



Parish Council 2021

Roy Barker

Chairman 241045

Nancy Calderbank 240445

Bob Fitch Tree Officer 241727

Arthur Peake 408728

Ian Sadler Broadband 242570

Donia Stick Community Speed Watch 245813

Carol White

Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer 240780

Richard Dewhirst

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Minutes of all Parish Council meetings can be accessed online at [One Suffolk greatashfield.onesuffolk.net/](http://OneSuffolk.net/greatashfield.onesuffolk.net/)

Lord Thurlow Hall Committee Members

Roy Barker

Hon Chairman and Treasurer pro tem 241045

Sue Howes

Hon Secretary 242983

Peggy Elms 408357

Margaret Barrett

Village Hall Draw 259113

Di Barker

Village Hall bookings 241045

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Emma Clay

Please send interesting items or photographs you would like included in the newsletter to the Editor Mandie Beckley at mbeckley@dircon.co.uk

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE:

3rd May 2021

Parish Council Summary Spring 2021



Spring is in the air and the birds are singing. The winter is behind us and a lot of change is underway. The Covid-19 vaccine is being rolled out at maximum speed. I cannot speak too highly of the Woolpit Surgery. They have been at the forefront of this massive vaccination operation in Suffolk. Well done to all concerned, from the doctors, nurses, staff and to volunteers who manned the car park and traffic management, all with a smile on their faces. (No, we could not see the smiles, but we could see by their eyes that it was there!) The light at the end of the tunnel of this pandemic is getting so much brighter it seems.

On the Parish Council front, we have had several Zoom meetings that seem to work well but we have not got to the Handforth Parish Council height of fame and following yet! (www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-55946252)

We welcome Richard Dewhirst to the parish council; this co-option fulfils our allotted number of councillors. I hope he will enjoy it and we are looking forward to working with him. I must thank Carol White, our clerk, for all the hard work and the efficient way she does her job and runs the zoom meetings. The website is looking great. Have you taken a moment to look at it yet? (www.greatashfield.onesuffolk.net)

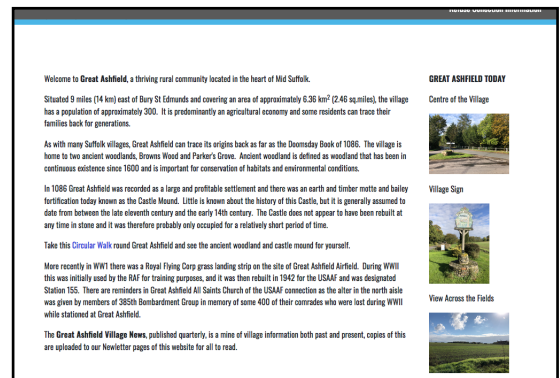
Arthur remains on the parish council and is doing a piece in this Newsletter on the Quiet Lane Scheme. This is the section of single lane road from the Village Hall through Daisy Green to the old Thurlow Arms corner, plus a couple of others.

I would like to thank Mandie for sponsoring the colour printing of the Newsletter. It looks welcoming and positive. However, if any individual or company wants to sponsor an issue, please contact Mandie Beckley our Editor.

Finally, I will say a big thank you once again for all who have been keeping an eye out for their neighbours, our older generation, and the more vulnerable and isolated of our community. Please remember, there is always someone to turn to for help.

Roll on the summer when we can put on some safe and happy events in our GREAT village again.

Roy Barker, Chairman



Village Hall news

Unfortunately, the Village Hall remains closed due to Covid-19 but will be open again as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, maintenance work has been carried out with all windows now replaced (apart from the kitchen) and more internal painting.

With the rolling out of the Covid-19 vaccine programme, hopefully we will be able to revive the usual Village Hall Pub evenings on the first Friday of each month, the Summer BBQ and maybe even a Gin evening? The yoga classes and Dog Training will also return as soon as it is safe.

Sue Howes

Our PC Henriksen

Stefan is our Community Engagement Officer and visits the village frequently.



Amongst other things he provides us with support for Neighbourhood Watch and Speed Watch.

He has asked me to let you all know that he would like people to feel free to approach him if and when they see him here. He would welcome talking with you (properly socially distanced of course!) about any relevant issues, or just as an opportunity to introduce himself.

Donia Stick

Councillor Meyer's musings

It is very encouraging to know that although I am sitting writing this looking at a winter landscape through the window, by the time the newsletter is published spring won't be far away and we will hopefully have Covid-19 on the run. Throughout the latest lock down the Council, officers and staff have been working hard from their remote locations to keep services running and listed below are some of the recent highlights.



New Year, New Homes: Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have invested more than £40m buying 250 new homes for low-income house-hunters. This multi-million-pound investment in social housing will see new properties added to their existing council house stock of more than 6,000 homes, or be made available to buy as shared ownership homes – helping low-income families onto the first rung of the property ladder.

Stowmarket Arts Centre gets major boost: Ambitions for Stowmarket to become a hub for arts and culture took a major step forward today, following Councillors unanimously giving the go-ahead to lease 11 Market Place to the John Peel Centre. After NatWest closed its doors in September 2017, the council purchased the property and secured planning permission to enable the building's use for food and drink, assembly, and leisure.

Go Ahead For Emission-Cutting Fuel Plans: Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils will cut their fleet's carbon emissions by up to 90 per cent. The move follows approval by both councils to switch their vehicle fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO); HVO fuel is produced from sustainable feedstock, including waste cooking oil.

Gateway 14: Gateway 14 Ltd, a MSDC company, has submitted a planning application to Mid Suffolk District Council for the development of a mixed-use business park planned for land adjacent to junction 50 of the A14 in Stowmarket. The land has been allocated primarily for employment uses and its development will provide business, logistics and commercial accommodation, generating thousands of job opportunities and significant investment for the district.

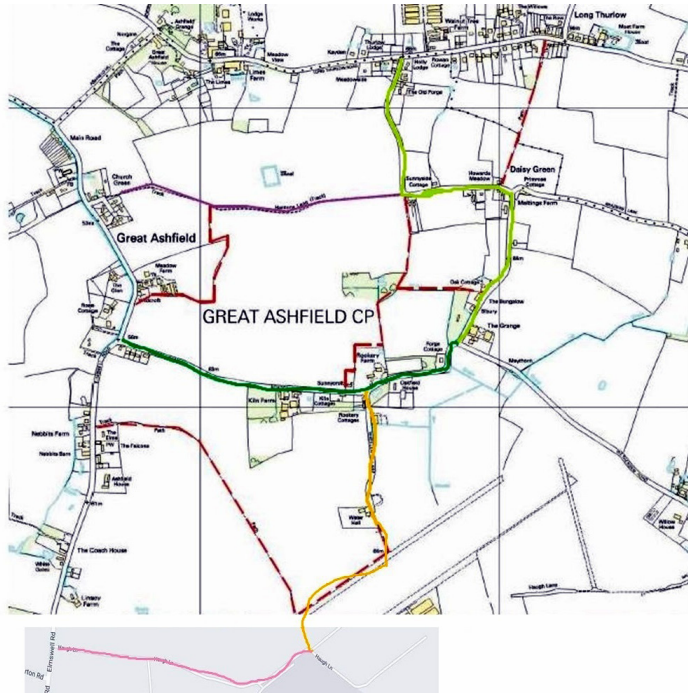
February is the time of year when the Council sets its budget for the coming year and while I am not at liberty to discuss any details contained within it, as it has yet to be approved by full Council, I am pleased to say that MSDC is in robust financial health. As a result, I am confident that over the next year the Council will be able to deliver investment in economic regeneration, support all existing services and continue to invest in its drive to drastically reduce its carbon footprint while restricting council tax increases to very modest levels – more detail next time!

The Census is coming! A Census is taken every 10 years and the information is used to support decision making but the personal data will not be released to the public for 100 years. For the first time this census will be predominantly online. A leaflet will be posted through your door and help will be available via a telephone help line. (See further details in Carol White's article at the top of the back page.)

Rick Meyer Richard.meyer@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Quiet Lanes Project for pedestrian safety

Great Ashfield Parish Council is exploring the opportunities to designate certain roads as 'Quiet Lanes'. These are intended for shared use by walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other road users to enjoy country lanes in greater safety and encourage drivers to 'Expect and Respect' more vulnerable road users. Quiet Lanes can offer the opportunity for increased levels of walking and cycling, which will contribute to Suffolk County Council's (SCC) Public Health aims and its Green Access Strategy.



Key: Dark green = School Road; Light green, Daisy Green, Yellow = Wheelers Lane; Red (bottom) = Haugh Lane/Lea Lane

These types of lanes do not currently impose traffic restrictions and are not enforced. Advisory signs are placed at either end of Quiet Lanes (with repeaters where needed) to show motorised users clearly that the road is a shared space.

To qualify the lanes have to be unclassified without centre white lines. Within Great Ashfield we have identified School Road, Daisy Green (continuing School Road up to Long Thurlow), Wheelers Lane and Lea Lane as being suitable for designation.

These lanes are already popular and they will link with our existing footpaths and bridleways to help ensure that walkers, cyclists and horse riders can use these Quiet Lanes more safely.

This is a county-wide project supported by Suffolk County Council's Suffolk 2020 Fund, the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum and the East Suffolk Community Partnerships. The aim is to create a network of Quiet Lanes, of which over 375 lanes are currently being considered in the county.

This initiative is planned to be zero cost for the Parish Council. There is a specific grant to help with signage costs. District and County councillors have already agreed to top up the grant to meet all expenditure on poles and signs.

Each village household will soon receive a letter and map as part of the official consultation process.

Arthur Peake

Can you help out?

Do you enjoy going out in cold, wet weather? Are you over 5'6" tall and physically able?

On behalf of all of us, for nearly three and a half years (since October 2017), Arthur Peake and Terry and Donia Stick have been caring for the Great Ashfield flashing SID (Speed Indicator Device).

This involves changing and recharging the battery once a fortnight and downloading the data.

They have been trying very hard to find others who are willing to help out with this.

We need to provide them with some support. Could you help?

The more volunteers we have the better. We will be able to put together a rota which will spread the load.

If you are able and willing to help, even if only occasionally, please contact our Parish Clerk Carol White on 01359 780240 or email greatashfieldpc@outlook.com

Roy Barker

Church news

The church continues to be open for private prayer in the Chancel on Sundays between 10am-4pm.

At the moment we do not know what services are going to be happening in the future.

Within the benefice there is a service each Sunday, details of which can be found on website 'Achurchnearyou'.

You can also find locally streamed services and information on any changes in the future on the same website.

Petrina Miles

Be prepared: the 2021 Census is coming

Census Day is Sunday 21st March 2021. The Census is carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and will take place despite the pandemic. The Census is very important because it will give fresh information to help improve understanding of the current pandemic and to make sure that in the future services are available to meet the needs of a changing society.

By law you must complete the Census, if you don't or if you supply false information you could be fined up to £1,000. However, some questions are clearly labelled voluntary and it is not an offence if you choose not to answer these questions.

To make the Census as safe as possible Census 2021 is to be the first Digital Census. Each household will receive a leaflet with an access code from the ONS to encourage as many people as possible to respond online if they can. The Census can be completed using any device, including laptop, mobile phone or tablet.

Households who do not complete a Census Return online will be visited by Census Field Officers from the end of March and into April. Field Officers will be wearing PPE and will be working in line with government guidance. They will NEVER need to enter your house.

For more information go to: <https://census.gov.uk>.

Carol White, Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Village Hall Draw

As we are still unable to hold the Village Pub Nights, we will continue to draw the lottery numbers on a quarterly basis, and to distribute the winnings around the village — from a safe distance!

NOVEMBER:	1st	£25	C. Johnson	No. 119
	2nd	£15	Mr Kemp Smith	No. 184
	3rd	£10	Mr Baalam	No. 106
	4th	£5	A. Johnson	No. 179
DECEMBER:	1st	£25	Andrew Watts	No. 111
	2nd	£15	Jason Turp	No. 98
	3rd	£10	Carol White	No. 188
	4th	£5	J. Livens	No. 170
JANUARY:	1st	£25	Zoe Lawes	No. 25
	2nd	£15	Dr Aung	No. 197
	3rd	£10	M. Bennington	No. 82
	4th	£5	G. Mulley	No. 226
FEBRUARY:	1st	£25	Mrs Halls	No. 107
	2nd	£15	Mr and Mrs Miles	No. 71
	3rd	£10	Brian Barker	No. 117
	4th	£5	J. Bent-Marshall	No. 3

Several residents now pay their subscriptions online. If you would like to do this please contact me at robin@greenbee.net or phone 01359 259113. I am also happy to collect cash, but please contact me so we make secure handover arrangements while maintaining social distancing!

Thank you to everyone for continuing to support Lord Thurlow Hall.

Margaret Barrett

Local pre-school plans to rebuild



Norton Pre-School has started a fundraising project to replace its old portacabin with a new building and is looking for financial assistance.

The children who attend Pre-School come from Norton, Tostock, Pakenham, Badwell Ash, Long Thurlow, Great Ashfield, Hessett, Gedding and Pakenham.

The pre-school offers day care and early education for children aged 2-4 years and provides a breakfast club (8am-8.30am) and after-school club (3pm to 6pm) for children attending Norton CEVC Primary School. Holiday Clubs are run during the school holidays for children aged 2-11 years.

As with all organisations, Pre-School finances have been hit hard with closure and reduced income due to Covid, and the cancellation of planned fundraising events.

Grant funding from various sources is being sought to enable this project to progress as quickly as possible, but processes are slow. The likely cost is in excess of £120,000. If you feel able to donate to the project please contact me. I will be happy to explain the details.

Jillian Rowland, Project Co-ordinator, Tel: 07947 859741

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