

**Minutes of Newton Annual Parish Assembly
held on Wednesday 20th April 2016 at the Village Hall**

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Those Present

Sue Crawte	-	Parish Council Vice Chairman
PC Verity Pearson	-	Suffolk Police
Lee Parker	-	Babergh District Councillor
Dave Crimmin	-	Parish Clerk.

16 residents, registered as local government electors in Newton.

The Chairman welcomed both guests and residents to Newton's 123rd Annual Parish Assembly.

Apologies

James Finch (Suffolk County Councillor), Fiona Garman, Dawn Bridge, John Turner, John & Shirley Taylor, Lisa & John Robertson, Paul & Sue Presland and Tony Langley.

2016/01 Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd April 2015

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

2016/02 Police Report

PC Verity Pearson gave the Police Report. "The last 12 months have seen Suffolk Constabulary face some significant challenges. It has been well publicised in the press, and through communications direct to Parishes, that the financial climate had resulted in the need to refocus how we deliver our service across the County. Whilst the economy gave us the push required to redefine the Constabulary, it also allowed every department to examine the work we do day to day and establish our core roles, taking into account the areas of work that cause us and our communities the most threat, risk and harm.

The Suffolk Local Policing Review has now been completed and introduced some fundamental changes that will impact our local communities. The nature of work handled by us, the Safer Neighbourhood Team, is becoming more focussed upon reducing demand to us and other agencies. In order to do this, PCSOs will now have additional specific responsibilities in key areas that will allow them to liaise directly with agencies who are best equipped in the problem area. For example, there will be an officer who concentrates on licensing issues and retail, another will work closely with vulnerable communities and mental health. However, to get the most benefit from these roles, the PCSOs will now only work office based hours, albeit still spread across 7 days. This will of course mean that the monthly Parish meetings will no longer be attended by Police. PCSO Laura Mansell has been allocated as our Parish Council liaison officer, so in addition to her other tasks she will be building relationships with all Parishes within the Sudbury SNT boundary. Whilst we have seen a reduction in the number of PCSOs working on our SNT (10 down to 6), the remaining officers are all part of the former team, versed with great experience, knowledge and expertise on the geography. The 4 Constables that were previously allocated have been reduced, and replaced by 3 new officers, although all three have extensive local knowledge having policed the area at some point in their careers.

The other headlines from the review are that all front desks in the County, bar Ipswich, Bury and Lowestoft, have closed. As a consequence of this, we will no longer deal with lost and found property as there is no legal obligation on the Police to take on this task.

The review has encompassed every area of front line Policing. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure full public awareness, we do appreciate that some of you may not have received the full message. Therefore, if you would like further information, please contact me, Sgt. Matt Paisley by email matthew.paisley@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Aside from the review, in the last quarter of 2015 we saw the introduction of a new crime recording computer system. This follows several years of planning and consultation with other Forces in order for a wider take up across the Country. There have been many positives coming out of this new system, not

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least cross border investigations and arrests. There is, however, one negative for Parishes, and that is the inability for the system to provide us with accurate crime figures for specific Parishes at specific times. It is due to this reason that we are unable to provide yearly crime statistics at this time. A new crime report for Parishes will soon be available (this has been sent to Parish clerks) and this will be populated with accurate, up to date data by our analytical department.”

2016/03 Suffolk County Council Report

James Finch was unable to attend but submitted a report which covered the following subjects:

- SCC freezes General Council Tax for sixth year in a row
- Suffolk schools’ ascent of league tables continues
- Suffolk’s Children’s Services inspected rated Good by Ofsted
- Suffolk’s Better Broadband BDUK programme
- £1bn Devolution Deal announced for East Anglia in the Budget on 16th March.

2016/04 Babergh District Council Report

Lee Parker gave the Babergh District Council report which covered the following:

- New homes being built by Babergh
- The newly introduced Community Infrastructure Levy
- Tourism
- Joint Local Plan of Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils
- Capital Grants that have been given to communities.

2016/05 Chairman’s Report

Sue Crawte delivered the Annual Report on behalf of the Parish Council Chairman, Paul Presland. “As you are aware, two of our long standing and very experienced Councillors, Alan Vince and Roy Gardner decided not to stand for re- election in the May 2015 Local Elections and a third colleague, Deborah Williams, had to step down as she was moving out of the village. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their hard work and commitment. Alan and Roy had served NPC for many years and certainly helped to lead and shape its work during that period. Deborah only served for one year but could be relied upon to ask insightful questions designed to challenge councillors’ thinking.

It was pleasing that the vacancies generated sufficient interest to warrant an election and three new Councillors were elected. They have brought fresh skills and perspectives to the table and the new team has gelled very well together. They are enjoying the challenges of their new roles and, like Councillors before them, they are committed to developing and maintaining high standards of engagement with our community and working for the good of the parish of Newton. They have selflessly discharged their duties with integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness and honesty. On your behalf, I would like to thank them all for their hard work and commitment.

They are supported by our very experienced Clerk, Dave Crimmin. He provides the team with excellent advice, guidance and, when appropriate, clarification on procedural matters. In addition to the help provided by our Clerk, we are indebted to both James Finch, our Suffolk County Council representative and our newly appointed District Councillor, Lee Parker, for the commitment they show to our village. We are fortunate that crime in Newton remains a rarity but, nevertheless, we cannot become complacent and we really appreciate the reports and advice given to us from our community police officers.

The last eleven months has been a very busy time for Councillors and there is little doubt the workload has increased. Agendas are longer and more paperwork needs to be digested and reflected upon. In an attempt to try work smarter and to avoid discussions going on too late into the night, Councillors decided to trial increasing the frequency of meeting. With the exception of August, there is now a NPC meeting at least every month. Villagers will be aware that minutes of every meeting are published on the NPC website and a hard copy appears in the monthly Newton Village Newsletter. Therefore, for the sake of

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time and brevity, the following is a synopsis of the main things that have affected our village over the past months.

Future developments in Newton. We are indebted to all those villagers who attended meetings and responded to questionnaires about the expansion of Newton. The responses gave a clear picture of issues surrounding any future development and there was a clear focus on how our village could expand without losing its very special character. NPC has been liaising with BDC about how best to develop a strategic plan that meets our needs and is affordable. Councillors are very grateful to the villagers who volunteered to work alongside them to formulate the document once the basic framework has been agreed.

Hastoe Housing Association has been working on behalf of NPC to identify and secure land to be used for 4 new affordable dwellings. We are pleased to report that after lengthy negotiations, a possible site has been identified with a local landowner. The final stages of the agreement are now being concluded and once completed [in the next few months], NPC will be in a position to hold a public meeting to review the scheme with villagers.

NPC Byelaws. The recently updated and amended Newton Byelaws seem to be dissuading people from selling vehicles from the layby on the A134. However, vigilance is the watch word and villagers are encouraged to report any suspected illegal selling to our Clerk as soon as possible. Please try to take a picture of the vehicle and the registration number.

Newton Youth Council. Regrettably, the recently formed Council has had to be closed. Membership was very small and with the two main drivers busy with their studies, it became impracticable to continue. Consequently, it will be suspended until such a time that there is sufficient interest. However, the Sports shed still contains some basic equipment that can be used by villagers young and old.

Village amenities. Because the Saracens Head was identified as a valuable village asset by villagers, NPC has lodged a Community Right to Bid, should the pub ever be put up for sale not as an operating public house. A new covered bus shelter has been erected directly opposite the Saracen's Head and it is likely that our other bus shelters will require remedial work in the near future. Remedial work will also take place in the children's play area in the summer. Cllr Crawte conducted a thorough investigation into the feasibility of running a Community cinema but unfortunately, once again it remains too expensive for Newton.

Finance. An Expenditure budget of £11,207.85. was set for 2016/17. The Parish Precept was agreed to be set at £9282.64 Our accounts are audited by Heelis and Lodge.

Planning applications. The number of planning applications has remained fairly consistent with previous years; some have been relatively straight forward, others have been more complex such as the Chilton Woods development and its impact on our village.

Cllrs Bower and Poole are the NPC representatives on the Newton Trust and Cllr Schwenk sits on the Village hall committee. We hope all villagers enjoyed the Christmas tree erected on the approach road to the Golf club. We are grateful to the Newton Trust for allowing the site to be used and for Beverley Faulkner, Landlady of the Saracens Head, for providing the electricity. 10. Fireworks. 7/11/15. Our third event was again successful; after a damp start to the day, conditions improved and the night was dry and not too windy. A good crowd of villagers and friends enjoyed the 20 minute display and I think it is fair to say that the rekindled village tradition is now here to stay! Many thanks to all the villagers who joined the Councillors to make this such a great evening.

Fit-Village Scheme. Nordic Walking in Newton started in May 2015 and initially it was extremely popular. Unfortunately, after the initial enthusiasm had waned, numbers began to dwindle. However, I

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am pleased to report that some villagers have shown the determination and resilience to keep going and they have regularly attended the sessions over the past eleven months.

We have made financial donations to our local church, All Saints to help pay for the upkeep of the churchyard and to the British Legion Poppy appeal. Newton footpaths and grass areas around the village hall. We remain very pleased with the way our footpaths have been maintained this year and also the grassed areas around the Village Hall and we thank both contractors for their efforts. G. Flowers and D. Gotts have been given their contracts for another year. Autumn and Spring Clear ups. These 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! 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.”

2016/06 Newton Green Trust

Russel Bower gave the report on behalf of the NGT. Colin Poole updated residents on the Trust's finances.

2016/07 Parish Assembly's Newton Green Trust Representative

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

2016/08 Village Hall

Alan Vince gave the Village Hall report. “I am pleased to report that the Village Hall has had another successful year. You have in front of you a copy of the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016 from which you will see that our funds have increased by some £2000 over the year. The income from lettings was up from £7500 to £7700, and we were very pleased to receive a donation of £400 from the Fete committee, for which we thank them very much.

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold a Midsummer Munch in 2015 because the Jazz Band was fully booked, but it will take place this year on Sunday 17th July. This is always a popular and very enjoyable afternoon and I would urge you all to buy your tickets early. We may also need to borrow a barbeque, so if anyone has one they could lend us that would be helpful, as would offers to help organise the event. The main reason for the increase in funds was that the cost of maintenance and repairs was considerably less than in recent years. The Village Hall Committee is proud that we have such a lovely venue in a good state of repair, and surrounded by beautiful grounds. We hope that you all appreciate it too and will make good use of it.

Most of our income is derived from organisations from outside the village; we have two dance clubs, the Sudbury Wargames Club, yoga and fitness classes who use the hall regularly. The Hall is a very popular venue for children's parties, but again many of these are from people in surrounding villages – they get to know how nice our village hall is.

From the village we accommodate such events as the Fete, Autumn Show, the Fireside Club, the Art and Craft Club, various council and committee meetings and the coffee mornings which continue to be popular. Apart from these events the people of Newton Green do not make good use of their Village Hall, and it would be good to see it use for more village activities.

One other disappointment was that having decided to try to resurrect the Burns Night suppers which used to be so popular, there was not enough support for it to go ahead and we had to take the decision to cancel it.

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Looking ahead to the coming year, we need to replace the front door, and are considering replacing the upholstered chairs which have not proved to be very satisfactory. We will also need to consider whether some external redecoration is needed.

Finally, I would like to thank the Management Committee for all the efforts they put in, and particularly to Janet Weavers for all her organisational abilities and hard work especially in keeping the garden in good shape.”

2016/09 Newton Charities (Plampin and Alston)

Alan Vince reported that “The Alston and Plampin charities were created in 1564 - some 450 years ago - so the fact that they are still going is quite remarkable. The benefactors gave rent charges over land so that the income could be used for the relief of poverty. The capital has been added to over the years to produce a small annual income, and currently stands at over £6800. A copy of the accounts is provided for your inspection.

Although there is probably little actual poverty in the village in these modern times, the Trustees (myself, Harry Buckledee, John Taylor, and Rev'd Judith Sweetman) have continued the tradition of making small cash gifts at Christmas time to a few of the needier people of the village. Occasionally we are able to help those who have severe health and financial problems. In addition, a donation of £50 has been made to the village Christmas parcel fund set up by the Parish Council and the Trust. These gifts are much appreciated by the recipients; knowing that the village is caring for and thinking of them is very comforting to them. If you are aware of anyone in such circumstances, please let one of us know so that we can help.

Our income is supported by donations and we are always grateful for the £200 given by Newton Green Trust each year. We usually take a collection at this assembly, and last year you contributed £55.40. Perhaps we can match or even improve on that this year, for this very worthwhile cause.”

2016/10 Parochial Church Council

Sue Crawte read the report submitted by Fiona Garman. “We continue to hold regular services throughout the year and Revd Judith Sweetman also holds an informal prayer meeting every Thursday morning at 9.00am. Restoration work to the Church has been completed including replacement stone cross on the east gable of the Church.

We have now installed a speaker in the Nave for occasions when the whole church is used. Discussions regarding toilet facilities are ongoing. Along with the regular coffee mornings and gift day, we plan to hold further fundraising events to help with the upkeep of the Church and we are very grateful to all who have contributed financially or in volunteering their time and skills to the running of the Church.”

2016/11 The Fireside Club

Wendy Turner gave the following report. “Since my last report in 2015 we have maintained our membership of 24 by losing two and gaining two. Finances are steady but the coffee morning in March was down a hundred pounds on the previous year which was disappointing. In the last year we have enjoyed seven outings and six meals out. Three occasions we had lunch cooked for us in the village Hall by our members and twice we have had fish and chips delivered to the village hall from Sudbury.

At our Tuesday meetings, when we are not eating, we have tried carpet bowls and been out to Strikes in Sudbury to play ten pin bowling. In the hall we have played board games, bingo, and beetle. We have puzzled over quizzes and ‘feely bags’. We ran our usual traditional games at the Fête in 2015 and will do the same this year. We are looking forward to our Street Party on June 7th to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday and we hope we will see some of you there.”

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2016/12 Art & Craft Club

Carol Langley reported that the club has now been running for 9 years, has 12 members that meet every Friday between 1.30pm and 4.30pm. At the recent Art Exhibition of £400 was raised for charity. Anybody wishing to join should just turn up.

2016/13 The Village Fete

There is a meeting for this year's Fete at the Saracens Head on Thursday 28th April starting at 8pm. All welcome.

2016/14 Village Newsletter

Sue Crawte gave the report. "They always say, if you want something done, give it to a busy person to do! It is with some trepidation, that I have taken on the role as Editor of the Newton newsletter. I am busy, but I did not want to see the newsletter end. As my father has pointed out, it has been going on for almost 100 years in various formats. I have received lots of good wishes and comments on how people have enjoyed the first issue. I would like to include a lot more local news, so please let me have it. I would also like to feature more on the history of Newton, and you will start to notice an old image of Newton is some form or another on the front page of the newsletter for months to come. If anyone has any photos of Newton, or photos of their houses, or indeed has some stories to tell about Newton or their houses, it would be great to feature those, so please send them on to me.

I am always open to new ideas for articles, so please again, let me know what you want! It is your newsletter.

One suggestion I have already had is a Newton Christmas Card – it may be that I will hold a competition for the best photograph taken and produce and sell these for newsletter fundraising. So please any more ideas, let me know. I am very reliant on people letting me know their news, my dad keeps me mostly up to date, but I may miss some. Drop a note through the door, email me or ring (you will get an answerphone). I want to do my best with the newsletter, because I always strive to do my best and I hope you will enjoy it. I would like to thank Carole and Tony for the collating, stapling, delivering and posting. This takes a huge chunk of work away from me and to be honest, I couldn't do it without them. Thank you. My mother, for doing the admin- sending out invoices and the book keeping. Thank you mother."

2016/15 Neighbourhood Watch

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme continues in the village with Sue Presland as the coordinator.

2016/16 Autumn Show

No report submitted.

2016/17 Nordic Walking

Janet Crimmin updated residents that a Nordic Walking group has operated from the Village Hall on Tuesday evenings for the past year. Anyone interested in joining in should contact her for more details.

2016/18 Newton Community Award

Sue Crawte awarded two Long Service Awards. "We have two awards this evening. One is for Dawn Bridge, who unfortunately is not here to receive her award. Dawn took on the newsletter some 16 years ago, and has worked tirelessly to ensure that you receive some 'village' news, and along with others has produced a great read for us all. On behalf of the village, I would like to thank Dawn for her service to our village.

The other is someone, who has deep rooted ancestry in the village. This person has also worked tirelessly for the benefit of our community in many roles. He has been a trust representative, a parish councillor for many years, as well as running the Plamplin and Alston charities. He also co-ordinates our Community Speedwatch scheme. And at one point, I remember he was nominated to be the dog poo

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warden!! He is our village history recorder, and I know he has a keen interest particularly in family history. He has traced the 'Vince' family back to the 17th century. At one point in the Vince family history, I should imagine a Vince, or relation of a Vince, names such as Marshall and Hayward, lived in the majority of houses in Newton. He has also researched and written a history of Newton Green Golf Club – I found a copy selling on EBay recently. He can tell you an awful lot about Newton, so if you need to know anything about the history of your house (20th Century buildings not included) then ask him. I hope I haven't missed anything out father. Ah yes, chairman of the village hall committee! You've probably guessed by now – and I am extremely proud to give the final Community Award to my father, Alan Vince. Thank you for everything you do Alan for the village."

2016/19 Questions to the Chair

No issues were raised.

The meeting closed at 8.36pm when refreshments were served.

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