



### 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://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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Please send interesting items or photographs you would like included in the newsletter to the Editor Mandie Beckley at [mbeckley@dircon.co.uk](mailto:mbeckley@dircon.co.uk)

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE:**

2nd August 2021

## Parish Council Summary Summer 2021



I'm sitting here writing my report for the summer village newsletter in my winter clothes. It is wet, windy and cold outside, whereas last year at this time it was hot and sunny, but that is the British weather for you!

If we are following Boris Johnson's road map, as most people are doing, there is an air of expectancy among us, but we must be patient and not let our guard down, or things will get worse again. Being aware of 'Hands, Faces and Spaces' is still

especially relevant.

Time is getting closer for more active community events to be allowed, which we can enjoy. One of the first will be the July Pub Night and BBQ on the first Friday of July at the Lord Thurlow Hall. We will make sure there is plenty of good food and an ample supply of drink, so come along and introduce yourselves if you moved into Great Ashfield in the last 12 months.

On the Parish Council front, we have held several Zoom meetings to carry out the significant duties relating to the parish. The council has been, and still is, endeavouring to reduce speeding vehicles through the village and assessing the HGV traffic that is using our roads as 'rat runs'. The Community Speed Watch has a section within this magazine, as has Arthur on the Quiet Lane Initiative that we hope to implement. When we can use the village hall again, without too many restrictions, we have invited the Managing Director of Portable Space to come and discuss their HGV traffic, which uses our narrow lanes to access and exit their depot at Red House, Bacton. You will all be informed when we have a date.



Street lighting and general lighting has and will be discussed at future meetings. We do not want to upgrade the streetlights if the community in that area is not in favour. The positioning of the lights goes back to the 50s and 60s, when more residents were walking in the dark to events in the village hall, chapel and church, and visiting friends and neighbours.

I would like to repeat my thanks to the Woolpit Surgery and their band of helpers, who have continued to set the bar high during this pandemic. We could not have had a more professional practice in place to look after us all. Thank you sincerely.

The Parish Council is still proactive despite Covid and the restraints it has placed on us.

Please keep well and safe in these strange times and contact me if you have any concerns on village matters.

*Roy Barker, Chairman*

## Village Hall news

At last the Village Hall was able to open again from the 17th May with limited numbers of people allowed inside with social distancing.

The Serenity yoga classes will be on Wednesdays at 11.30am and Thursdays at 9.30am. The dog training classes and other events will return as well, details to be confirmed.

The first possible event could be the Summer BBQ on Friday 2nd July, which is always held outside anyway. The Village Hall Pub evenings could then start again on Friday 3rd September if the easing of Lockdown goes to plan.

*Sue Howes*

## Great Ashfield & Badwell Ash WI

Well, that has been the strangest year and one we won't forget for a very long time!

We have kept in touch with all our members via our monthly newsletter, which it is now emailed out rather than being handed out at meetings.

We managed to have two garden meetings back in August and September. It was lovely to enjoy the beautiful gardens and to finally catch up with everyone.

We finally got to grips with Zoom in January, starting out with our Committee meetings and then had full meetings in February, March and April with speakers.

In normal times we meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in Lord Thurlow Hall and hope to resume this, possibly in August. In May, June and July we are planning on meeting outside, starting with May 20th at 2pm on Badwell Ash playing field.

If you would be interested in joining us for one of our outside meetings please contact Kate on [kateasadler01@gmail.com](mailto:kateasadler01@gmail.com). We are a very friendly group!

*Kate Sadler*

## Councillor Meyer's musings

Since my last article, the grip of the pandemic has receded and normality is tantalisingly close. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the UK will have opened up and we will once again be able to mix freely.

Life at Mid Suffolk Council has also started to change and teams, hastily constructed to handle the pandemic, are being disbanded and council staff are returning to their normal functions. I know I have mentioned it before, but we should not forget the herculean effort your Council officers have made to ensure help during the pandemic has been available to those who need it. Examples include: their efforts to dispense tens of millions of pounds of grants on behalf of the government and their support for the fantastic community response we have seen to care for the vulnerable in our society.

We should also acknowledge the part played by support staff who have been instrumental in keeping Council operations flowing relatively freely, often under intense pressure; at one point over 3,500 users were successfully working remotely using the IT systems within Endeavour House! To all Council staff I would like to say a huge thank you for a job well done.

During the pandemic change was forced upon us and many of the modifications adopted have been found to be highly beneficial; for example, the flexibility offered by remote working which saves both time and money. As a result, the Council is now acting to capture as many of the positive changes that have been introduced over the last year as we return to normality.

A similar process is no doubt happening across our region as businesses adapt to a different environment to the one they operated in a year ago. This post Covid recovery phase received a big boost in the Council's Budget



*The atrium, Endeavour House*

when it was not only able to maintain all existing services at pre Covid levels despite a fall in revenue and increased costs, but had the reserves necessary to enable it to inject an additional £4m to support Mid Suffolk's pandemic recovery.

In addition to the Council's efforts to support Covid recovery, economic outlook within Mid Suffolk recently got another considerable boost when confirmation was received that the Freeport East bid by Felixstowe and Harwich, which includes the Mid Suffolk Gateway 14 Project, had been successful. The new status offers significant tax advantages and the Gateway 14 site has already seen an increase in enquiries from potential occupiers, keen to profit from the significant benefits that being a Freeport will bring.

I believe that, as we start to leave Covid 19 restrictions behind us, hopefully never to return, we can be very positive in the short, medium, and long-term over the economic outlook for our District and Suffolk as a whole. The challenge is to ensure that the financial benefits that result from developments such as Gateway 14 reach all in society, especially those who suffered the greatest financial impact during the lock downs we have experienced over recent months.

This is a challenge your District Council takes very seriously and the additional £4m of spending available this year will allow us to target specific areas within the economy, housing, and our communities, to ensure we all share in the advantages of living in such a wonderful place

*Rick Meyer [Richard.meyer@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.meyer@midsuffolk.gov.uk)*



## Can you help SARS keep the service going?

Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS) is an emergency medical charity, based in Woolpit and operating in Suffolk. Volunteer SARS clinicians carry equipment and drugs not normally found on frontline ambulances and provide immediate and advanced medical care to patients with serious or life-threatening conditions.



Since SARS started in 1972 it has helped treat thousands of patients and saved countless lives. The charity receives no central government funding and relies on voluntary fundraising to maintain its activity.

The last 12 months have been a really challenging time but the amazing volunteer SARS clinicians gave over 6,000 hours of advanced prehospital medical care throughout Suffolk in 2020. They were called out to over 100 locations across the county, including callouts in your local area – all of this during a pandemic.

There are many ways you can get involved and help support SARS. Please take a look on the SARS website [www.sars999.org.uk/get-involved/](http://www.sars999.org.uk/get-involved/)

Thank you!

## Community Speed Watch news

During lockdown we had been forbidden by the Police from running any Community Speed Watch (CSW) sessions. Following on from the end of lockdown, we were given permission to restart.

Since 26th April the team has completed 21 one hour sessions, 11 of those on Elmswell Road (shown as GA in the table below) and 10 on the section of Long Thurlow Road which lies within the boundary of Great Ashfield Parish (shown as LT in the table).

The table below shows that during that time 2,921 vehicles passed by our teams, 2,061 on Elmswell Road and 860 on Long Thurlow Road. Of these 34 vehicles were exceeding the speed limit, 28 on Elmswell Road and 6 on Long Thurlow Road. Subsequently these (highlighted in yellow) were reported to the Police. Of those one vehicle was reported twice.

We are extremely grateful to the people who give up their time to take part in these sessions. The results represent the outcome of 63 hours of work which has been done voluntarily in order to support our residents.

If you would like to join them please email [donia.stick@gmail.com](mailto:donia.stick@gmail.com)

M	M	T	T	W	W	Th	F	F	T	T
AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	AM	PM	AM	PM
26	26	27	27	28	28	29	30	30	4	4
GA	LT	LT	GA	GA	LT	GA	LT	GA	GA	LT
170	69	104	201	165	78	213	91	219	160	79
0	0	0	4	1	2	1	1	4	1	0

W	W	Th	Th	F	F	T	T	TH	F
AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	PM	PM
5	5	6	6	7	7	11	11	13	14
GA	LT	LT	GA	LT	GA	LT	GA	GA	LT
213	80	103	198	88	167	87	217	138	81
5	0	0	5	1	3	1	3	2	1

## Obituaries

June Tyte of Holly Lodge, Westley Way, and John Brown of Main Road. Both were very hard workers and both moved into their homes in 1966, so had spent 55 years in our village – or nearly in it, in the case of June. Many people will remember June's floristry business and those with equine interests may have met her during the years she gave to the Thurston Riding Club. Girl Guiding and the Silver Ash Club in Badwell Ash and Great Ashfield were both supported to the hilt by June, and we owe her a real debt of gratitude for all she gave to the people of this area during her life.



John Brown, who died on Easter Day, was another person who gave so much in a quiet but purposeful way. Much of his working life was at John Rannoch's Foods Ltd, at Haughley Park, where he was a friend to many. Outside work, he enjoyed playing and coaching football, often stepping in at the last minute if teams were short. During the 1970s he was involved with the Youth Club at the Lord Thurlow Hall and was one of the faithful band of Parish News deliverers, as well as regularly litter picking through the village. Both John Brown and June Tyte leave large holes in the fabric of their families – and also in the foundation of our village.



We offer Keith Tyte and Mary Brown, and both their families, our sincere condolences.

*Di Barker*

## Great Ashfield Neighbourhood Watch

Keep in touch with what is happening via WhatsApp and email.

Contact [greatashfieldnews@gmail.com](mailto:greatashfieldnews@gmail.com) or see <http://greatashfield.onesuffolk.net/neighbourhood-watch/>

# Street lighting and light pollution

One of the responsibilities of the Parish Council is to maintain and fund the street lighting in Great Ashfield. This is funded out of the Parish Precept.

There are currently seven streetlights in the village, five of these are on Elmswell Road, one in the Cul-de-Sac off Elmswell Road and one is outside the Village Hall on School Road. The Parish Council has recently been advised that these streetlights are nearing the end of their useful life. The type of lamp in these lights can no longer be sourced, so a quotation has been obtained for the upgrading of the streetlights to enable the use of LED lamps. The approximate cost to upgrade and/or refurbish each light is in the region of £700. Obviously this is a substantial cost which is unaffordable without a significant increase in the Parish Precept over the next few years.

It is recognised of course that streetlights serve an essential purpose, particularly in winter, ensuring that residents can negotiate footpaths safely and providing reassurance for those walking alone. However, in the current circumstances the Parish Council needs to take action so we need to canvas the opinion of residents as to whether all these street lights are necessary, or if, when they fail, they could be removed and not replaced.

If you wish to comment on this please contact one of your Councillors direct or email the Parish Council on [greatashfieldpc@outlook.com](mailto:greatashfieldpc@outlook.com) or contact details are on our village website <http://greatashfield.onesuffolk.net/home/your-councillors>

In addition, the question of light pollution in the village and surrounding area has been raised by a resident, and we are all urged to consider our own outside lighting. In Great Ashfield we live in an area where night skies are generally quite dark and we have the rare privilege of watching nocturnal wildlife, stars and the night sky without the interruption of extraneous light. This is one of the advantages of living in a small rural community but we have received comments that this privilege is being eroded by the glare of street lighting. In addition many properties now have bright white lights which switch on automatically at dusk. Some of these remain on all night, some remain on throughout the day as well.

We know that light pollution can be detrimental to human health, wildlife and the environment, and that switching off or dimming unnecessary lighting could be of benefit, including financial benefit, to everyone. Something, perhaps, for us all to think about?

*Carol White, Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer*

## Village Hall Draw

<b>MARCH:</b>	<b>1st</b>	£25	Glen Turner	No. 229
	<b>2nd</b>	£15	James Rawlings	No. 76
	<b>3rd</b>	£10	Sue Chapman-Hacket	No. 2
	<b>4th</b>	£5	Mr Barrow	No. 171
<b>APRIL:</b>	<b>1st</b>	£25	Reg Emerick	No: 225
	<b>2nd</b>	£15	Emma Clay	No: 213
	<b>3rd</b>	£10	A Johnson	No: 179
	<b>4th</b>	£5	Mrs Harrod	No: 61
<b>MAY:</b>	<b>1st</b>	£25	Sue and Bryn Ager	No: 192
	<b>2nd</b>	£15	J Livens	No: 170
	<b>3rd</b>	£10	I Walshe	No: 108
	<b>4th</b>	£5	Kate Sadler	No: 17

We are still happy to collect cash or cheques for your annual payment (currently £12) but if you would like to pay online please contact me at [robin@greenbee.net](mailto:robin@greenbee.net) or phone 01359 259113. Thank you for your continued support of Lord Thurlow Hall.

*Margaret Barrett*

## Quiet Lanes Project update May 2021

The consultation letter was distributed in March and feedback closed before the Parish Council meeting on 22nd April. Thanks to everyone who made the time to provide responses. The majority of those responses were in favour of proceeding with the initiative.



The signage and costings have been confirmed to the QLS project team and they will arrange formal public notification via press and public notices. The notices on the routes will be going up around 24th May. This starts a wider consultation by Suffolk Highways that runs to 14th June.

If approved by Suffolk Highways, then formal designation and signage should be completed by the end of July.

*Arthur Peake*

## Church news

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

Within the benefice there is a service each Sunday and one midweek, details of which can be found on the website 'Achurch-nearyou', where you can also find other streamed services along with information on any changes in the future.

Thank you to those who came and supported the plant stall at The Limes, which raised the sum of £285 for church funds.

*Petrina Miles*

*Produced for Great Ashfield Parish Council by Mandie Beckley  
Printed by Profile Business Supplies,  
Bury St Edmunds  
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