



Parish Council 2022

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

07557 530433

Minutes of all Parish Council meetings can be accessed online at One Suffolk 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

Lindsay Pilags

07904 053323

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:

2nd May 2022

Parish Council Summary Spring 2022



Hi, you good people. I am sitting here in the sun on a warm January day, with the sheep in the field to the back of our house. It feels a bit false as Winter is not finished yet. February can have a kick in it, although it is the shortest month of the year, but the garden is moving quickly; Snowdrops and Aconites are poking their little heads out. I am pleased so many of you have said how good it is to have sheep in the village again. They will be moving on soon, however, and the grass left to produce seed for another year.

Things are different in the country from last year. We are learning to live with the threat of Covid, thanks in many ways to the vaccination programme that has been put in place here. Events can be planned with a bit more certainty this summer. Also holidays abroad again.

On the Great Ashfield front, the Parish Council has been working closely with other authorities on what we can do about the traffic situation within the village. Progress is being made, although slowly. Read more within the newsletter.

We have our Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations this year. Many large events have been planned in Suffolk as a whole. In the village we are planning to do an event on the Jubilee Weekend, which is the first one of June. It might be a beacon lighting if weather and the risk to crops allow. The last one we did on the airfield was very enjoyable but at a different time of the year. Watch this space as ideas develop.

Jubilee Tree planting: Bob Fitch and I have been looking for suitable spots within the centre of the village, but we cannot plant where roots will grow into drains and other services, nor plant under overhead wires, among other considerations.

In recent months, there have been many people who have given their time, effort, and money very generously in many aspects of village life. I thank them all very sincerely. This is what makes Ashfield GREAT, and a wonderful place in which to live.

May everyone keep safe and well, and please contact me if you have any concerns on village matters.

I would like to thank the Parish Council for asking me to continue in my role of chair.

Roy Barker, Chairman

Village Defibrillator

What to do in an emergency.

Training for such an event will be given by SARS, at the Lord Thurlow Hall, School Road, IP31 3HN on Saturday 26th March at 10.30am for an hour.

There are limited places available, so **BOOKING A PLACE IS ESSENTIAL**. Sorry, no turning up on the day.

Please contact Di Barker 01359 241045 if you want to attend.

Great Ashfield and Badwell Ash WI

Like me you have probably been keeping your fingers crossed that this year will prove to be a better year than the last two. Unfortunately, we did not get off to a very good start with having to cancel our January meeting, but the committee felt that the health of all our members was extremely important and that we would put them all first.

Our December 2021 meeting had sudden last minute changes due to our speaker not being available at the last hour. But regardless of this we all enjoyed an excellent get together before Christmas with a quiz that caused much laughter and a puzzle and games. All members had a Secret Santa Gift and the Christmas Decoration competition was won by Joyce, who made a beautifully knitted miniature washing line of Santa's clothing. This was auctioned off for our WI funds. The evening finished with delicious refreshments.

Our next meetings – listed below, are to be held in the Lord Thurlow Hall at Great Ashfield at 7.30pm. Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month.

March 10th 2022

We welcome 'Tools with a Mission' – The speaker will tell us how they collect tools to make up kits to enable people to learn a trade and set up business in Zambia.

April 14th 2022

This is an open meeting when we invite members of the public to join us. Our speaker is Stephen Poulter with his talk entitled 'To the Hammer Born – Confessions of an Auctioneer'.

We welcome any new members. We are not a huge group but a very friendly one and we invite you come and see what we are all about. All visitors are welcome to join us at £3 to include a raffle ticket and refreshments.

If you wish to come along and join us and would like any further information please contact Kate on kateasadler01@gmail.com

Councillor Meyer's musings

Many residents may not know that Mid Suffolk Council has been taking an inventory of its 'carbon' emissions since 2018 as we get serious about the Climate Emergency and our target to be 'net zero' by 2030. This does not mean that we will emit no greenhouse gases in the future but rather that emissions from council activities should roughly equal the emissions that are absorbed by natural processes, or are 'offset' by planting, renewables generation or capture.



Our baseline as measured in 2018/19 was 5,800 tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) calculated using Government approved methods, and in 2020/21 it has been reduced to 4,822 tCO₂e. We are on the right trajectory but need to be more. Replacing diesel with hydro-treated vegetable oil (HVO) in the waste fleet has greatly reduced emissions (by about 90%), and the vehicles are now much cleaner and still running very efficiently. HVO is now being introduced in other council vehicles where it is sensible to do so.

It will not surprise you to know that the leisure centres are high energy users due to the need to heat swimming pools and large spaces. As a result, replacing fossil fuel boilers with ground sourced heat pumps (Stowmarket), and adding solar panels to the roofs (both centres) will make a significant impact on their carbon footprints. In addition, 70 solar carports are in the process of being installed at the Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket. The scheme forms part of a £2.8m investment that will provide energy to help run the leisure centre and support several electric vehicle charging points. Mid Suffolk is one of the first rural UK councils to embrace solar car port technology.

So what next? There is much to be done and significant emissions result from fossil fuel fired heating in Council owned or operated buildings, supported housing, and travel. In light of this, we are in the process of switching to a 'low-carbon' electricity tariff for our leisure centres and we are ensuring that this does not include electricity generated from imported biomass, which we feel is not environmentally positive. The transitions for council housing and travel are more challenging and will include building upgrades and greater use of hybrid/electric vehicles. We are also seeking every possible opportunity to install EV charge points across the Council's estate where it makes sense, such as Council car parks.

This article was based on a long piece written by Cllr Jessica Fleming, Mid Suffolk District Council, Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste

Rick Meyer Rick.meyer@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Village Hall Draw results

NOVEMBER	1st	£25	Cathy Hughes-Hallett	No. 50
	2nd	£15	Brian Barker	No. 117
	3rd	£10	Chrissie Charie	No. 218
	4th	£5	Sue Chapman-Hackett	No. 2
DECEMBER	1st	£25	John Brown	No. 55
	2nd	£15	Paul Charie	No. 167
	3rd	£10	D. Matthews	No. 88
	4th	£5	A. Potter	No. 227
JANUARY	1st	£25	Mr Catchlove	No. 223
	2nd	£15	Peggy Elms	No. 44
	3rd	£10	Annie Green	No. 29
	4th	£5	Arthur Peake	No. 237

We are happy to collect cash or cheques for your annual payment (£12), but if you prefer to pay online please contact me at robin@greenbee.net or phone 01359 259113. Thank you for your support of Lord Thurlow Hall.

Margaret Barrett

New solar powered SID for Elmswell Rd

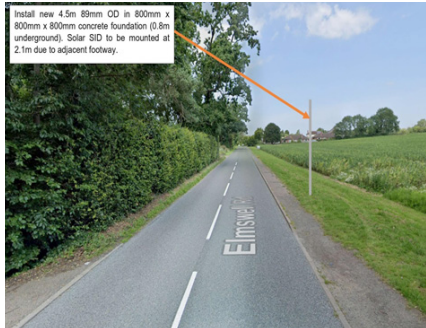
The Parish Council has recently placed an order for a new solar powered SID (speed indicator device) to be located on Elmswell Road.

This new device is the same as those now in use in Stowlangtoft and Badwell Ash and has been funded primarily by locality grants of £750 from our County Councillor, Andy Mellen, and £1,000 from our District Councillor, Rick Meyer. The Parish Council has funded the shortfall plus the cost of installing an appropriate pole on which to mount the device.

The installation and location of the pole must be as specified and agreed with Suffolk County Council Highways Department. The specification for the pole for the solar powered device is that it requires a substantial concrete foundation and the preferred locations at the southern end of the village suggested by the Parish Council were rejected as being too close to the hedge on one side of the road and power cables and a ditch on the other. As a result, the Parish Council have had no alternative but to accept a location considered suitable by Highways at the northern end of the village close to a current mobile SID site.

It is anticipated that the new device will be up and working sometime in March or April.

On behalf of the Parish Council



Village Hall news

The hall is OPEN once again as 'The Village Inn' on the FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH (except August & January) 7.30-10.30pm, where everyone is welcome. We are also planning an event, possibly a BBQ, for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the beginning of June.

Would you like to get involved in village life and get to know people? There are vacancies (due to people moving away from Gt Ashfield) for committee members to join our friendly team. We need additional members to assist in running the hall. We have around four meetings a year. If you would like to come along, please call Roy or Di Barker on 241045.

Dates for your Diary

- Friday 4th March**
Village Inn - 7.30pm
- Friday 1st April**
Village Inn - 7.30pm
- Friday 6th May**
Village Inn - 7.30pm

Sue Howes

TOAD TIMES

Between the end of **February and mid April**, toads all over the country will come out of hibernation and begin their hazardous journey back to their spawning ponds.

Common toads are declining in the UK with thousands of toads being killed on our roads every year, and they really **need our help**.

Toads usually **move after dark** when the temperature is above 6°C on damp evenings.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We have set up patrols in **Badwell Ash and Stowlangtoft**. We welcome **new volunteers** for a couple of hours a week to patrol in teams of two or three. Short training, insurance and answers to all your questions are provided.

If you can help us protect these animals please contact:
Sylvie Fitch: 01359 241727
bob.sylvie@btinternet.com

LOCAL DRIVERS

We need your help too! We put up toad signs with lights on when we are patrolling the roads.

Please take care, **slow down** and look out for our patrollers in the **Hi-Vis jackets**.




froglife

Precept April 2022-March 2023

At a recent meeting the Parish Council reluctantly agreed to increase the Precept from £2,450 in 2021 to £2,700 for 2022, a rise of £250 for the year.

While in these challenging times it is acknowledged that everyone is under financial pressure, this increase is necessary to enable the Parish Council to continue to meet its statutory and administrative obligations, and to cover increases in insurance and electricity costs.

In addition, the Parish Council has also agreed to cover the cost of the annual servicing/maintenance of the new village defibrillator (sited on the front of the village hall).

This increase means a rise of 8.81% per household, which for a Band D property equates to an increase from £16.21 in 2021 to £17.64 for 2022, a rise of £1.43 for the whole year.

On behalf of the Parish Council

Serenity Yoga
SUFFOLK





www.serenityyogasuffolk.com

YOGA CLASSES IN GREAT ASHFIELD

Lord Thurlow Village Hall -
Wednesday 11.30 - 12.30

Lord Thurlow Village Hall -
Thursday 9.30 - 10.30

Our classes are suitable for all, any age or experience. They are always warm, welcoming and friendly. This issue is sponsored by Serenity Yoga Suffolk. We have so many wonderful students from Great Ashfield, however it would be lovely to meet even more of you.

Head online to check out all of our regular weekly sessions and pop up Saturday classes/retreats. **Next pop up session in Great Ashfield is SATURDAY 19th MARCH with 4 yoga classes (9.30/11.30/3) and massages all day.**

Contact: Bethany for more info
07930 199582 serenityyogabethany@outlook.com



All Saints' Church

Rector – Revd Katharine Valentine 01359 235095

Monthly pattern of Worship

First Sunday – 10am Benefice Family@Church
St Mary's Church, Pakenham, breakfast available from 9.30am

Second Sunday – 9.30am Morning Worship

Third Sunday – 11am Family Communion

Fourth Sunday – 9.30am-11.30am Community
Breakfast TOAST

TOAST Community Breakfast – Sunday, 27th February 9.30am-11.30am
Drop in during the morning and enjoy a leisurely start to your Sunday. Bacon rolls, toast with choice of preserves, coffee, tea and juice all available.

TOAST on Mothering Sunday 27th March

We invite families to bring their Mothers and Grandmothers to join us for breakfast along with some activities to celebrate this special day.

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday 29th March

We shall be meeting in the Church at 3 pm.

Visitors are welcome to attend but only those on the electoral roll can vote at the meeting.

EASTER

Good Friday 15 April – Join us at Lord Thurlow Hall to make Floral Crosses before processing to the church for a short service at 2.15 pm suitable for children and adults together. On **Saturday 16th April** we shall be decorating the church. If you would like to help with this please get in touch with Petrina Miles on 259283

Easter Day 17th April

Holy Communion service at 11 am led by Revd. Katherine Valentine.

Church Wardens

Roy Barker 241045

Raymond Mayhew 240741

Details of services held in our church are at www.achurchnearyou.com

The Benefice village and church news magazine is available to read online - www.vcnews.org.uk

ADVANCE NOTICE

Plant and Yard Sale on Saturday 30th April at Limes Farm in aid of All Saints Church.



Petrina Miles

Roy Clarke

24.02.1935 - 09.12.2021

Roy entertained us with tales of his exploits of schooldays growing up in the village when the American 8th Army (later the USA Air Force) were on the airfield, of his time in Hong Kong on National Service

Roy also told us how to grow amazing vegetables. He never grew the biggest pumpkin, but he enjoyed trying! One year he did, however, win the overall championship award with the heaviest marrow ever brought to Pumpkin Night.

Year after year, he won firsts for the quality and presentation of his mixed vegetables. His display of rosettes from the annual show decorated his garage for years and gave him and June immense pleasure.



How Roy ever reached 86 years old is a wonder when you hear of the things he and his friends did. Once, during a morning playtime at Great Ashfield School (now the village hall) word went around that "Roy Clarke has a bomb!". Apparently finding it in a ditch behind the school, Roy had taken it to the outside toilets to let it off.

Everyone raced to the boys' toilets in anticipation, bodies pressed in tight to witness the explosion. There are several ideas as to whether it was a smoke or incendiary bomb, but lit by Roy's match, it went off with a 'wumph' and he duly emerged, amid all the smoke, black with soot and minus eyebrows, lashes, and some hair. He judged it best to go straight home but had to face his furious mother.

Our condolences go to his widow, June, to Russell, Sally, David, Louise, and their families, in their loss.

*Produced for Great Ashfield Parish Council by Mandie Beckley
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Village sign update

The village sign was removed because the oak was rotten at the base and dangerous. We have been donated some replacement oak to rebuild a new one similar.

The sign itself is badly faded so we obtained a quote to repaint it. This came back at £1,600+ so we are obtaining a further quote. At present this sum is unaffordable.

If we are unable to get the sign repainted we will re-erect the upright of the sign and clean and put up the sign again.

We all miss seeing it being there.

Dog waste problem

There is an increasing problem locally of dog walkers either not picking up after their dogs or leaving the poo bags somewhere on their walk – often hanging from the branches of hedges or trees.

Please be considerate of others walking the paths and either take the bags home or dispose of them in the bins provided.

