

**Minutes of Newton Annual Parish Assembly
held on Wednesday 25th April 2012 at the Village Hall**

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Those Present

Roy Gardner	-	Parish Council Chairman
James Finch	-	Suffolk County Councillor
Peter Holbrook	-	Babergh District Councillor
PC Garrod	-	Suffolk Police
Dave Crimmin	-	Parish Clerk

25 residents, registered as local government electors in Newton.

Apologies

Alan Vince, Ann Gardner, Sue Presland, Judith and David Smalley.

2012/01 Minutes of Meeting held on 27th April 2011

The meeting agreed the minutes of last year's meeting and the Chairman signed them as a true copy.

2012/02 Police Report

This report covers the period from Friday 1st April 2011 to Saturday 31st March 2012

During this time there were 13 crimes recorded relevant to the parish of Newton of which 1 has so far been detected (7.69% detection rate). This compares to again 13 crimes for the same period in the previous year, where 3 of these were detected (23.07% detection rate)

BREAKDOWN OF CRIME

Burglary Dwelling	-	2011-2012	2 Report	(increase from previous year)
		2010-2011	1 Report	
Burglary Other Building	-	2011-2012	1 Reports	(same as previous year)
		2010-2011	1 Reports	
Vehicle crime	-	2011-2012	3 reports	(same as previous year)
		2010-2011	3 reports	
Assaults and public order	-	2011-2012	2 reports	(increase from previous year)
		2010-2011	0 reports	
Theft	-	2011-2012	3 reports	(decrease from previous year)
		2010-2011	6 reports	
Criminal Damage	-	2011-2012	1 reports	(increase from previous year)
		2010-2011	0 reports	
Other	-	2011-2012	0 reports	(decrease from previous year)
		2010-2011	2 reports	

It is good to see that the level of crime remains extremely low in the parish of Newton, in fact the crimes in the last year for Newton only account for 0.44% of all crimes recorded in the Sudbury Sector. You will therefore be pleased to know that you live in one of the safest parishes in one of the safest counties in the UK. From these figures, it is worthy of note that there has been a 50% decrease in the number of theft related offences, showing that people of Newton are becoming more security aware in this area. It is however disappointing to see an increase in Burglary Dwellings. Although one of these have been prevented as the offender entered the premises through poorly secured doors to the property. Criminals often target rural locations that have quick and easy exit routes from the area. It is therefore important that we all make basic crime prevention measures to your home, to help prevent you becoming a victim of crime.

It appears that the extensive crime prevention work The Babergh West Safer Neighbourhood Team carried out with regards to theft from heating oil in the winter of 2010 to 2011 has paid off, as the number of reported crimes relating to theft from heating oil has dramatically reduced this last winter compared to previous year. The Babergh West Safer Neighbourhood team offer of victims of crime, tailored crime

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prevention advice. If you feel that you would benefit from a tailored crime prevention survey for yourself, home, vehicle or business, please do not hesitate to contact the Babergh West Safer neighbourhood team, where we will be happy to arrange this with you.

The Suffolk Police have noticed there is still a high amount of reported crime with relation to theft from catalytic converters and metal across the county. Those vehicles especially affected are Mercedes Sprinter vans and Ford Rangers, due to the ease in which the catalytic converters can be removed and the high value of them. The Suffolk Constabulary is tackling this in a number of ways, including dedicated teams who specifically focus on the prevention and detection of this type of offence. We also hold regular catalytic converter security marking and crime prevention awareness days which are advertised on our website.

It is often difficult to trace the owner of property that is recovered by police unless there are adequate information recorded on our records. The Make, Model and any model or serial numbers are extremely helpful to assist in this. You can improve your chances of getting it your property back if it is lost or stolen by registering it for FREE on a website called www.immobilise.com If you have any information that would be of interest regarding any offences, please let Babergh West SNT know or contact Crimestoppers anonymously.

2012/03 Presentation of Quality Status re-accreditation Certificate

Jayne Cole, Deputy CEO of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, congratulated Newton Parish Council on achieving re-accreditation to the Quality Council scheme. In particular the judges were very impressed that a village of Newton's size still achieves the criteria set for the scheme and with the quality of the portfolio presented by the Clerk to NPC, Dave Crimmin. She presented NPC Chairman, Roy Gardner with the Quality Status certificate.

2012/04 Young people of Newton

Lee Parker updated the councillors with the Yong Persons meeting that preceded the APA. Unfortunately the weather, and possibly the ages of the majority of the village young people, has restricted the numbers attending to 2. Two issues that were highlighted at the meeting was the requirement for a zip wire and a shelter / meeting hub. With the core of young people in the village now aged 13 - 16 Lee Parker felt that NPC would need to look at these and any other options.

2012/05 Suffolk County Councillors Report

James Finch delivered his report.

Council Tax is frozen....again.

There will be no increase in council tax this year. This is the second year in a row that the county council has frozen its share of council tax. These two years of 0% increases follow on from two years which saw record-low increases. This compares with Labour and the Lib Dems, who ran the county council up to 2005. They increased council tax by 40% in their last four years, including their infamous 18.5% increase in 2003.

Front-line services protected in budget savings

Alongside the freeze in council tax, the council voted through a budget for the next 12 months that will achieve savings of £26million – part of a plan to save over £50million over the next two years. We are having to do this as a result of reductions to our grant from the government, together with on-going increases in the demands on our services, and the costs of providing them.

The savings will be achieved by reducing management and back-office costs, cutting bureaucracy and working in new, innovative and more efficient ways. The budget proposals were developed alongside a budget consultation, where the people of Suffolk were asked for their views and their priorities. We listened, and delivered a budget that reflects those priorities – protecting our valued front-line services.

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Extra savings this year

According to figures for the last three months of 2011, the budget savings for 2011/12 – amounting to £42.5million - are well on track to be achieved. Indeed, at a cabinet meeting on 21st February, it was reported that, on top of those savings, an extra £5million is expected to be saved by the end of the financial year, thanks to strong financial management.

Radical changes in Adult and Community Services (ACS)

Much of the additional savings that have been found this year have come from our adult and community services (ACS). The radical changes being delivered by ACS will play a huge part in meeting our savings targets for the next two years while improving the quality of the service. This will also see a significant number of staff leaving ACS over the next 12 months. In total, the number of staff within ACS will be reduced from 3,557 to 895 – a reduction of 2,662. However, this is not because of cuts to services or a reduction in our front-line provision. It is almost entirely because staff are moving to newly-created or other existing organisations which will continue to provide services for the council, such as library staff (nearly 500 staff) and learning disability services staff (again, nearly 500). Crucially, this year will also see the transfer of 1,116 staff working in SCC-run residential care homes to an existing company in the independent sector – again still providing the services. This leaves an actual total of three staff who will be taking voluntary redundancy. These changes have mainly been developed from the bottom up - where staff in individual services have been encouraged to innovate and have initiated the change, as a way of providing a valued service for the benefit of Suffolk residents in a more effective and efficient way.

Driving up standards in Education

This year has seen the completion of phase one of our School Organisation Review - in Lowestoft and Haverhill. From September last year, two-tier education was up and running in these areas. Far from the feared disruption to children's progress, which detractors foretold, 2011's results at Key Stage 2 in these areas were an improvement over 2009 levels - when the process started. Since September, four of the newly-enlarged primary schools have secured "outstanding" assessments from OFSTED. The biggest single challenge for the county still remains improving outcomes overall at Key Stage levels to above the government's national benchmark of 75% of pupils gaining level 4 in both English and Maths. These two indices are closely linked to outcomes at GCSE. Analysis continues to show that converting schools in the three-tier areas to two-tier could produce a gain of between 6% and 8% in outcomes. Meanwhile, the East Anglian Daily Times has kindly offered to run a "Maths Challenge" in its pages, to generate extra interest and aptitude in the subject, both inside and outside the classroom. This will be launched very shortly.

Preparing young people for work

The county council is also focusing its attention on readiness for employment. Too many employers complain that their apprenticeship or employment offers are not taken up, and/or the quality of applications they receive is poor. Literacy, numeracy and attitude to work remain the focus of their concerns. Work is continuing to improve the interface between employers and schools, with offers of mentoring, taster days and development of both new and existing web-based initiatives.

Better Broadband for Suffolk

Following the council's commitment of £10million towards a bid for broadband funding, and a similar amount committed by the government, work towards delivering comprehensive high-speed broadband across Suffolk is developing apace. A procurement process will be taking place to select the company that will do the work. The first aim will be to get the areas with the poorest coverage up to the average. By the middle of 2013, the aim will be for all areas to be up to a minimum standard, with the scope to go much further.

By being in the first wave of counties implementing high-speed broadband, Suffolk can gain a significant competitive edge which will help attract businesses and generate economic growth and new jobs.

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Saving Suffolk's Libraries for the future

Suffolk's libraries have been set on a secure footing for the future, following the decision of the council to move the management of the library network to a new operating model. The Industrial and Provident Society (IPS) is now being established, and will enable us to retain our library network, working in partnership with local communities, while reducing the budget by around 30% over three years, from approximately £9m to £6m. These changes will mean that, while the council faces continuing pressure on its resources, the county's much-valued library service will have the scope to survive and potentially grow in the years ahead.

Achievements in Children's Social Care

The last year has seen the introduction of a new way of delivering children's social care across Suffolk. Amongst the benefits of the new operating model are:

- uniform provision across the county with the ending of three separately-managed (north/west/south) areas
- every new case including over 10,000 police referrals per year, handled by a central multi-discipline access team
- a reduction in management and non-front-line staff
- the integration of Suffolk PCT's Children's Community Health Services (ie health visitors, school nurses etc) into SCC care

An independent review in the last few weeks found the new services generally working well. Meanwhile, OFSTED inspections of Suffolk's adoption service have been very favourable, as indeed have assessments of our five children's homes. Two of these have been assessed as 'Excellent', with the remainder 'Good' - an almost unprecedented outcome for council-run homes.

Review of Council-owned / Government property

The new office building that will be shared by the county council and the police - Landmark House – is due to have staff moving in this July. The project is part of our move to cut down on office accommodation across Suffolk and work more closely with other public sector organisations – saving money and improving the way we work. The Landmark House project is set to save the county council and police a total of £500,000 a year.

This is only one piece in the project, known as the Single Public Sector Estate. In all, there are around 2,500 public sector buildings in Suffolk, and, over the next few years, we will be working with our colleagues across the public sector to reduce this number, to work more closely together and make savings for the Suffolk tax payers.

Household Waste Recycling Centres

Following the decision, last year, to close seven of our council-run household waste and recycling centres (HWRCs), we have now successfully helped local communities set up replacement recycling centres in most of these locations, including Chelmodiston, Brome, Southwold, Newmarket and Beccles.

The sites in Newmarket and Beccles in particular, run by a charity and a commercial business respectively, are now both well-established, sustainable community-based solutions working exceptionally well.

Committed to our Fire and Rescue Service

Despite the current economic pressures, SCC is working tirelessly to maintain high standards of front line delivery in the county's Fire and Rescue Service. First and foremost, in October the new joint fire control centre with Cambridgeshire was set up– an operation which has been hugely successful while delivering significant savings. The last 12 months has also seen a new fire training centre at Wattisham, upgrades to personal uniforms, helmets and breathing apparatus. On top of this, we've had the

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completion of new or refurbished fire stations across Suffolk, as well as developing joint fire and police stations to maintain services in a partnership approach.

Suffolk wins local government ‘Oscar’

SCC has won one of local government’s most prestigious awards, for our project to build an energy-from-waste facility to turn the county’s rubbish into electricity. Judges at the Local Government Chronicle awards ceremony decided the partnership between Suffolk County Council and SITA UK was the best example in the country of a council and a business working together for the benefit of residents. Planning permission was granted in July for the plant to be built at Great Blakenham. Building work is due to start later this year, and it should be ready to open in December 2014. This facility will turn all the non-recyclable waste from Suffolk households that can’t be recycled into electricity. By diverting this waste away from polluting landfill sites, the county council will have a much greener solution for Suffolk’s waste, and will avoid paying ever-increasing amounts of landfill tax. By taking this step, we will be saving Suffolk around £350million over the 25 years of the contract, as well as helping create jobs, both on and off site, representing a considerable boost to the local economy.

Helping people to celebrate the Queen’s diamond jubilee

SCC has decided to waive fees for road closures over the weekend of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, for anyone wishing to arrange a celebratory street party. It’s just been confirmed that there will be no costs for permission to close roads or being supplied with road closure and diversions signs. It is part of the council’s efforts to help Suffolk join in the national celebrations. Last month, the county council announced that it was to be the only council responsible for all street party applications, making the process smoother for organisers of events taking place on Suffolk highways. Now, those considering organising a street party in Suffolk only have to follow a few simple steps to obtain a Special Events Order through the county council’s website or over the phone via Customer Service Direct. To ensure minimal impact on traffic flow, the county council is urging party organisers to consider celebrating in community areas such as recreation grounds, cul-de-sacs and ‘no through roads’.

2012/06 Babergh District Councillors Report

Peter Holbrook gave the following report. Good evening everybody and thank you for inviting me to your annual parish meeting. I’ll try to be brief. We continue to live in challenging times which have an effect on everything we do. I have organised my report under a number of standard headings:

Integration/Transformation Project

After the local poll resulted in the citizens of Babergh voting not to merge with Mid Suffolk, we have instead focussed on integrating the two sets of staff into one team under a single Chief Executive and transforming the way we work in order to maximise savings without sacrificing service. This process is well under way and should be completed later this year. This has made the last year a tough one but hopefully we can see light at the end of the tunnel.

Finance

There is a small increase 3.5% in council tax for the 2012/13 year (about 9p/week for a band D property). We did this in order not to have a large increase next year which we fear other councils will have to do. It also helps us to keep short-term car parking free in Sudbury and Hadleigh. We still have the 2nd lowest council tax in Suffolk (£143.86 for a Band D property) and remain in the lowest 20% of district councils nationally. We still collected 99% of council tax, business rates and housing rents. The Shared Revenues Partnership we started with Mid-Suffolk & Ipswich Councils has proved to be a success, helping to maintain services while at the same time reducing costs.

Housing

The number of new house completions picked up compared with the previous year and we exceeded our target of 100 new affordable homes. The Homelessness Team had a successful year working in partnership with the CAB and managed to prevent some 100 households from becoming homeless by

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providing effective advice and support. We continue to renew worn out council house kitchens and bathrooms, modernising some 170 last year.

We have installed energy-efficient heating systems and other energy saving measures in nearly 200, mainly rural, council-owned homes.

Safety & Health Issues

Good progress has been made towards developing and implementing a night time economy management plan in Sudbury, working in partnership with the Police to ensure a reduction in criminal damage, public disorder and anti-social behaviour offences and hopefully making Sudbury a more attractive place to spend the evening. An Active Play Facility was opened in February at the Kingfisher Leisure Centre and is proving very popular.

These are some of the positive things we have done. However, as I'm sure you're aware, not everything goes as we would wish it, so here are some of the not-so-good things:-

- Although many of you will no doubt be pleased about the impending arrival of Sainsbury in Sudbury, I fear that the store is in the wrong place and will cause gridlock at certain times.
- We missed our targets on getting planning applications dealt with within Government-imposed deadlines.
- The new National Planning Policy Framework is worrying many of us with its presumption in favour of development and the need for each parish to produce a neighbourhood plan if they wish to safeguard their village from unwanted development.
- National Grid is still bent on ruining our countryside with more pylons and we still await publication of their proposed route.
- The Live Music Act 2012 could cause big problems for many of us in de-regulating live amplified music events with an audience of 200 or less. Therefore a pub could, for instance, organise a live music event for an audience of 200 rockers without the licensing authority even being aware of it.
- We face some big challenges on the planning front, in particular regarding Lillyfields and the possibilities of both a gypsy site and a road repair business there. An aspect that may bring some resolution to the issues here is that one of the Babergh councillors on the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Working Group is standing down - and yours truly is due to take his place. No promises though!

As I said, we haven't achieved all that we wanted to but we will keep on trying. Thank you for listening.

2012/07 Chairman's Report

As Chairman I am pleased to give you the Newton Parish Council report for the period April 2011 to March 2012.

The 2011 Parish election was once again contested and the poll resulted in 3 new councillors joining the council - Philip Taylor, Paul Presland and Lee Parker. They replaced Gary Flowers, Peter Haylock and Rebecca Wade who all stood down after 4 years of service. We are very grateful to their contribution during that time.

More unexpected was the departure of Colin Poole who after 9 years on the council, nearly half of them as Chairman, took up the post of Exmouth Town Clerk, the biggest council in Devon. We are all very grateful for Colin's contribution to the council during his tenure and we all wish him well in his new career.

I am especially honoured to have received Newton's re-accreditation as a Quality Parish Council tonight on behalf of all the councillors that have served the council over the past 4 years. Out of nearly 9,500 Town & Parish Councils in England, Newton was the 532nd to receive the award; the 11th in Suffolk. For a small council in terms of electorate, it continues to punch above its weight.

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Your response to the Newton Survey was excellent with nearly 60% of the 220 households letting us know their views on the issues that were raised. The councillors have reviewed the responses and an analysis of the results and, subject to your support this evening, will be adopting the following areas to work on over the next 3 years:

- Additional affordable housing in the village - we shall be meeting with Suffolk Acre at our May meeting in order to undertake a Local Housing Needs Survey. The results of such a survey will let us know what demand there is from residents and their families for additional affordable housing in the village.
- Cars for sale in the layby on the A134 - the Newton Green Trust is already working on a solution that will bring the layby within the existing byelaws of the Green.
- Continue to evolve the engagement with the youth of our village
- Look at running a village cinema
- Increasing the recycling banks within the village
- Continue to work with James Finch in getting a safe haven crossing on the A134
- Give the Newton Green Trust your feedback on the use of the playing field for their review.

As with the previous parish plan, we shall ensure that the NPC minutes and website are updated with the NPC's progress on the areas adopted.

Newton Parish Council met 13 times in the last year. Amongst the many matters upon which our Parish Council is a consultee, we considered 18 planning applications and of those determined by Babergh District Council we have disagreed only on Whisper Wood. We do have concerns over the various planning applications that are being put forward at Lilleyfields. We are ensuring that both our residents and residents in adjoining parishes are kept aware of developments even if Babergh are not engaging with the residents in the area as we would expect. We are very grateful for Babergh District Councillor, Peter Holbrook's support in this matter.

The councillors have decided that, without any real alternative being presented to council, the Village of the Year prize money of £1,500 which was won in 2009, will be used on this year's QDJ celebrations. Along with an extra £1,000 raised by the Precept we hope that you all enjoy the Picnic in the Park on the afternoon of the 2nd June and the Barn Dance on the evening of the 4th June. We hope that you will understand our reasons for increasing our element of the council tax by an average of 9p per week per Newton household. It was good news that National Grid's route for the proposed pylons / undergrounding between Bramford and Twinstead is to follow their existing route from Polstead to Assington so will not disturb the outlook for most of Newton's residents.

We appreciate Suffolk County Councillor, James Finch's continued support of the village with Locality Budget grants for the upgrade to street lights in Plampin Close, funding our special edition of Welcome to Newton later this year and providing more funds to Speed Watch. The Community Speed Watch Scheme has now been running for over two years and with more volunteers stepping forward you will be aware of their presence in the village. I am sure that you like me are very grateful for their time and Alan Vince's work behind the scenes. I would like to thank the Newton Newsletter and Box River News for continuing to publish the minutes from our meetings and the Parish Council events calendar.

There are a number of people who I would like to thank:

- Shirley Taylor and Liza Devlin for the work they do in preparing Christmas parcels
- Harry Buckledee for maintaining the War Memorial .
- Bob Rowland for the job he has done in making the playground area so neat and tidy.
- Sue Presland for her work as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.
- Dawn Bridge and her helpers in running Newton's Good Neighbours scheme.
- The Village Hall Committee for keeping the refurbishment programme on track.

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- Those residents who make sure that the village is cleared of litter, not just those who turned out for the Spring Clean a couple of weeks back, but also those who are picking up litter all year round.

Finally my thanks to the parish councillors for their support during the first year of this new council.

2012/08 Parish Assembly's Newton Green Trust Representative

Lisa Devlin was not able to stand for election this year after 6 years' service. Paul Devlin was unanimously elected as the Parish Assembly's Newton Green Trust representative

2012/09 Questions to Chairman

There were no questions to the Chairman.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

Refreshments were served and the meeting followed a breakout format where the village organisations were able to discuss their year's activities as summarised below.

2012/10 Newton Green Trust

Travellers Probably our most important involvement this year was dealing with the uninvited presence of twelve caravans camping on the playing field. Within minutes of their arrival steps had been taken to remove them. The first plan to achieve this through the courts was felt to be too slow and, following the all-round concerns of the villagers, the more expensive option of the bailiffs was adopted resulting in a successful outcome. The installation of lockable bollards should prevent a repeat of an unwanted visit. Many thanks to those villagers who turned out to clean up the field after the travellers departure.

Finance With the expense of removing the travellers and the necessary security changes, coupled with reduced field hire, outlay has exceeded income this year. Nevertheless, the Trust continues to give financial support to local charities and activities.

The Lay-by The unsightly car sales on the lay-by continue to be both annoying to residents and dangerous to car drivers exiting Rectory Road, Despite collecting and reporting details of the cars for sale there was little support from the Police or Babergh in removing this eyesore. We are still pursuing the possibility of claiming the lay bye as Trust property. Meanwhile signs will be displayed.

Around the Fringes After many years of fruitless discussion with Mr King we have authorized a professional survey of this boundary to determine its exact position. Depending on the results action to restore the boundary will follow. I can report that concern about the splayed entrance to Whisper Wood was followed up by a site meeting with the developer who assured us that there will be no extra development on Trust property. Currently we are reviewing the small licences given to property owners who live adjacent to the Green. Permission has been granted for an extra parking area in Rectory Road and an amended vehicular access to Saracens Cottage.

The Golf Course Our awareness of the safety of walkers and traffic on the Green continues and extra work was carried out on improving the sightlines for golfers playing from the 16th tee. Two of our ponds have been cleaned up, overgrown vegetation removed, and once again are a pleasant sight. Hopefully rain will keep them topped up.

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Tracks Thanks to a very generous gift from Mr. Geoff Walker, we may soon be in the process of contracting for a more permanent bitumen road surface to the track leading to Sackers Green. Work will soon be in hand to repair the potholes in the turn round triangle at the junction between Rectory Road and School Road. The potholes on the little green will also receive attention.

Finally, many thanks to Lee Parker for his fine work as our Clerk. Lee has resigned the post and we welcome Chrisi Donders as his successor.

2012/11 Newton Charities (Plampin and Alston)

Harry Buckledee reported that the funds under deposit as at the 31st December 2011 was valued at £4,514.83 with £300 in the building society.

2012/12 Village Hall Report

Kitchen Refurbishment It has been a busy and satisfying year for the Management Committee as the refurbishment of the kitchen has been finalised and we now have a beautiful new modern kitchen, which will increase greatly the hiring potential of the hall. Grateful thanks from the Committee goes to all those involved in the organising of this and, in particular, to Simon Vince for his expert building skills in completing the work to such a high standard and at a very reasonable cost! On-going is the re-decoration of the hallway and Committee Room.

PA System and Hearing Loop A PA system and hearing loop have been fitted in the hall. These have proved very useful, particularly the hearing loop system to help those hard of hearing. It has been met with grateful thanks from those that need to use it.

Chairs The problem with the chairs continues. A considerable number have the plastic on the backs cracking and splitting again. The Committee Chairman has met with a representative of the supplying company who has promised to investigate the situation. It may be that they have been produced from a faulty batch of plastic or it is a design fault. The Chairman expressed his concern and disappointment at the quality of the chairs and has asked for replacements if that is what is needed to solve the problem.

Chimney The chimney has been repaired following a chimney fire and the Insurers have met the cost.

Fund raising Unfortunately several fund raising events that have been planned over the last year have been cancelled due to lack of support. The Committee have therefore agreed that in view of the forthcoming Olympic and Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, that it would not be organising any events until the Autumn when it is hoped to be able to have another Jazz evening.

Finances A spread sheet of the last 12 months receipts and expenditure is attached. It will be seen that general running and maintenance costs for the hall (e.g. insurances, rates, electricity, etc). totalled just over £8,200. The largest items of expenditure during this last financial year have been approx. £7,000 for the refurbishment of the kitchen and £1,250 for the hearing loop/PA system. We were fortunate to receive a grant of £2,500 towards these costs from Babergh District Council. It is also worth noting that lettings totalled a healthy £6,300 and donations and fund raising a further £1,200.

Finally, looking to future planning, the Committee are hoping to carry out repairs to the exterior of the hall, e.g. re-pointing of brickwork, etc.

2012/13 Parochial Church Council

Lisa Robertson gave the following report. Regular services have continued throughout the year including a lively and enjoyable Family Service once a month and informal prayer meetings every Thursday morning. We have an excellent Priest in Charge in the Revd. Judith Sweetman, I expect most of you have met her at coffee mornings and events in the village hall. Keeping the Church open

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continues to be a challenge with the increased running costs and we are grateful for the volunteers who donate their time and help with cleaning, flower arranging and the general upkeep. More are always welcome.

Our thanks go to Dave Crimmin who has reproduced and donated the new edition of the Church Booklet, which is on sale in the Church. We have recently had our quinquennial inspection and the Church is presently in reasonable order with just a few minor concerns for the immediate future - the rest can wait. Plans are being looked at to install a sound system together with a hearing loop which will be of great benefit to all. Fundraising continues and we are thankful for the support received at these various events and from the Fete Committee. Saturday 5th May is our annual gift day and we look forward to the continued generosity we experience from Newton residents.

2012/14 The Fireside Club

Wendy Turner gave the following report. Our membership is dropping due to members moving away from Newton and health problems. We now have 15 members. We still enjoy our outings especially if food is involved. This year we are supporting local venues Assington tea Rooms, Wheldons Farmshop at Newton, Corn Craft at Monks Eleigh and The Bridge Project in Sudbury.

Our Christmas Lunch at Newton Golf Club was enjoyed by 23 elderly Newton residents and this years Christmas meal is already booked. We opened our Fish and Chip lunch to non members and entertained 12 visitors who enjoyed the fish and chips very much. We hope to repeat this in August and maybe get some more members. As our name indicates we light the fire and this is much appreciated on dull, wet, cold days regardless of the time of year as it is always a cheery sight. The Fireside Club is a cheery group.

2012/15 The Village Fete

Newton Fete 2011 was another very successful occasion. Despite not being blessed with the good weather of previous years, it was well attended by villagers and friends. The theme of Treasure Island captured the imagination and there was a good combination of traditional village stalls supplemented by some welcome new attractions. Donkey rides, the Samboomba Band and the Birds of Prey demonstration proved very popular. As always, the organising committee worked very hard in the preceding months to put on the event and they welcomed the support of villagers who came very early on the morning of the Fete to help erect tents and set up the site. As always, profits from the day were used to support the work of our Parish Church, the Fireside club, the village newsletter and the upkeep of our Village Hall. Newton Fete 2012 will be at the later time of July 14th to avoid clashing with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It will come as no surprise that the theme of 2012 is the Olympic Games.

2012/16 Neighbourhood Watch

We are very fortunate to live in a safe village where neighbours look out for each other, so there are few incidents of crime to report. There has been a series of events in Church Road, which is very embarrassing as this is where I live. During the snowy weather earlier this year there was 2 attempted break ins and neighbours reported strange footprints in the snow. There have also been several attempts to remove catalytic convertors from vehicles in the road. I only discovered these incidents through reports from Police Direct and by seeing a Crime Scene Investigation vehicle in the road. I would really appreciate being informed of any incidents so that I can keep a record and try to follow up with the police. Unfortunately, I have not been able to attend the local NHW Coordinators meetings lately and as a result have had no contact with the police at all this year. I will continue in this role for one more year. If anybody would like to take on this role sooner, I would be happy to step down.

2012/17 Village Newsletter

The magazine, with the generous support of the village, and with the unstinting dedication of its delivery team and other helpers, continues to grow and to thrive, and April 2012 saw the biggest edition ever produced, amounting to twenty A5 size pages. Local businesses continue to use the advertising space available, with new advertisers regularly taking slots. In the past year we have also seen an increase in

Signed..... Dated.....

**Minutes of Newton Annual Parish Assembly
held on Wednesday 25th April 2012 at the Village Hall**

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the number of requests for flyers to be delivered with the magazine, a service offered free of charge to individuals, to non-profit making groups, and to village organisations.

The Village Newsletter is much more than an organ of communication, regularly receiving calls from its readers seeking help and advice on a wide variety of issues, ranging from simple requests for telephone numbers to assistance in locating companies and organisations providing specialised information and services. Our aim remains to continue to provide this important service to the community, ensuring vital communication and encouraging support for the work of the other village organisations.

2012/18 Good Neighbours

After a slow start at its inception, Good Neighbours, in the past year, has become an established part of village life. Requests for assistance have resulted in help being given in transporting people to Sudbury and to hospitals as far afield as Papworth, in sourcing care homes for the elderly, equipment for the disabled, and most notably, following a telephone call at 4am, in providing an immediate visit to an elderly resident living alone. On that occasion, paramedics were called who subsequently summoned an ambulance to transport the patient to hospital.

I am delighted to report that despite the busy lives people live, and despite the difficulties sometimes encountered in finding volunteers available at very short notice, no request has been refused, and none has been beyond the capabilities of the team. The list of volunteers has grown, but because people are not always available, many more are needed and I, therefore, intend including regular requests for more helpers in future editions of The Village Newsletter.

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