



Around the Green

Annual Accounts 2013 / 2014

Receipts

Precept	£9,000.00	
Grants	£457.60	
Recycling	£801.63	
Bank Interest	£9.55	
Other	£3,283.54	
VAT Repayment	£435.57	
		£13,987.89

Payments

Clerks Salary	£2,935.54	
Admin	£1,331.09	
Grants	£665.00	
Annual Subscriptions	£241.83	
Street Lighting	£0.00	
Footpath Maintenance	£300.00	
Insurance	£407.88	
Inspection	£223.00	
Maintenance	£1,542.82	
Village Hall	£1,250.00	
Projects	£1,280.07	
Other	£442.00	
VAT Paid	£379.09	
		£10,998.32

Excess of Receipts over Payments **£2,989.57**

Add Balance Brought Forward £15,220.58

Balance Carried Forward **£18,210.15**

Represented by

Barclays Community	£100.00	
Barclays Premium	£7,015.29	
Barclays Tracker	£11,094.86	
Petty Cash	£0.00	
		£18,210.15

Byelaws

NPC has written to the Secretary of State for the confirmation of its new byelaws and once received, NPC will then advertised the byelaws at four places around the Green. At the NPC meeting in July, councillors will confirm the date following which enforcement of the byelaws will commence.

NPC Meetings

The Parish Council normally holds its meetings on the second Wednesday on alternate months starting in January.

The meetings are held in Newton Village Hall starting at 7.30pm and the schedule for 2014 is:

15th January

12th March

14th May

9th July

10th September

12th November.

The Public and Press are invited to attend with the Public Forum being held at the start of each meeting.

All Newton residents are encouraged to attend.

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on **Wednesday 23rd April.**

For further information please look at the Parish Council page on

newton.onesuffolk.net

Newton Parish Council

Paul Presland (Chairman)	379204
Roy Gardner (Vice Chair)	312346
Lee Parker	376073
Rita Schwenk	210838
Philip Taylor	211265
Alan Vince	373963
Deborah Williams	378437
Clerk Dave Crimmin	375085

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Cragston, Sudbury Road, Newton

Annual Report

Paul Presland gave the Annual Report at the APA in April.

“The last twelve months have been a busy time for the Parish Council with councillors involved in a variety of activities, some of which were expected and some of which were somewhat unexpected. They all brought their challenges and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Councillors and our Clerk for their hard work and their commitment. As always, they undertake their duties diligently and with honesty and integrity. I would also like to thank both James Cartlidge and James Finch for their support and advice during the past twelve months. We really appreciate the work they do for us at a local and regional level and we look forward to maintaining this positive partnership in the coming months. Thankfully, Newton remains relatively crime free although we must never become complacent and must remain vigilant and supportive of one another. To help us in this task we really value the feedback and support we receive from our local PCSOs. Finally, on behalf of all the Councillors, I would like to thank all our villagers for the work they do to make our village such a lovely place to live and work.

We continue to live in times of financial austerity and, like all villagers, the Parish Council has to think very carefully about how to use its limited resources. Last year we set our Precept at £9,000 in an attempt to mirror 2012/13 and avoid any increase. Unfortunately, because of changes in the law regarding Tax Base, this still represented a very small increase. Dave Crimmin manages our accounts very professionally and along with all Parish Council minutes they are published in both the Parish magazine and the Parish Council website. Our finances continue to be audited by Heelis and Lodge and they are very satisfied with the procedures we adopt.

The number of planning applications has remained very similar to previous years and Councillors are always very mindful of the needs of the village and the rules and regulations concerning the planning process. As you are aware, villagers are invited to any Council meeting to discuss proposed planning applications or any other item on the agenda and Councillors welcome that input. Unfortunately, it is somewhat of a rarity to see villagers at these meetings and, therefore, the opportunity to listen to different perspectives is missed. They are not as dull as some of you might think and they are an important opportunity to influence the Councillors decision making process on matters affecting our village.

As previously mentioned, we are privileged to live in Newton with its many green open spaces. I am pleased to report that Gary Flowers has done an excellent job in maintaining the Playground and the surrounding areas near the Village Hall. We plan to undertake some remedial work in the children's playground during the spring and we hope this can be done without too much disruption to people who use this amenity. Last year, we took over the responsibility from BDC to maintain footpaths in Newton and I am sure you will agree that David Gotts regular cutting of the footpaths has resulted in them being far more accessible to villagers. We now have two Owl boxes situated on the edge of the golf course and these will be monitored by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. I understand that we might even get some new residents this summer; let's

keep our fingers crossed. Thank you to villagers who continue to pick up litter throughout the year and to those who turn out on our special Saturdays; Bacon rolls seem to be a good incentive.

The Affordable Housing questionnaire which was circulated to all villagers identified the need for three small dwellings in the village. In response to this finding, the Parish Council liaised with Babergh's Planning Department to review preferred sites. Two possible providers, Orwell Housing and the Hastoe Group we invited to present their ideas. It has been decided to invite the Hastoe Group to approach certain land owners to explore the feasibility of this type of development. Of course there are complex criteria that need to be adhered to and villagers will be kept informed of all developments.

The busy A134 remains a problem for our village. Unfortunately we are not eligible for a Pelican crossing and traffic calming installations do not seem practicable for a number of reasons. In the recent past, a Safe Haven was muted at the junction of Church Road and the A134 but the feelings of some villagers appear to have changed. The issue around the busy A134 needs addressing again and to help facilitate that discussion, the Parish Council intends to circulate a short questionnaire to villagers during this summer.

NGT has confirmed that the Parish Council will manage the Green by the enforcement of the Village Green Byelaws. A proposal to amend the Byelaws has been submitted and the Department of Communities and Local Government has completed its investigation to ensure they are robust, fit for purpose, enforceable and proportionate. NPC will advertise in the local press informing people of its intention and the DCLG will inform our Council of any observations made. Providing our proposal is favourably received in the locality, we will apply to the Secretary of State to have the byelaws confirmed.

Fireworks returned to Newton Green for the first time in 20 years; what a great event it turned out to be! I would like to thank all Councillors and villagers whose hard work made that possible. It is our intention to repeat the display this year and for it to become an annual event. Hot on the heels came the Christmas lighting for the first time. The idea was to encourage villagers along the main road to decorate their gardens with white lights. The Parish Council erected two trees on the edge of the Golf course and adorned them with subtle Christmas lighting! Thank you to everybody involved and I am sure it can become a tradition. The improvement to our sewer system has now been finished and the fields either side of Church Road have been reinstated.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that serving as a member of the Parish Council is a privilege and it is important that we get a cross section of the village represented. As part of our inclusion strategy we are nurturing the Council of the future. Succession planning is very important, and I am extremely pleased to inform you that we now have a Newton Youth Council. It had its inaugural meeting tonight and the full Council looks forward to working with them over the coming months.”