

**Minutes of Newton Annual Parish Assembly  
held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 held at Newton Village Hall**

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**Those Present**

Paul Presland	-	Parish Council Chairman
James Finch	-	Suffolk County Councillor
Lee Parker	-	Babergh District Councillor
Dave Crimmin	-	Parish Clerk

9 residents, registered as local government electors in Newton.

The Chairman welcomed both guests and residents to Newton's 128<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Assembly.

**2022/01 Apologies**

David Everett and Russel Bower sent their apologies.

**2022/02 Police Report**

No Police report was submitted.

**2022/03 Suffolk County Council Report**

James Finch updated those present on the SCC's year.

**Children's Services & Adult Care at the heart of Suffolk County Council's 2022/23 budget.**

In December 2021, Suffolk County Council outlined how it plans to spend more money on public services in 2022/23.

More money to support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) with an increase of £1.1m in the revenue budget. This follows a review carried out by a team from Lincolnshire, including Lincolnshire County Council and a parent carer network. The review made nine recommendations and they used these to draft an action plan, which can be read online. One of the recommendations made in the review was to work with a third-party organisation to deliver improvements. The council has since secured Impower as a strategic partner, who will bring capacity and extensive experience of working on SEND systems across the country.

There is an £45.1m capital programme agreed in 2020 to create an additional 870 specialist education places over a 5-year period to 2024. At the moment, more than 6,000 children in Suffolk currently have a health and care plan to identify what support they need to help with their special educational needs. The number has nearly doubled from 3,000 in 2014. A further 12,000 pupils have special educational needs and do not require a health and care plan. Currently, there are 2,000 places at either special schools or specialist units for those with more complex needs. We continue to increase the number of places. Children's education and welfare is fundamental.

Extra resources for adults in need of care launches the new Cassius service for an improved home care service. In early June 2021, it was announced that SCC are partnering with Alcove, Rethink Partners and Provide CIC to deliver their innovative care technology service to people in Suffolk over the next 3 years. From July 2021, the Cassius service gave our social work practitioners, occupational therapists and other front line professionals, new ways to support people to live better and independent lives. Initially the service launched with a high impact, targeted range of technology that will continue to grow into the full Cassius collection. This means that the technology can be customised to meet people's needs and to address individual challenges which will help them live independently at home for longer. More details on the Suffolk Website here.

Additional funds to prevent flooding and fix footpaths. In December 2021, the Council committed an extra £20 million over the next three years into further improving Suffolk's highway drainage systems and footpaths.

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In recognition of the increasing maintenance demand on these areas, councillors approved the use of £10 million to specifically deliver an increasing number of drainage schemes that deal with problems that affect larger numbers of people, and a further £10 million to improve footpath quality and access. Under the proposals, the council's budget for 2022-23 would rise by 4.5% (from £598.2 to £625.4m). This additional money is generated by a 2.99% increase in Council Tax, and an increase in grants received from the Government. The proposals were presented for approval by councillors in February.

**Another Year of COVID 19 but with restrictions easing – however still be aware !!**

23rd March 2020 marks the 2nd anniversary of the first lockdown. We have all learnt a lot to manage this prevalent virus and man of us learnt to avoid it. Last year I said “my belief is that there is always good that comes out of bad”. Here is some of the good we have learnt to overcome the unprecedented incident of Coronavirus throughout the year.

- The collection and dissemination of local data and advice to guide the local policy for best practice control.
- The organisation of Home Schooling with the local authority in maintained schools with
- The introduction of “Home but not Alone” free phone line for the lonely.
- The follow up to Test and Trace and now recently totally co-ordinated at the local level since March 2021.
- Local co-ordination of the Vaccination programme with Clinical Commissioning Groups via the Director of Public Health – Stuart Keeble.
- We have all learn to handle the technology to enable on line virtual meetings
- We have saved travelling time and as a result become more productive.
- We should all thank each other for the collaboration that has been achieved.

**Leaders earmarked major investment on road to Covid recovery**

It was announced in late June 2021 that a significant investment of £6.238m was approved to support Suffolk's long-term recovery beyond the Covid-19 pandemic.

Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (SPSL) approved a significant investment of £6.238m towards a range of strategic, community focussed projects and programmes that support efforts in Suffolk's long-term recovery beyond the Covid-19 pandemic. This money will be used to increase the offer for young people and families, to improve access to housing, to help local businesses get back on track, to address the climate emergency commitment and to drive future public engagement plans. This includes - £2.6m to invest in future housing projects, improve literacy levels, identify families most in need of support and strengthen the local care offer for young people.

**99% of pupils receive a preferred primary school on National Offer Day**

In April 2021, 99 % of children were offered a place at one of their parents' three preferred schools and 95% were offered a place at their first preference school.

**State-of-the-art vehicles join Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's fleet**

In May 2021, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service unveiled three new vehicles, packed with the latest technology, to support firefighters at emergency incidents. The Command Support Vehicles will typically be used as a hub at large, complex incidents, from which officers can manage operations and work with other emergency services.

Some of the new features on the vehicles include:

- Dedicated WiFi, enabling officers at the scene to quickly stream and share data, images, footage and plans with colleagues who are based remotely, for example at the Combined Fire Control Room
- LCD display built into the side of the vehicle, allowing officers to share content with other agencies attending an incident, such as live drone footage and plans
- Latest communications and computer technology with access to live information, weather reports, data on substances and chemicals, and direct contact with other agencies and services

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Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has invested £360,000 in the new units, which replace the three existing Command Support Vehicles. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service have also unveiled state-of-the-art rescue vehicles and equipment to provide firefighters with the latest technology for rescues.

**HRH The Duke of Gloucester officially opens The Hold**

On September 15<sup>th</sup> 2021, His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester officially opened The Hold, a new archives and heritage centre on Ipswich's Waterfront. The Duke was given a tour of the £20million building, a partnership between Suffolk County Council and the University of Suffolk, which is home to more than nine centuries of history safely preserved by Suffolk Archives. The Duke was shown treasures from the Suffolk Archives collections spanning 900 years of Suffolk's history, including the oldest document - a Charter of King Henry I granting churches and property to the monks of Eye Priory from around 1119.

**MPs from Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex and County Councillors, unite to protect the countryside and communities from the worst impacts of new pylons and cables**

In October 2021, the Offshore Electricity Grid Task Force (OffSET) was set up to review and respond to the Government's Offshore Network Transmission Review (OTNR). A new group of MPs from across the region, under the chairmanship of Sir Bernard Jenkin, and including County Councillors from the region, has been set up to ensure that the emerging proposals of the Government's Offshore Network Transmission Review (OTNR), and proposals to change the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Planning regime, are effectively scrutinised.

OffSET supports the government's commitment to meet the target of Net Zero by 2050, and the aspiration to deliver 40GW of Offshore Wind, by 2030. However, this will result in a succession of electricity generation and connection projects in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex, over the coming decades, which will have significant impacts on the environment and communities of the region. The group believes that these ambitions and targets cannot be met, on an "at any cost" basis. Therefore, the further development of the onshore transmission system, and the connection of offshore wind farms, and interconnectors, will require a new deal for communities and the environment. It remains a key priority that we speed up the Government's timetable to transition to the offshore transmission system, in order to protect our communities from the damaging effects of multiple cable corridors.

**National Grid informal and Statutory Consultation on the Bramford – Twinstead Reinforcement of the Cables and Pylon connection through South Suffolk and the AONB**

Much time has been spent by many in preparing for these important consultations during 2021 and early 2022. Enough has been said and written. Suffice to say my thanks go to all the work that individuals within the parishes have put into this important consultation for the area and my thanks also go for the support we have all received from the planning and technical team in Suffolk County Council. After much of a battle, I was pleased to have the opportunity of having face to face discussions with the National Grid Team which were most productive.

**Annual Public Health Report focuses on Mental Health impact of Covid-19**

Suffolk County Council, in December 2021, endorsed far-reaching recommendations to improve Suffolk people's mental health and wellbeing. This includes the creation of a dedicated fund of £2.5m and the development of a cross-system group to support community wellbeing in Suffolk. The strains of the Covid-19 pandemic have meant that the issue of mental health has been in the public consciousness like never before. The unprecedented measures required to reduce the spread of the virus, have placed extraordinary pressures, and demands on the whole population, with around 1 in 5 adults in Britain experiencing some form of depression in the first three months of 2021."

**2022/04 Babergh District Council Report**

Lee Parker gave the Babergh District Council report.

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**2022/05 Chairman's Report**

Paul Presland delivered the Annual Report on behalf of the Parish Council. "Life has been extremely busy during the last two years for the NPC. Monthly meetings continued electronically throughout the Covid restrictions which meant Councillors were able to deal with business as usual. I would like to extend my gratitude to Councillors and to our Clerk for their determination to ensure all agenda items were fully discussed even when accessing Zoom was not always easy. Thankfully face to face meetings have now returned and I would like to invite villagers to our meetings to hear Councillors discuss items that affect our village.

**Personnel Changes.**

Dave Crimmin returned to the Council after a short break in service and his extensive knowledge and experience of Clerking is a tremendous asset to the Council. After serving the Parish council for several years, the demands of teaching meant Sue Vince had to resign from her post. On behalf of villagers and Councillors I would like to thank her for giving her time so freely. Two new councillors were co-opted on to the Council. David Everitt and Shona Shipp are already making a significant contribution to the work of the team. All Councillors continue to work incredibly hard to represent the views of villagers and there is no doubt that the volume of preparatory reading has increased significantly. Indebted to our County Councillor, James Finch and our District Councillor Lee Parker, who have supported and provided guidance to villagers and Councillors across a wide range of issues.

**Headline Achievements,**

After 3 years of consulting, writing, planning and redrafting, The Newton Neighbourhood Plan was finally completed in the Spring. It's objective is to help Newton to continue to be a thriving, rural community without losing its essential characteristics. The document has been adopted by Babergh/ MidSuffolk which means its policies have to be considered when any planning proposals are put forward. I would like to express my personal gratitude to everybody in the village involved in producing this very important document.

Refurbished recreation ground. new MUGA, swings and a Forever fitness suite have been installed at a cost of 150k We are very grateful for the significant contribution we received from Babergh/Mid Suffolk that enabled us to provide such excellent facilities for our village and local communities. We hope to add some additional facilities like picnic benches and waste bins and in the coming weeks we will be seeking sponsors for these items.

In preparation for community events which we hope will soon return. power has been installed on the recreation ground. The Council also commissioned the building of a new bridge to the entrance. I hope villagers approve of the new bus shelter and our newly refurbished village sign, carefully crafted by a villager, captures the essence the history of Newton perfectly. In the coming weeks three new defibrillators will be installed in the village making a total of five equally spaced around our community. We will be running training sessions for using these life saving machines in the Autumn.

The Council is acutely aware of the impact of the volume and speed of traffic travelling along the A134. Alas it does not have a magic wand to solve this problem, but it has been liaising closely with Suffolk Highways to help to reduce the speed of vehicles. The new speed activated signs provide us with data and it tells us that with a few exceptions, the speed of traffic is reducing as it travels through Newton. The Council remains committed to improving the infrastructure and amenities in the village and is now producing action plans with Key performance indicators. I am pleased to say that we have met all our targets for the last 12 months and Councillors are now preparing the Village Action Plan for 2022/23."

**2022/06 Newton Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chairman thanked everyone connected with developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Newton, which following a referendum has now been adopted by Babergh District Council.

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

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**2022/07          Newton Green Trust**

Phil Taylor gave the NGT update. "A new clerk, Lisa Tinsley-Thomas, has now taken over from Vivienne Coleman. The task to ensure that easements are in place is nearing completion. He thanked the Golf Club for its maintenance of the Green and the process which allows villagers to play the golf course."

**2022/08          Parish Assembly's Newton Green Trust Representative**

Shona Shipp was unanimously elected as the Parish Assembly's Newton Green Trust representative.

**2022/09          Village Hall**

Alan Vince gave the Village Hall report. "The accounts show an improvement on the previous year when we were closed because of lockdown. Receipts from lettings were £4537 compared to £55 from last year, but that was still less than the £8086 from the year before so we are not yet back to where we were before the pandemic. We did however receive grants of £10,096 from Babergh District Council. The interest received from our deposit account was negligible. Much of the usual annual expenditure continued, and we decided to replace the doors and windows in the extension and to put cladding on the external rendered walls.

However when work was started on this, problems were discovered with the condition of the walls with indications that wet rot had affected the timber. The costs shown in the accounts relate to the purchase of the new doors and windows and cladding. Further investigations and progress with any necessary repairs should start soon. We won't know the full costs until the extent of the deterioration is established. Some new items of furniture etc. have been bought, and we disposed of several of the old chairs which were past their best. We may need to buy some more new chairs in the coming year. The curtains need some refurbishment and new sliding fittings are being installed on the big windows which should make it easier to open and close the curtains. The hooks on the curtains are very rusty so we are looking to have these replaced and the curtains repaired as necessary.

Looking ahead to the coming year, hopefully there will be some return to normality. Bookings are OK but not yet back to pre covid levels. Many of the groups that have regular activities at the Hall have returned; we have lost some but gained a few new ones.

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. Unfortunately age is rapidly creeping up on the members of the committee and I must again repeat the request made last year for some new members to join the committee with a view to being able to take on some of the responsibilities in the next few years. If anyone would like to volunteer to join the committee, or if you know somebody you think might be interested, please let us know."

**2022/10          Newton Charities (Plampin and Alston)**

Sue Presland reported that "The William Alston Charity is traditionally referred to as the Alston and Plampin charities. The charity was created in 1564 and has continued to offer support to villagers in need, those who are sick and the bereaved, ever since.

The benefactors gave rentcharges over land so that 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 £11,442.16 an increase of £1404.42. A copy of the accounts has been provided for inspection. Although there is probably little actual poverty in the village these days, the Trustees have continued the tradition of making small cash gifts at Christmas to a few of the more needy in the village. Occasionally we are able to offer help to those who have severe health and financial difficulties. In addition, a contribution of £50 has again been made towards the Christmas parcel fund set up by the Parish Council and the Trust. Gifts of flowers or pot plants and cards are made to those who are sick or needy or experiencing stressful circumstances. These gifts are much appreciated by the recipients who take comfort in the

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knowledge that the village is there for them and thinking of them. If you aware of anyone in such circumstances please let one of the Trustees know.

Our income is supported by donations and we are always grateful to receive these. Several years, ago Newton Green Trust resolved to support the Charity on an annual basis and in 2021, kindly donated £250. Other streams of donations such as coffee mornings will hopefully recommence later this year. Following my appointed as a Trustee by the Parish Council, my main challenge has been to open a new bank account as the existing one was being phased out. This proved to be a challenging experience and I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their patience in providing seemingly endless information.

The current Trustees are Robert Parker McGee, Sue Presland, Janet Taylor and Maureen Williams.”

**2022/11 Parochial Church Council**

Paul Presland gave the PCC report. Covid has presented very difficult times for the PCC with the Church closed for the best part of 2 years. During the closure, a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Lectern was stolen and has not been recovered. Services have resumed carefully and are held once a month in the Church. He outlined the issues facing the PCC with low numbers of attendees and using reserves at a rate of £10,000 a year which in the medium term is unsustainable.

**2022/12 The Fireside Club**

Sue Presland gave the Fireside Club report.” Due to Covid restrictions the club was unable to meet regularly during 2022/2021. In July 2021, Wendy Turner and Pat Robson retired from the committee and they are thanked for all of their contributions to the running of the club.

A ‘gang of four’ – Marilyn, Moira, Sue and Teresa replaced these stalwarts to continue their good work. Meetings resumed in August 2021 on a fortnightly basis, although there were some longer intervals due to concerns about Covid. Thankfully, we are now running regular fortnightly meetings in the Village Hall with a varied programme of activities. Excursions are yet to resume on a regular basis, but it is hoped that more trips can be planned in the summer months.

The club has a membership of around 30 villagers with a ‘core’ of 20 attending most meetings. We were pleased to welcome a number of new members into the group this year and would be very pleased if any other villagers should wish to join us. You will be assured of a warm welcome along with tea or coffee and excellent cake!”

**2022/13 Community Allotments**

The community allotments scheme has ceased due to a drop in membership.

**2022/15 Questions to the Chair**

The issues of attendance at the APA, Village Green grass cutting, and Wi-Fi at the Village Hall were raised.

**The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.**

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

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**Village Hall Accounts**

**NEWTON VILLAGE HALL  
RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

<u>BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1/4/2021</u>		£	£	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		£	£
Cash at Bank Current A/C			£9,453.24	Insurance		£607.22	
Cash at Bank Deposit A/C		£30,312.37		Rates & Water		£119.48	
Cash in Hand		£83.05	£39,848.66	Electricity		£528.08	
				Cleaning		£875.10	
				Repairs & Maintenance		£9,109.09	
				Sundries		£309.62	
							£11,540.59
<b>RECEIPTS</b>							
Lettings			£4,537.00				
DONATIONS			£55.00				
COUNCIL GRANT			£110,096.00				
FUND RAISING							
Coffee Morning		£0.00	£0.00				
Deposit Account Interest			£12.88				
<b>TOTAL</b>			£54,549.54	<b>TOTAL</b>			£54,549.54

**BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31/3/2022**

Cash at Bank Current A/C	£12,377.85
Cash at Bank Deposit A/C	£30,325.25
Cash in Hand	£280.85
Rent Receivable	£25.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£42,983.95</b>

I have prepared this account from the books and records of the Newton Village Hall Fund, and certify that it is a true record of the fund's transactions

..... *AA J VINCE* ..... **AA J VINCE** : Treasurer ..... *18<sup>th</sup> April* ..... 2022

Audited and found correct ..... *P Shaw* ..... *25<sup>th</sup> April* ..... 2022

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

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Charities Accounts

**NEWTON CHARITIES**  
**ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

An Account of the Alston and Plampin Charities in the Parish of Newton for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, to be presented at the Annual Parish Assembly to be held on ~~28<sup>th</sup> April 2020~~  
*27<sup>th</sup> April 2022*

RECEIPTS			EXPENDITURE	
Balance b/f:			Flowers etc for sick	74.94
Cash	40.07		Christmas Parcels	50.00
Nationwide BS	342.52	382.59	Monies Distributed	250.00
Donation NG Trust		250.00	Cash in hand	45.13
Quarterly dividend COIF		297.11	Natwest Balance	537.14
Interest: Nationwide BS		0.51		
Donation		30.00		
		-----		-----
		957.21		957.21
		-----		-----

The capital of the Charity is represented by 556.18 units in C.O.I.F as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 is £11,422.16

*14<sup>th</sup> April 2022*  
Signed by the Trustees on ~~31<sup>st</sup> March 2021~~

*M. Williams*  
*[Signature]*  
*S.P.*

Countersigned *P.F.P.*

Date: *27/4/22*

Chairman, Newton Parish Council

*Paul Presland*

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