

**Minutes of Newton Annual Parish Assembly
held on Wednesday 25th April 2018 at the Village Hall**

Series Page | 117

Those Present

Paul Presland - Parish Council Chairman
Adrian Beckham - Parish Clerk

28 residents present.

The Chairman welcomed residents to Newton's 125th Annual Parish Assembly. Before the meeting was officially opened, Alan Vince was invited to pay tribute to the late Harry Buckledee who, sadly, had recently passed away aged 98. Harry was a much loved and very well respected member of the community who contributed so much to village life over many years.

Apologies

James Finch (Suffolk County Councillor), Lee Parker (Babergh District Councillor), Ben Tawell (Newton Green Golf Club).

2018/01 Minutes of Meeting held on 26th April 2017

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

2018/02 Chairman's Report

1. Councillor Presland opened his report by thanking the Parish Councillors for all their hard work over the last twelve months. He reported that the workload was steadily increasing but the new monthly meeting schedule had meant that agendas were normally completed within a reasonable timescale, normally 9.30pm.

Newton PC's new Clerk was introduced and thanked for his hard work to date.

2. Unfortunately neither County Councillor James Finch or District Councillor Lee Parker were able to present. Their reports were circulated and Councillor Presland guided villagers through the most salient points.

3. New developments. The 8 houses opposite the Saracen's Head were indicative of the fact that our village would be changing in the future. However it will be important that any development reflects and complements the village appearance and ethos.

3a. The proposed affordable housing development is experiencing some environmental issues but both Hastoe and the land owner are committed to the project.

4. The monthly village Newsletter remains an important communication conduit and the Editor, Sue Crawte was thanked for her efforts. Thanks were also offered to her compilation team.

Village amenities.

5.1 The fencing around the children's playground has recently been vandalised but it will be replaced in the coming weeks.

5.2 The village pond had some work done to it by a group of villagers in early April. Volunteers cleared bracken from the edges of a section of the pond, creating a lovely view across the golf course.

5.3 Another fantastic Firework display took place and after 5 successful events, this looks set to stay.

5.4 The village Xmas tree lit up without too many hiccups this year and plans are being explored to find a permanent electricity source.

5.5 Contracts for 2018 have been awarded to David Gotts (footpath cutting,) and to Gary Flowers, (areas around the Village hall)

6. Autumn & Spring village litter picks were well attended and volunteers were thanked for their efforts as were all the people who regularly keep parts of the village litter free.

7. In conclusion, Councillor Presland thanked village volunteers who regularly give up their time to organise events or to attend events. He said that without these volunteers, the village would very quickly lose its identity and lose its heart.

2018/03 Police Report

No Police report submitted.

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

**Minutes of Newton Annual Parish Assembly
held on Wednesday 25th April 2018 at the Village Hall**

2018/04 Suffolk County Council Report – James Finch submitted a written report

In my last year's report I shared our Conservative manifesto setting out our 10 priorities for the next 4 years in Suffolk, focused on our careful management of the council, its services and its finances. We wrote about Conservative values and how we translated them into our vision of how to run a council and why we should for the next 4 years. We pointed to our delivery of 7 years of 0% basic council tax rises but were careful to say we would do all we can to keep council tax bills as low as we can for the next 4 years.

For the county council elections on 4th May, the opposition parties promoted a manifesto of "spend, spend, spend" which was soundly rejected across the area and throughout Suffolk. In all of Suffolk's 75 Divisions, we fought a vigorous campaign and won 52 Divisions pinning Labour back into Ipswich and just two seats outside.

Almost immediately we went into the surprise General Election and our county councillors put on hold their return to normal duties to take an active part in our Suffolk MP's election campaigns, and of course here in South Suffolk, James Cartlidge's re-election. Following that our Suffolk County Council (SCC) group published the corporate 'Our Priorities' document which makes the link between our manifesto and the organisation – ensuring these priorities were reflected in our officers' priorities and action plans.

A few weeks ago, alongside our budget 2018/19 proposals, we published, for the very first time, a business plan for the next year setting out the targets for the improvements we plan to implement, alongside the further budget savings we have to make. Since 2010 we have stripped £256 million out of our annual expenditure. Despite this we still need to save a further £56 million over the next 4 years. However, we will still spend about £500 million on vital services in our community from protecting vulnerable Children, to helping older people and balancing spending on these vital services against the very important function of maintaining our roads. This is over and above the £500 + million that central government allocates for our schools in the county.

This year the county element of the Council Tax (CT) will sadly rise as our SCC councillors reluctantly voted to increase the basic CT by 2.99% at the Council meeting on 9th February 2018. In addition, they applied the National Adult Social Care Precept at 2%. This is sadly very necessary, but the group is ever mindful that its residents who pay these bills with their own hard-earned income. The plans going forward show that we need to save a further £56 million over the next 4 years and in order to do this there are no easy savings or efficiencies left and therefore difficult decisions are having to be discussed. But as Conservatives, our SCC Group will not duck these difficult decisions, determined as we are that delivering a sustainable budget is the cornerstone of providing vital front-line services to the most vulnerable people here in South Suffolk, and indeed throughout Suffolk.

On a personal note as many of you know, I have spent too much time under medical supervision during this last year. Regrettably, as a result of these circumstance, I have stepped back from my role as SCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport. However with your support I do intend to keep my role as your County Councillor for the Stour Valley division. I am pleased to report that at last that I am slowly returning to normal although I predict I will be under the guidance of the specialists at Charing Cross hospital – who are incredible - throughout the year.

2018/05 Babergh District Council Report - Lee Parker submitted a written report.

Babergh District Council has had and continues to face many challenges. However, both officers and councillors are working hard to meet these challenges and to ensure the sustainability and future of our services for our communities.

The provision of affordable homes continues to be a high priority, both nationally and locally. As well as building and acquiring council homes in Babergh for the first time in three decades, we have to date purchased 4 in Sudbury with the Right to Buy receipts. However there is a move away from purchasing street properties to investing receipts into our own developments, purchasing new properties directly from developers and bidding for 106 properties. Innovative ways are being looked at to find solutions to provide housing for the more vulnerable people in our communities as well as ensuring that homelessness is kept to an absolute minimum. The Solo Housing Scheme is one example. Also, ways

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

**Minutes of Newton Annual Parish Assembly
held on Wednesday 25th April 2018 at the Village Hall**

are being reviewed to reduce the number of turnaround days for void properties as well as reducing the number of privately-owned empty properties.

The Council plans to make major investments in Sudbury over the next few years, including Belle Vue old swimming pool site and the house and Hamilton Road. The Council has also recently approved to invest £3.4 million in the Council's Kingfisher Leisure Centre and the swimming pool in Hadleigh. which will provide state of the art modern facilities that meet the need of the community now and for the foreseeable future.

Babergh continues to support the Sudbury By-Pass.

The Council also recently approved gifting Gainsborough Chambers to enable their project to progress to the next stage. It is envisaged that this will add 3 million per year to the local economy as well as creating 60 temporary full-time jobs, 9 permanent full-time jobs and 20 indirect Full-time jobs.

In September last year Babergh moved from their office in Hadleigh to Endeavour House in Ipswich to better join up everything we do together with our partners for the benefit of our communities. This will also save £5.8 million in running costs over the next 10 years. Sudbury now has a fit for purpose Advice Centre where access to advice can be obtained by self-serve, by the Town Council staff or by a call to the Call-Centre.

As well as making savings the Council is also working hard to generate new sources of income through other financial investments. Public consultation on the first stage of the emerging Joint Local Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils took place between 21st August and 10th November 2017. A large number of responses were received, and the Councils are currently preparing the next version of the Plan, which will contain preferred policies and site allocations. It is anticipated that public consultation on this document will take place in the summer.

The Five Year Housing Land Supply position continues to be of concern and the position as at the 1st April 2017 for 2017 to 2022 is 4.1 years for the Core Strategy based supply and 3.1 years for the SHMA based supply.

Detailed public engagement was carried out between December and February regarding the potential to dissolve Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils to replace them with a new single council. This engagement included stakeholder meetings, writing directly to key stakeholders, an online (free text) survey, the ComRes telephone survey and social media / email correspondence. The results of the ComRes survey of 4000 electors was presented to all Councillors yesterday. All the work from the public engagement is informing the development of a draft business case. The results from all the public engagement will also be attached in full to the draft business case. It is intended that once completed the draft business case will be considered and debated by Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Full Council and Cabinet during the spring. Copies of the draft business case will also be sent to each town and parish for comment. We anticipate at this stage that the local poll (referendum) will then be held early summer 2018.

As core funding from Central Government decreases again this financial; year and reduces to zero by 2019/20, we made the very difficult decision to increase our slice of the council tax by 3.25%, equivalent to £3.89 a year for a Band B property. To help protect our most vulnerable households, the council decided that residents most in need will only have to pay 5% of their council tax bill. This is a decrease from the 8.5% that was previously charged.

Last year Council made the decision to call in the Boundary commission to undertake a review of our wards. A revised version is currently out for consultation.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk were recently awarded Silver for the Council of the Year Award and also Silver for the Working Together category.

To conclude the District Councillor's report as referred to at the beginning of this report, we are facing some big challenges and it is critical that all your Councillors work together with officers and together to ensure the best and the right outcomes for our communities.

2018/06 Newton Neighbourhood Planning Team

Barry Coleman and Louise Evers gave a report on the formation of the Neighbourhood Planning Team. They emphasised that they needed input from the villagers. "Its not the Committee writing the plan – It is the Village which will write the plan."

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

**Minutes of Newton Annual Parish Assembly
held on Wednesday 25th April 2018 at the Village Hall**

Series Page | 120

2018/07 Newton Green Trust

Phil Taylor gave the report on behalf of the NGT. Every thing was progressing well, and trees had been removed near the Golf Club. He also noted the fine display of daffodils on the Green planted by the late Harry Buckledee

2018/08 Parish Assembly's Newton Green Trust Representative

Graham Parry was unanimously elected as the Parish Assembly's Newton Green Trust representative.

2018/09 Village Hall

Alan Vince gave the Village Hall report. "I am pleased to report that the Village Hall has had a reasonably successful year. You have in front of you a copy of the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018 from which you will see that our income for the year only just covered the outgoings. The income from lettings was down by about £2000 from the previous year, mainly because we lost two of our regular bookings.

Looking ahead to the coming year we hope to get some of the small repairs done which have been held over from last year. We are also considering whether we can make any permanent improvements to the car park which is in need of some care and attention; but we probably need a very generous benefactor to do that.

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. We have had two very successful joint quiz nights with the PCC, but there seems little interest in trying to put on other fundraising events – unless of course anybody has any good ideas for any such events.

Most of our income is derived from organisations from outside the village; we have a dance club, the Sudbury Wargames Club, and yoga 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 regular events as 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 used for more village activities.

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."

2018/10 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 £8200. 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 have continued the tradition of making small cash gifts at Christmas time to a few of the more needy 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. Gifts of flowers or pot plants are made to those who are sick or needy, or who are in stressful circumstances. 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 to receive these. Several years ago Newton Green Trust resolved to support the Charities with a grant of £200 per annum, but this seems to have been overlooked for the last couple of years. The Parish Council usually donates the profits from its

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

**Minutes of Newton Annual Parish Assembly
held on Wednesday 25th April 2018 at the Village Hall**

coffee morning. We usually take a collection at this assembly, and last year you contributed £31.40. Perhaps we can improve on that this year, for this very worthwhile cause. During the year a new Trustee, Maureen Williams, was appointed to replace Harry Buckledee. Maureen has fitted in very well and has been particularly helpful in delivering flowers and sympathy to those in need. We are of course extremely sorry to hear of Harry's death; a great loss to us all. We are also sorry to learn that the Rev'd Judith Sweetman will be leaving this year and we thank her for her contribution as a Trustee, and wish her and Rufus a long and happy retirement. If or when a new incumbent is appointed they will become an ex officio Trustee.."

2018/11 Newton Golf Club – Ben Tawell submitted a written report

Thank you for inviting me to report at the Newton Green Annual Parish Assembly. I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on the clubs current status and objectives.

At Newton Green we aim to make the golf club a welcoming and safe environment for all members and visitors. In addition we endeavour to maintain the course to the highest standard and attract players at all levels.

In the past year we have seen much progress in meeting these objectives:-

Clubhouse - we have invested in improvements to our clubhouse, with a refurbishment of the club lounge and the introduction of a new caterer. The clubhouse is open to visitors as well as members and with specials available nearly every day, villagers may like to come and try our new offering. In addition, for those who may not be aware our clubhouse is available for hire for private functions.

Clubhouse driveway – following the installation of a block paved driveway, we now have a safer and more appealing entrance to our facilities. The main car park also has clearer parking areas with the introduction of rope barriers. Not only does this help with parking pressures at busier periods, but it also looks more appealing.

Course – our greens staff have worked tirelessly in the past year to produce and maintain a course in fantastic condition and one which regularly receives compliments from visiting players. In addition we benefit from a course which is truly a year round playing surface, and unlike many of our nearby competitors, we are very rarely closed. The snow experienced this winter being an exception. We have reshaped part of our first hole to direct player's balls away from local properties, which has proven to be successful, but we continue to liaise with local residents to monitor this area. The proposed new development at Red House Farm will also require a review of our golf facilities in the neighbouring area and we are working with the property developer to ensure a suitable amicable solution.

Golf membership in general is falling, it is an industry trend. At Newton Green we are fairly steady but as a small club we are always fighting to keep our "end up".

Our future plans include the introduction of an avenue of trees along the main entrance road, adjacent to the 18th hole, on the village green side of course. The caterer will be exploring the possibility of introducing functions which may be of interest to villagers – watch this space!

We are pleased to continue with our ongoing commitments to the village, namely grass cutting of the village playing field, village golf memberships and the use of our clubhouse and catering facility.

As an active member of the Newton Green Trust, we welcome the continued opportunity to work with you to keep this historic facility available and accessible for all to enjoy.

I hope to meet with many of you over the coming year, should you take advantage of village membership or come along and enjoy the facilities of our clubhouse.

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

**Minutes of Newton Annual Parish Assembly
held on Wednesday 25th April 2018 at the Village Hall**

Series Page | 122

2018/12 Fireside Club

Wendy Turner reported:

Since my last report we have sadly lost 3 members , Sally Heather and Ivan . Our active members then numbered 15 which made it difficult to fill a minibus when it came to outings .

We did get to Audley End which we enjoyed very much . In May we nearly went to Southwold but we had transport problems and it was postponed.

On June 21st we celebrated Suffolk Day with a traditional English tea .

The next day we were booked to visit Tropical Wings Butterfly Park which had to be cancelled , it has now closed !

We did go to Assington for tea but it was cold . A successful outing to Dedham Vale in July for lunch and Munnings art gallery for tea .

August we were invited to Lawshall Tuesday club , Twice , we enjoyed Scrooge very much . (They do have a stage !)

Christmas lunch was at the Saracens and we finished 2017 off with a visit to Scotsdales garden centre where they have a very bright Christmas shopping area.

Unfortunately these outings ran at a loss as our numbers were so low . But we did not want to let the regular active members down. Our fortnightly Tuesday meetings have involved scrabble, indoor kurling , quizzes , feely bags, members connections with the U S A , tray quiz ,What are you reading? Chair based excersises , fish and chips and indoor games.

I am pleased to say earlier this year we had a 50% increase in our membership . We welcome our new members and hope they enjoy our meetings and outings and will contribute to the success of the club . This bodes well for the club which in 2018 celebrates its 60th year .

2018/13 Questions to the Chair

No issues were raised.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm when refreshments were served.

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