place can be booked Cllr Mark Clements could potentially be added to the delegate list, if he wishes. Clerk asking for permission as the cost is to be invoiced to the Parish Council. Proposed and seconded for Clerk and Cllr Clements to attend the conference.
 - New Cllrs training dates are fully booked until February 2024. Session 1 and 2 can be booked. Cllr Kerry Baker would like to be included if possible and suggested dates of 14th & 26th February 2024. Clerk to book the training dates that are available and confirm to those Cllrs wishing to attend.

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

- May 2023 – No crimes reported.
- June 2023 – 1 x anti-social behaviour on or around Greenacres, 1 x violence / sexual assault on or around Cross Green
- July 2023 – 1 x public order offence on or around Greenacres.
- August 2023 – data not available at time of print.

Local Policing - The way local policing is delivered in Suffolk is changing and a new county policing model goes live in December 2023. In advance of the changes, the Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore and Chief Constable Rachel Kearton are hosting a series of meetings to talk through the plans with local communities and answer any questions they may have.

Meetings will be held across the county through September and October with an on-line meeting in November.

MID SUFFOLK: Tuesday October 17, 2023, at the new Stowmarket Police Station, IP14 2QU. All meetings start at 6.30pm and there is no need to book, just turn up on the evening. There is also an on-line meeting on Tuesday November 7, 2023, at 6pm via Microsoft Teams. Please email spcc@suffolk.police.uk to register and an invite will be sent through via email in advance of the meeting. Cllr Hardman, Graells and Clements would like to attend the evening meeting on the 17th October.

Police - New model launched to ensure vulnerable get right help - Working with health and social care partners Suffolk Constabulary is rolling out a new policy to ensure that vulnerable people are given the right support from the right agency when they need it. 'Right Care, Right Person', being introduced on 1 October 2023, is a model designed to ensure that when there are concerns for a person's welfare linked to mental health, medical or social care issues, the right person with the right skills, training and experience will respond. Frequently, police officers are asked to look after people with health or social care needs who require specialist medical support or psychological care that officers are not trained to provide. Under 'Right Care, Right Person', police officers will no longer be taking on this responsibility when it is not appropriate to do so. The care will now be provided by the agency that can best meet the individual's needs. Police will continue to protect the public where the risks presented need a policing attendance.

5. Financial matters & Financial report.

- The internal audit report and sign off was submitted to PKF LittleJohn by the deadline of 3rd July 2023. It is in the queue for review, but they have ran out of time and have issued an interim statement. We will not be invoiced and receive the final report until they have completed the audit.
- Barclays requirement for updated account information. Form was completed by the Clerk and Chair and Cllr Goudy counter signed the form for submission by 20th September 2023. This was completed and we have since received a reminder for this to be done. Clerk spoke to Barclays regarding this and there is apparently a back log, so we are to wait for further correspondence.
- Also spoke to Barclays regarding the FGBT and this must have their own account as they are a registered charity in their own right this cannot be linked to the Parish Council bank account. The trustees need to open a charity account as soon as possible as the charity commission insist on having as part of the annual return details of their bank account and currently, we do not have one. Clerk has not requested the rent money for the land yet as unless we request cash again this year, we do not have anywhere to bank the funds received.
- September bank statement has been forwarded to Cllrs on the finance committee and our internal control Cllr.
- Clerk is still working on the finance spreadsheets to be able to provide Cllrs with a budget comparison more than twice a year that has been current practice. Cllr Hardman has kindly offered to assist with the spreadsheet information. A meeting should be arranged with the internal control Cllr before the finance review meeting takes place and budget preparations will begin. Finance review meeting should be scheduled for November. Budget papers to be provided to Cllrs ahead of the November meeting and will be an agenda item for the December meeting with a view to setting the precept for the financial year 24-25 at the January meeting in line with the deadlines in place.
- Insurance Cover – we have had to include the SID camera as an itemised unit on renewal this year and this has increased the premium from £616.07 - £714.08. The increased rate comes from having the speed camera as an all-risk item rather than municipal infrastructure – This cannot be covered under municipal infrastructure because it is moved and rotated on a regular basis. The defib is now covered on automatic cover. I have approved the insurance as we cannot be without cover. We have 14 days to say we don't want it but do then need to find an alternative. I have challenged it but unless we can say that we will move the camera less frequently we will need to accept it or move to another provider. I have submitted the invoice for payment but obviously if Cllrs decide we are going to look at an alternative insurance provider or we can move the camera less frequently I can ask for a revised quote but should approve the payment to the maximum or less so that payment can be made before the November meeting. Proposed by Cllr Clements to accept the new invoice and stay with the existing insurance provider as the SID unit is an expensive piece of equipment. This was seconded by Cllr Graells with all Cllrs in favour. The invoice is submitted for payment at this meeting.

Bank Account Balances:

- Barclays Statement Balance = **£35,282.00** (29.09.2023)
- Scottish Widows 60 Day account balance = **£3,391.18** (30.06.23)
- Scottish Widows Deposit account = **£254.45** (30.06.23)
- Public Works Loan – Balance outstanding = **£7,666.93** (06.04.2023)

Accounts for payment in arrears – September 2023:

EXPENDITURE	CHQ/ BACS/ SO/DDR		NET	VAT	TOTAL
Karen Price	Bacs	Salary September £1,187.76 – holiday pay £100.00 saved £43.36 paid, less tax £36.60, less NI £21.97, pension £49.25 plus expenses £85.65	£1,208.95		£1,208.95
HMRC PAYE	Bacs	Employee Tax £36.60, Employee NI £21.97 Employer NI £65.29	£123.86		£123.86
Nest Pension	DDR	Employee £49.25, Employer £36.94	£86.19		£86.19
Ian Hammond	Bacs	Cemetery maintenance – September 23	£300.00		£300.00
CGM	Bacs	Grass cutting 07.09.23	£87.81	£17.56	£105.37
CAS	Bacs	Website Hosting	£35.00	£7.00	£42.00
CAS – Ansvar	Bacs	Insurance Annual Premium	£714.08		£714.08
Westcotec	Bacs	Battery Charger unit – SID unit – Official invoice not received yet – Will pay upon receipt of official invoice	£70.50	£14.10	£84.60
ICO	DDR	Data Protection Registration Certificate	£35.00		£35.00
Glasdon	Bacs	Dog Bin – Chapel Hall	£149.48	£29.90	£179.38
J Lawes	Bacs	Jubilee Clips – Dog Bin	£6.58	£1.32	£7.90
RECEIPTS	Payslip				
MSDC	DC	Precept received	£15,015.26		£15,015.26
Karen Price	DC	Money received cash for Jubilee medals	£14.64		£14.64

Proposed by Cllr Goudy and seconded by Cllr Baker – All Cllrs agreed. Clerk to put the September payments through this evening and Cllr Miller to approve on 5th October.

6. Correspondence Received / Circulars

- BMSDC – Request for an update on designated Neighbourhood Plan area. This is potentially being re-established but a new team has yet to be found and implemented. It would be sad to see the designation removed. Interested in the people and place scheme – but couldn't get someone to present to the PC. District Cllr Janet Pearson will make contact within BMSDC.
- BMSDC – Town and Parish Liaison Meeting – Thursday 19th October at Debenham 9.30am – 11.30am. Chairman to attend.
- SCC – Transport Strategy Schemes – views sought over improvements to A140
- SALC – Norwich to Tilbury National Infrastructure Project – new guidance from SALC and SCC event on 18th October.
- Slow Ways national walking network – Correspondence forwarded to footpaths committee members.
- Will Redmayne – Photos and reports of damaged verges again at Wassicks Lane. Confirming damage not being caused by him or his vehicles. There was an incident in August with a wood delivery which would have been one of Mr Redmayne's lorries.

Clerk to ensure all correspondence is forwarded to Cllrs.

7. District Councillor's Report (to be received as read – Cllr questions).

BMSDC Joint Local Plan - The Planning Inspectorate have finished the inspection of the Joint Local Plan part 1 and reported that it is sound, so it now needs to be formally adopted by Full Council. Planning policy officers are now able to focus on Part 2 of the plan which will include the housing allocations. All the documentation is available on the website <http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>

Inspiring Climate Action - MSDC are staging a Community Climate Action Roadshow, giving residents the chance to speak to local groups and organisations regarding climate action. The roadshow will visit Eye (7th October), Bramford (21st October) and Stowmarket as part of the Town Council's Go Green Go Wild event [Stowmarket Town Council | Stowmarket Go Green Go Wild! - Stowmarket Town Council](#) on Tues 24th October.

Help for older residents - MSDC is supporting Silver Sunday Campaigns to help tackle loneliness for older residents. Events are being held in Eye, Stowmarket and Needham Market over the next few weeks to bring young people into care homes for sing-alongs, games and fun.

Wellbeing for younger residents - MSDC is also supporting an initiative with schools across the district to improve the well-being of young people. Thurston Community College, Stowmarket High School and Stowupland High School now have Youth Link workers to help pupils access community activities. This work will also spread to the feeder primary schools.

CIFCO - At a full Council meeting in September, the CIFCO business plan was agreed. Given the change in administration this included a thorough review of operations prior to the next business case being brought to Council to inform MSDC's long term strategies

Corporate Plan Refresh - The State of the District report [Appendix A - MSDC State of the District Report.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#) was considered at last month's Full Council meeting – as an overview of Mid Suffolk and part of the evidence base underpinning the new Corporate Plan. Mid Suffolk Cabinet will be endorsing the engagement strategy for the development of the new Corporate Plan which will put social and environmental responsibilities at its heart. It is hoped to engage with as wide a section of the district as possible, including some groups which seldom get involved, as well as businesses and Town and Parish Councils.

Electric Bus project - MSDC will be discussing the Electric Bus project at Cabinet this month. They hope to bring forward the ringfenced £820k and agree to work towards a 'grant' scheme to enhance existing rural transport provision with set routes.

Local policing - A new county policing model goes live in December 2023. The Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore and Chief Constable Rachel Kearton are hosting meetings to talk through the plans with local communities and answer any questions. The meeting for this area will be on Tuesday 17th October at the new Stowmarket Police Station, IP14 2QU. It starts at 6.30pm and there is no need to book. There will also be an on-line meeting on Tuesday 7th November at 6pm via Microsoft Teams. Email spcc@suffolk.police.uk to register.

Local buses - The first meeting to discuss provision of a bus/taxi service to Stowmarket on Thursdays took place in September and discussions will be continuing. In the meantime, Dans Coach Services have now introduced a bus service from the Shoulder of Mutton to Stowmarket and back. On Mondays the service leaves Old Newton at 11.17am and arrives in Stowmarket (Station Road West) at 11.29. It returns from Stowmarket at 13.30pm. On Thursdays the times are an 11.47am departure from Old Newton and a return from Stowmarket at 14.30pm.

A14 roadworks - The contraflow system will be moving to the Eastbound carriageway at the end of October. See the latest newsletter for more information [A14+J47a+to+49+-+Newsletter+September+2023.pdf](#)

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

Condition of School Buildings - On 7 September councillors from our group attended Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee to question council officers from the Schools Infrastructure team about RAAC, the schools in Suffolk affected and the support they are being offered. The agenda also included the process for building new schools in the county and how the council works with the Department for Education and housing developers to make sure there are enough school places for children in the county. The meeting also looked at the school admissions and school transport processes and ways they can be made easy for parents to navigate. A local School, is now having to hire a large number of portacabins to contain the builders and over flow of pupils to deal with this issue.

Suffolk County Council Overspend - At Cabinet on 12 September our group raised concerns about the overspend predicted for the financial year 2023-24. The council is forecasting a net overspend of £22.3m, which is 3.2% of the overall budget for the year and will cut into the council's financial reserves with a reduction of £56.9m of the council's 'savings'. Finance officers at the council had suggested a high council tax rise during the budget process to try and lessen the pressures on the council caused by rising inflation, energy costs and increased demands on council services such as placements for children in care, adult care and school transport for children and young people with special educational needs. The Cabinet agreed that senior leaders at the council would look at how money could be saved in each directorate to protect council reserves and prevent cuts to services wherever possible.

New Suffolk Fire and Rescue Control Centre - Officers from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) joined Cabinet on 12 September to explain their recommendation that the council leave the current control centre partnership with Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and open a new control centre in the county by the end of 2024. This would create significant extra cost, but it was agreed that it was necessary for the safety of Suffolk residents. A vote was held and the recommendations were approved. My group were keen to ensure that no fire stations would close and there would be no cuts to jobs or changes to work terms and conditions, but no assurances were given.

The upgrade at Haughley junction is going ahead. The slow load is going up the A140 from 20th October for 3 Sundays.

9. Planning

- **DC/23/03528| Householder Planning Application - Construction of attached garage, erection of single storey rear extension, construction of porch, alterations to existing bungalow and construction of a new vehicular access at 27 Church Road Old Newton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4ED. MSDC deadline for comments 2nd October 2023.**

Cllrs acknowledged that Highways have already commented on this application and Cllrs feel that the application suggests the dropped kerb will have to be extended from the property next door and does not give enough of a visibility splay to be safe. Cllrs feel the application is complicating the current access and that the driveway would be better to continue as shared access.

The garage would also potentially cause issues with the neighbouring property in terms of proximity and blocking of light. Cllrs were mainly concerned with the access being an issue. Cllrs felt that the application was incomplete and needed more details. Cllrs felt it was difficult to see the impact on the neighbouring properties from the information provided and as such felt this could be misleading. It's a substantial extension within a snug plot. Cllrs raised again the concerns surrounding the access onto the highway and safety for pedestrians. The proposed new access is also close to a staggered crossroads and the limited visibility coming out of the proposed access would be dangerous. The right hand side boundary in relation to the property is extremely snug. Residential amenity will be impacted and how close to the adjacent property the new boundary will be, there will be insufficient space to exit the property from the side door onto the neighbouring driveway. Cllrs believe there is not sufficient space available between the two properties and also felt that there will not be sufficient room to turn vehicles around safely if the current shared driveway becomes sole use of the neighbouring property.

Cllrs agreed that the objections are primarily regarding the access and believe it would be better to retain the shared driveway, pedestrian safety if the proposed driveway is approved and the proximity of the boundary to both neighbouring properties will have an impact. It was proposed by Cllr Graells, seconded by Cllr Clements to object to this application on the above points discussed. All Cllrs were unanimously in favour of objecting to this application. Application refused at Parish Council level.

- **DC/23/04222| Householder Application - Erection of two storey side extension, single storey front and rear extension and detached garage/store (following demolition of existing garage) at 26 Finningham Road Old Newton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4EG. MSDC deadline for comments 9th October 2023.**

Cllrs felt that the proposed application had been well considered and provided good details for review and although the proposals significantly increases the size of the existing property, it looks like the footprint is very similar from the front of the property. The upper level extension does not have any windows overlooking the neighbouring property on the side elevations.

Cllrs did not feel that this would impact the road or neighbours and the proposals would be a great improvement to this property. It was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Hardman with all Cllrs unanimously in favour of approving this application – Application approved at Parish Council level.

- **DC/23/04456| Application for Listed Building Consent - Repairs to structurally defective south end of farmhouse at Yew Tree Farm Ward Green Old Newton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4EZ. MSDC deadline for comments 16th October 2023.**

The structural survey on this property has identified that at some stage an extension had been added that is now in need of repair. The application proposes to re-build the southern end of the property. Cllrs noted that the current owners have invested considerably already into this property and Cllrs felt that the applicants should be commended and supported in their efforts to restore and protect this property or it would fall into

further disrepair. All works completed to date have been done sympathetically and in line with Heritage recommendations. It was proposed by Cllr Baker and seconded by Cllr Goudy to approve this application. All Cllrs present were unanimous. Application approved at Parish Council level.

10. Planning Decisions

- **DC/23/03329** - Full Planning Application - Erection of single storey lean-to rear extension and single storey front extension with new canopied porch; Erection of outbuilding for use as therapy room. 6 Falconer Avenue, Old Newton, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4JP. **MSDC have approved this application.**
- **DC/23/02385** – Householder Application – Erection of single storey side extension and new entrance porch at 10 Silver Street, Old Newton. **MSDC have granted planning permission.**
- **Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/19/02878** - Condition 8 (Construction Management Plan) Location: Land Off Church Road, Church Road, Old Newton, IP14 4EF. Report to enforcement – Not adhering to the plan already. Still no liaison. Photos of the road mud pictures from Cllr Miller.
- **DC/23/03754** - Householder Application - Erection of boundary wall (following demolition of existing). Bush Farm, Stowmarket Road, Old Newton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4EB. **MSDC have granted planning permission.**
- **DC/23/03755** - Application for Listed Building Consent - Erection of boundary wall (following demolition of existing). Bush Farm, Stowmarket Road, Old Newton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4EB. **MSDC have granted planning permission.**

11. **Vertas - Pilot/trial for some rural transport provision** – The meeting took place on 26th September with representatives from Haughley, Bacton, Wyverstone and Old Newton. There would need to be consultation as to whether this is something that could be used by our parishioners. Reality is the buses are coming from Bury and we would be responsible for paying the dead mileage and the bus is only available between school drop off and pick-ups so would not be available until after 9.30am and need to be back in Bury by 2pm. Window would be from 10.30am – 1pm ish. Any scheme must be co-ordinated by the parish – no monies are paid to the driver it all must be done by the co-ordinator. Parish Council would be responsible for paying the invoice each month regardless of whether the service is used to maximum capacity or not. Clerk has forwarded the meeting notes provided by MSDC.

Local buses - The first meeting to discuss provision of a bus/taxi service to Stowmarket on Thursdays took place in September and discussions will be continuing. In the meantime Dans Coach Services have now introduced a bus service from the Shoulder of Mutton to Stowmarket and back. On Mondays the service leaves Old Newton at 11.17am and arrives in Stowmarket (Station Road West) at 11.29. It returns from Stowmarket at 13.30pm. On Thursdays the times are an 11.47am departure from Old Newton and a return from Stowmarket at 14.30pm.

Coaches 390 going into Stowmarket. Timetable is available on the website. Working age people cannot access the buses for getting to work. Free bus passes are not able to be utilised on this service.

Proposed by Cllr Baker that we continue to discuss the possibilities of the Vertas scheme and see what comes - seconded by Cllr Hardman, all Cllrs in favour.

12. **A14 Concrete road replacement Update / Highways England offer to provide additional social value to surrounding parishes** – Cllr Hardman attended an online teams meeting. There will be overnight closures whilst they swap from one carriageway to the other. They are potentially a little bit behind schedule but they are trying to add some social value to local villages and if anyone has any community projects that we would like any investment in. Does the school have any requirements – playground re-marking etc, clubs or other community projects. Clerk asked to email the school and pre-school and the village hall to see if there is anything that they would like assistance with.
13. **Footpaths Committee Update – Posters / Footpath Signage / Fingerposts** – Cllr Helliwell has ordered 3 external/screw on leaflet holders with lids, and 3 stand-alone holders, and they should be here any day. Cllr Helliwell still needs to talk to Cllr Baker regarding getting the outside laminated map display sorted out.

Footpath 47 – Resident has complained about the way the revised footpath enters the highway and says its so dangerous he will be reporting it to the HSE. We know this is not ideal but is actually far better than the previous route along the B1113. Confirmation from SCC footpaths Area Rights of Way Officer states that there is no alternative so if this is not acceptable then this footpath will be closed until the building works are completed. There is visibility and users need to be aware and that it is temporary. Clerk to respond and include something in the Crier.

Footpath sign on Brown Street – by Mayhews is rotted at the bottom. Sandford Road is still in ditch – Clerk to report.

14. **Village Sign / Village maintenance update.** Jon Hines has put the new sign up and it looks very smart with the Gipping Oak and the plaque has been re-instated.
15. **Cemetery Report**
 - Porch Builders a local reputable building company have given the Clerk a quote for the shed at the cemetery to have the asbestos removed and disposed of under licence, replace with plastic soffit board and fascia boards, repair rotten wood where required on the rear doors, replace the cast iron gutters and down pipes with new plastic gutters and to clear the moss and debris from the roof. Total works £5,280 + VAT. These works are the all singing and dancing and would ensure that the shed was good for the next 25 years. We can change the works for cheaper options if replacing with wood but this will then need maintenance every 3-5 years or so. Any other quotes should be like for like. Clerk waiting on additional quotes to give a comparison. The money will be taken from CIL funds.
 - Our contractor has agreed to tackle the annual bramble and overgrowth in the rear Church yard in the month of October and will ensure the cemetery is tidy ahead of Remembrance Sunday.
 - Clerk has met with our cemetery contractor who has agreed to stake the stones unsafe and to level the graves that have sunk and the ones that need to be reduced. He will work on this following his holiday end of September so works should commence throughout the month of October.
 - Cllr Goudy to ensure the remembrance wreath is ordered and available for the church service on Sunday 12th November.
16. **SID – Battery / Speed Report** – Westcotec delivered the replacement Battery Charger this week, the Clerk has delivered to Cllr Helliwell. Invoice presented for payment.
17. **Dog Bins – Request for additional dog bin at the Chapel** - Dog bin has been delivered and Cllr Miller has installed for us at the Chapel Hall. MSDC have been requested to include on collection of waste route. Glasdon invoice received and presented for payment. There is also an invoice from Lawes for the fixing clips used also presented for payment.
18. **Cllrs matters to be bought to the council.**
 - Cllr Clements raised the number of sugar beet lorries using Station road when they possibly shouldn't be. Most of the farmers give the contractors the way to come in and go out considering the village and the schools. Farmers are doing everything they can but it is considered that there is very little we as a parish council can do.
 - Grit bin at Mill Hill is very overgrown - Cllr Miller will tidy and trim all the bins but Cllr Clements has also offered.
19. **Public Forum** – Nothing.
20. **Additional Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the November 2023 meeting.**
 - Cemetery Quotes / Update
 - Budget – Preliminary Papers
 - Finance – Internal Control report
 - Footpaths Committee - Update
 - SID Camera - Update
21. **Date of the next meeting** – Wednesday 1st November 2023.

Meeting closed at 21.50 hrs