

**Minutes of Newton Annual Parish Assembly
held on Wednesday 24th April 2013 at the Village Hall**

Those Present

- Paul Presland - Parish Council Chairman
- James Finch - Suffolk County Councillor
- PCSO Hemmett - Suffolk Police
- Dave Crimmin - Parish Clerk

19 residents, registered as local government electors in Newton.

Apologies

Alan Vince, David Smalley, John & Shirley Taylor, Dawn Bridge, Rita Schwenk, John Robertson, Carol Langley, Christine Donders, John Turner and Sally Weston.

2013/01 Minutes of Meeting held on 25th April 2012

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

2013/02 Young Assembly

Lee Parker gave the Assembly an update on the Young Persons meeting that preceded the APA. Three young people had attended, Stephanie & William Poole and Sophie Donders, and there was a very good discussion on how the young members of the community can get involved and engaged with the other residents of the village. A number of items were discussed including a stall at the Fete, Facebook page, attending NPC meetings on behalf of the youth of the village and an action plan. Lee Parker is planning to meet the young persons again in the near future to get the plan developed and for this to be discussed with NPC for any necessary support that may be required.

2013/03 Police Report

PCSO Hemmett gave the Police Report. "This report covers the period from 01/4/12 to 01/4/2013. During this time there are 9 crimes recorded relevant to the parish of Newton, this compares to 13 crimes for the same period last year.

BREAKDOWN OF CRIME

Burglary Dwelling	-	2011-2012	2	(Decrease on last year)
		2012-2013	0	
Burglary Other Building	-	2011-2012	1	(Same as last year)
		2012-2013	1	
Vehicle crime	-	2011-2012	3	(Decrease on last year)
		2012-2013	0	
Assaults and public order	-	2011-2012	2	(Decrease on last year)
		2012-2013	0	
Theft	-	2011-2012	3	(Increase on last year)
		2012-2013	6	
Criminal Damage	-	2011-2012	1	(Decrease on last year)
		2012-2013	0	
Other Miscellaneous	-	2011-2012	0	(Decrease on last year)
		2012-2013	2	

One Crime was detected with people being dealt with by cautions, fines or court I am pleased to say that as of Thursday 25th April PC 270 Darren Marshall will be joining the team as will be my counterpart Police Officer.

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

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There has been an increase in Burglary's in and around the Babergh West area this year and we are working hard to reassure the residents with our increased patrols and crime reduction advice surgeries. We still urge all residents to be aware of any suspicious activity and to please call the Police with any information you may have. If you see any suspicious vehicles driving slowly around your area and they seem to be out of place then please try to take down their registration numbers and pass these onto the Police by dialling 101 the non-emergency number, if it is an emergency you are to dial 999.

Please keep your homes and vehicles as secure as possible, make sure all windows and doors are securely locked and if you are going out for the evening, try to leave a light on down stairs and upstairs to give the impression that somebody is home. If you have any information that would be of interest regarding this or any other offences, would like to report or discuss with the police, then please contact the Babergh West SNT (details below) or contact Crimestoppers anonymously.

2013/04 Suffolk County Councillors Report

James Finch delivered his report. *12 months of Achievements at Suffolk County Council - 2012: 2013*

Council Tax is frozen....again.

There will be no increase in council tax this year. This is the third year in a row that the county council has frozen its share of council tax. These three 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.

Raising the Bar' in Education

SCC has launched an ambitious project to drive up educational standards across the county and help ensure young people in Suffolk have the best possible start in life. 'Raising the Bar' was launched last summer with a conference involving secondary school head teachers, colleges and business leaders, aimed at focusing our collective energy into driving up attainment and employability of young people in Suffolk.

At present, in Suffolk, there are 1,600 young people aged between 16 and 18 who are not involved in any form of education, training or work, while over 4,000 18-24 year-olds are unemployed.

At the same time, new and emerging industries are creating a demand for new technical skills, on top of a strong foundation of academic achievement. Locally Copella are leading a local business initiative with schools to inform them of their career opportunities and technical engineering skill requirements on their production lines. 'Raising the Bar' will aim to develop a collective understanding of the key priorities for Suffolk with regard to student attainment; raise awareness of employment opportunities in the Suffolk economy; and provide an opportunity for employers and educationalists to discuss the challenges and develop a clear plan for raising the bar for attainment in Suffolk. Locally Copella are leading a local business initiative with schools locally to inform them of their career opportunities and technical engineering skill requirements.

Positive early signs for School Organisation Review

Schools in areas which were re-organised as part of our Schools Organisation Review saw huge gains last year in SATS results at key stage 2, with up to 19% improvement in some subjects. Those in Haverhill and Lowestoft, which were in the first phase of the move from three to two tiers, which started in 2007, witnessed a 12% improvement in writing and 6% maths – which, in each instance, represents double the improvement rate seen across the rest of Suffolk.

Broadband for everyone in Suffolk is on its way

By 2015, every property in Suffolk will be guaranteed broadband speeds of at least 2 megabits per second (Mbps), with 85% receiving superfast coverage.

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At a special meeting of the cabinet in September, it was announced that the county council would be working in partnership with BT to deliver the Better Broadband for Suffolk programme. By 2015, 9 out of 10 Suffolk properties will be connected to fibre-based broadband, with speeds of at least 10Mbps. Also, the entire Waveney Local Enterprise Zone will have superfast speeds (24Mbps or more) by the end of next year.

A Growth Strategy for Suffolk

In February this year, SCC, together with partners from around the county, launched the Suffolk Growth Strategy. The strategy is designed to create the fertile environment in which the private sector can develop the economic growth, jobs and increased prosperity that Suffolk needs.

The county council has been working with borough and district councils, as well as local businesses from sectors across the Suffolk economy, to produce the strategy, which will now have a detailed delivery timetable for the coming years. At the same time, a new, official, 'Invest in Suffolk' website was launched – an easily-accessible site for businesses looking to invest in the county –

www.investinsuffolk.com. A new 'Inward Investment Service' – made up of a team of professionals to provide a single point of contact for investors was also announced.

Suffolk's Residential care homes to benefit from £60m investment

Proposals developed together with Care UK will see SCC's existing 16 council-run residential homes replaced by ten new state-of-the-art homes. These will deliver the very latest in design and technology, with the aim of providing the best possible care for Suffolk people.

The 16 existing council-run homes were built up to 50 years ago, and the cost to the county council of bringing these up to modern standards would be simply prohibitive.

At the same time, the number of older people in the county aged 75 and over is expected to increase by 85% by 2030 and the number of older people with dementia is expected to increase by 100% in the same period.

As a result, the new facilities, which will see the number of specialist dementia beds increase to 680, represent the best possible way we can continue to support vulnerable older people in the years ahead.

Official Start of construction of Suffolk's energy-from waste facility

In May last year, the official construction got underway of an energy-from-waste facility for Suffolk. After many years in the planning, the site will open in December 2014, diverting 252,000 tonnes of waste a year from environmentally-damaging landfill sites. The waste will be used to create enough electricity for 30,000 homes. Not only will this help towards our mission to make Suffolk the Greenest County, it will also save Suffolk council tax-payers around £350million over the next 25 years.

A secure future for Suffolk's libraries

Responsibility for the day-to-day running of the county's library services was transferred to Suffolk's Libraries Industrial and Provident Society (IPS) at the beginning of August last year.

All Suffolk's 44 libraries and the mobile, school and prison services now come under the direct control of the IPS – a first in the country – which works in partnership with local library groups to support and expand the service.

Highways

I continue to fight for the reduction in vehicle speed in the Stour Valley and not least in Newton. As a result of volume of the traffic on A134 – I have now arranged for the school bus now to turn into Airies Close to collect and drop off the youngsters for school from this close.

Suffolk shows its appreciation of our armed forces

In October, the county council, together with the district and borough councils, community and armed forces leaders signed a Community Covenant – pledging support for all the armed forces and their families who are based in Suffolk.

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

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Part of a national scheme to strengthen the ties between our armed forces and the local communities in which they are based, the Community Covenant re-enforces the strong bonds between the people of Suffolk and the military personnel and their families who live here.

In practical terms, each organisation will look to provide support for the armed forces across a whole range of local services and aspects of their lives, as well as raising public awareness of the issues faced by those who have entered service life.

2013/05 Babergh District Councillors Report

With Peter Holbrook having resigned as the member for the Bures Division the Assembly thanked him for all his help and support over the years in representing Newton.

2013/06 Chairman's Report

Paul Presland delivered the Annual Report on behalf of the Parish Council. "As the relatively new Chair of the Newton Parish Council it gives me great pleasure to present my first and the 120th Chairman's report. Firstly, I would like to thank Councillor Roy Gardener for his work as temporary Chairman after the departure of Colin Poole and for the support he has given me over the past months. The appointment of Deborah Williams meant the Council numbers increased to 7, which is a healthy number when it comes to decision making. The Council has met on 9 occasions this year and, like councillors before them, the new team discharge their duties with responsibility and sensitivity. Our very experienced Clerk, Dave Crimmin, provides us with excellent advice and guidance. Our minutes continue to be posted in our local magazine, in the Box River news and on the Parish website. We gained General Power of Competence status in July and Councillors undertook professional development training in October. We very much appreciate Suffolk County Councillor, James Finch's commitment to our village and are extremely grateful to Babergh District Councillor Peter Holbrook for his loyal service and wish him the very best for his deserved retirement.

As you will recall our Parish survey identified 7 key priorities and they have been regularly discussed at Parish Council meetings throughout the last 12 months.

1. Initial discussions of local affordable local housing needs in Newton began in May 2012 and following your responses to a village questionnaire circulated in September 2012, it was suggested we need 4 small new dwellings. At a meeting of councillors in March 2013, an outline assessment took place with Louise Wilby, Suffolk Rural Housing enabler. At the moment we are at the exploratory stage and I would like to reassure villagers that they will be kept informed of all ideas and developments.
2. Despite a lot of initial enthusiasm about hosting our own Village Cinema, investigations have revealed extremely high set up costs which regrettably leads councillors to the conclusion that it is not a viable proposition.
3. Additional recycling facilities have been set up in the Village Hall car park and appear to be very well used.
4. The perimeter of the Playing field was tidied up and repairs to the children's Play area are near completion. The Trust reviewed the usage of the Playing Fields and did not see any reason to change the current arrangements.
5. The Trust has worked tirelessly to get a satisfactory resolution to the problem of cars being sold in the Layby on the A134. Significant progress has been made but it remains a concern for many villagers.
6. At the Young Persons' meeting last year a request was made for a Zip Wire and a meeting shelter. Regrettably, investigations showed that both requests would not be financially viable.
7. A134 Safe Haven remains on the priority list of Suffolk County Councillor, James Finch.

New road names around the Green have been introduced and, as requested, there is now a bench next to the bus stop.

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A range of planning applications have been considered since the last Annual Assembly and, in the main, Councillors we were reassured by the fact that BDC agreed with many of their recommendations. The uncertainty around Lillyfields has finally been resolved because BDC have stipulated that although the site can be continue to be used by Mr Street, should he leave, the site will revert to agricultural land with no occupancy, permanent or temporary

As we are all aware, Public sector funding continues to be cut back across the board and we had to make hard decisions when deciding the NPC Budget and the Precept for 2013/14. Councillors have agreed an expenditure budget of £10,029 and a Precept of £9,000 for 2013/14. Although were able to keep the Precept to the same amount as the previous year, in real terms it does equate to the average Band D Council Tax household in Newton paying an extra 8p per week due to Government changes to the tax base.

Funding for the upkeep of our footpaths has been delegated to the Parish Council and we have appointed our own contractor to keep footpaths clear so they can be enjoyed by residents. After many years of loyal service maintaining the grounds around the Village Hall and the playground, Bobby Rowland has retired; we thank him very much for his commitment and his professionalism. After going out to tender for his replacement Gary Flowers has been awarded the contract.

The Autumn and Spring clear ups have taken place and I would like to thank those residents who turned out to pick up litter. They worked very hard and thoroughly deserved their bacon rolls. I would also like to thank all those residents who are picking up litter throughout the year, your efforts are noticed and they do make a difference!

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations were a great success and it was lovely to see so many villagers, their families and their friends entering into the spirit of the occasion and thoroughly enjoying themselves. I would like to thank Dawn Bridge for organising the Party in the Park and would like to thank Mike Oliver for making his barn available for the Barn Dance. Despite the cold evening, the Barn Dance was well attended with some people even looking like they knew what they were doing! To mark the occasion, commemorative Jubilee mugs were also distributed to youngsters who requested them.

Finally, I would like to thank all the villagers who do so much for our village. On this occasion I do not want to name individuals; you know who you are. Instead, I would prefer to simply say that without your commitment and enthusiasm Newton would be in danger of losing not only its sense of community but also its heart."

2013/07 Parish Assembly's Newton Green Trust Representative

Paul Devlin was unanimously re-elected as the Parish Assembly's Newton Green Trust representative

2013/08 Newton Green Trust

Roy Gardner gave the report on behalf of the NGT. "By far the most noticeable change to the Green this year has been the resurfacing of the main track. Thanks to a welcome donation we now have a smooth journey across the green. On the matter tracks we are in the process of getting estimates for improvements to the "Saracens Head" car park.

A meeting, a year ago, with the residents of Little Green failed to find a solution to their ongoing concerns regarding the track. The dispute with Mr. King is unresolved, but a regular reminder is sent to him reinforcing our continued concern regarding the boundary along the 12th fairway. Permission was given for extra access /parking to Saracens Cottage and Mr Byham of Rectory Road. Many of the licences issued by the Trust to households crossing the Green have fallen into abeyance. Work is being done to rationalize them.

The Trust continued to give financial support to the following local organizations.

- a) Fireside Club (£300)
- b) The fete to erect a marquee (£50)

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- c) Ropes for the church bells
- d) PCC
- e) The Alston and Plampin Charity
- f) The Poppy Fund
- g) £1000 towards the Jubilee Celebrations
- h) The Village Hall to offset rises in grass cutting.

The lay by problem continues to challenge us. We have established with the Land Registry Office that it is, in fact, our property and unwanted parking is trespass. (unwanted when used to sell cars). There has been some success in that weeks go by with no cars for sale. A meeting with the Golf Club, requested in September, where we hope to raise village membership, is imminent.

Work is in progress to clean up the mess around the pond adjacent to Rectory Road during the time of flooding. We are grateful to George Davey for his help in clearing the flood. We have to welcome Lee Parker as a Trustee. Lee is the representative of the Lord of the Manor and replaces John Taylor who was one of the original signatories to the Trust document 39 years ago. In this time he has been a stalwart of the Trust giving his time and expertise unstintingly. Thank you John."

2013/09 Village Hall

Roy Gardner gave the Village Hall report which covered the:

- Completed kitchen refurbishment
- Toilet renovation
- Plans to replace the main door, repaint outside and to purchase more crockery.

2013/10 Newton Charities (Plampin and Alston)

Harry Buckledee reported that the funds under deposit as at the 31st December 2012 was valued at £5,129 with £321 in the building society.

2013/11 Parochial Church Council

Lisa Robertson gave the following report. "We continue to hold regular services throughout the year. The Family Service is presently replaced by an informal Morning Worship with the hope of having a wider appeal. Revd Judith Sweetman also holds an informal prayer meeting every Thursday morning. Plans for the installation of a sound system and hearing loop are progressing and have now reached the final phase.

Two replacement heaters have recently been installed and these will be much more cost efficient. We are extremely thankful to all who have contributed either financially or in volunteering their time and skills to help in running the Church. We have held a number of fundraising events during the past year, including a very successful wine and quiz evening and are grateful for the support received. Our Annual Gift Day Coffee Morning in the Village Hall will be on Saturday, 4th May and we look forward to welcoming all who can join us."

2013/12 The Fireside Club

Wendy Turner gave the following report. "Since April 2012 we have enjoyed 7 outings, all very good especially Anglesey Abbey and Layer Marney Towers. Last week we visited The Museum of East Anglian Life and Abbott's Hall at Stowmarket which was very interesting and can be recommended. We have eaten a roast lunch in the village hall and two fish and chip meals. Yesterday being one of them when the Fireside catered for 40 villagers. We hope from this success to get new members on Tuesdays for tea, biscuit and a chat.

Our numbers have fallen as Mrs Stock has moved away, Mrs Biggs has been unable to venture out and sadly Agnes Rice and Bill Marshall have died . They will be missed at our meetings. The members thank the Newton Fete and the Newton Trust for their generous contributions to help with our running costs. With the help of these donations we are able to maintain our finances and treat members and

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guests to Christmas lunch at the Newton Golf Club. We were also invited to lunch at Rogers by John and Shirley Taylor, this visit is one of the highlights of our year. This year has not started well with three meetings cancelled because of the cold weather. Hopefully we can now enjoy our Tuesday meetings with the warmer weather.”

2013/13 Art Club

Ann Gardner reported that the club has 9 members that meet every Friday between 1.30pm and 4.30pm. Anybody wish to join should just turn up as the club is wishing to expand.

2013/14 The Village Fete

Paul Presland gave the Fete Report. “As many of you will recall the Fete day dawned with torrential rain that quickly flooded the Playing fields. The committee were faced with the decision whether to abandon the day or move indoors and severely reduce the size of the Fete. In true Corinthian style members decided the elements would not stop the Fete going ahead. Frantic phone calls were made to stall holders and contingency plans were hastily implemented. The Jubilee Gardens, the Village hall and the car park became the focus of the Fete.

Fortified by a hearty breakfast and numerous cups of coffee, the committee and village volunteers rallied round and the Fete was set up in atrocious conditions. When stall holders began to arrive they were greeted by a positive group of volunteers who quickly convinced them that the day could take place and would be successful.

Thankfully the heavy rain abated around lunch time and during the afternoon we only had light drizzle to contend with. Obviously it was impossible for us to have the large rides on site but, remarkably, we had donkey rides, a rifle range and many others on the car park. In the Jubilee gardens, a Jazz band played under leaden skies and dancers risked life and limb by performing on sodden turf. Our plant stall was a great success. Everybody was fortified by burgers and beverage!

Inside the Village Hall a real sense of community quickly developed and, although space was in very short supply, people were thoroughly enjoying themselves. The Tombola sold out in no time and many other stall holders spoke of a ‘good trade’. Before we knew it, the Grand Draw results were being announced and our Olympic themed Fete was drawing to a close. A difficult, damp day it had been! Demoralised we were not; by coming together villagers made Newton Fete a great success. My thanks go to everybody concerned.”

2013/15 Neighbourhood Watch

Sue Presland gave the following report. “Fortunately it has been a relatively quiet year with very few reported incidents. Once again there have been several thefts of heating oil and, with the continued high price of oil; this will continue to be a problem. If possible, you are advised to fit a lock on your tank and I would ask everybody to keep a watchful eye for suspicious vehicles. I often receive information from Suffolk Police and, if I feel it is relevant, I pass it on via email. If you would like to add your email address to my list, please let me know.

To be honest, for the NHW Scheme to be really effective, each street/area needs a coordinator to liaise with their neighbours. I feel that the best I can do is to be available if anybody has any concerns and forward relevant information. I am happy to continue to be the named coordinator as being in a village that belongs to the scheme may reduce your insurance premiums. However, if anybody else would like to take on and develop this role, I am happy pass it on.”

2013/16 Autumn Show

Sue Presland gave the following report. “Despite the dreadful growing conditions, we again had a good number of entries in the fruit, vegetable and flower categories. Competition is increasing year on year and I would like to thank Harry for again judging these exhibits. The craft, cookery and children’s sections were also well supported.

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The show is not run as a profit making event, but the coffee morning and auction of produce did raise just over £100 after expenses. I have donated this to help to provide flowers and floristry incidentals for the church. Next year's show is on Saturday 7th September and schedules will be available at the fete coffee morning and via the newsletter."

2013/17 Village Newsletter

In the absence of Dawn Bridge, who was thanked by the Assembly for producing the high quality Village Newsletter, the Chairman read the report. "The Village Newsletter continues to be well supported and remains Newton's premier channel of communication. Over the past year the magazine has once again grown, with more submissions from individual readers and more regular reports, most notably from the Golf Club and our local Police.

As Newton's dedicated magazine, it supports all the other village organisations, and I'm delighted to report that we have donated a silver trophy to be awarded annually to the winner of the Craft section at Newton's Autumn Show. As always, we welcome letters, news, views, and articles from all our readers – so if anyone has any ideas which they think might be helpful to other people, or that may add to the overall interest of the magazine - or perhaps likes the idea of becoming a regular columnist or a roving reporter - please don't hesitate to contact the editor.

May I take this opportunity to thank the village for its continuing and very generous support - and my grateful thanks to our delivery team - Tony, Carole, Arthur, Marilyn, Joan, and Paul & Sue for all their help. Thank you very much indeed."

2013/18 Good Neighbours

In the absence of Dawn Bridge the Chairman read the report. ""Good Neighbours has quite a lot of volunteers on its list, but due, I believe, to the wonderful community spirit Newton enjoys, the Good Neighbours phone rarely rings. However, we have encountered some difficulty in being asked to provide services that are beyond our remit and our capabilities, not least the expectation of providing regular transport to Papworth Hospital in Cambridgeshire for a heavy wheelchair-bound patient. In that instance, we did the journey a few times, but when it became clear that the situation would be on-going, I explained that we are not insured to offer the service required, and contacted the appropriate organisations to arrange for suitable transport to be organised.

At Age UK's request, Good Neighbours is now affiliated to that worthy organisation, but that in itself brought teething problems, not least in receiving calls from areas outside Newton requesting permanent home helps, carers, etc – again, something beyond Good Neighbours' remit and capabilities. Fortunately a word in the ear of Age UK to reiterate the simple role that Good Neighbours is intended to perform seems to have cured the problem.

I would like to thank all our volunteers for adding their names to the list. For people living alone, it's no doubt good to know that in times of need there's always someone they can contact.

2013/19 Newton Community Award

For their dedication to supporting all events in the village and in particular for their services to the village coffee mornings over the past ten years, Joan Linney and Carol Langley were awarded the inaugural Newton Community Award.

2013/20 Questions to the Chair

Issues were raised on:

- the cleaning of the bus shelters
- cars for sale being parked in the layby
- the use of the track across the Green now that it had been resurfaced.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm when refreshments were served.

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