Great Bradley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council held on 16th March 2022 at 7.30pm

Present

P. Spires (Chairperson), H. Bennett, A. F. Sugg, West Suffolk Cllr. P. Stevens (part), Two members of the public were present.

**Open Forum for Items not on the Agenda**

Two members of the public requested permission from the council to hold a hand-fastening ceremony on the recreational ground during May/June next year followed by reception in the village hall. This would be a small gathering and cars would be parked at the hall. Cllr. Stevens had no objections and Council Members agreed.

Item

1 **Co-option of Councillor**

Cllr. Crawford returned to the council, papers to be signed by Clerk at the next meeting.

2 **Apologies for Absence**

Clerk P Lewis was unable to attend and permission from Cllr. Stevens had been sought to go ahead without a parish clerk and had been agreed.

3 **Receive Councillors Declarations of Interest regarding any agenda item**

 None

4 **Forum – 10 minutes is set aside for members of the public to raise any village matter on the agenda**

 None

5 **Minutes and confirmation of payments approved at meeting 19 January 2022**

*Deferred to next meeting*

6 **Matters arising from those minutes:**

*Deferred to next meeting*

7 **West Suffolk Council – report from Cllr Peter Stevens**

 Cllr. Bennett raised the issue of continual flooding in The Street. Cllr. Stevens to write to drainage dept to request inspection.

 The update of the ‘Local Plan’ stated that there were no plans for any housing development in Great Bradley.

 Charles Ryder (CR) had raised concern over the proposed extensions planned for Highpoint Prison with regards to the increase of traffic into Newmarket. He said they operate a 3 shift system and the quickest route is to come through Great Bradley, even though we are not a registered route. We need litigation. The proposal is for a 4 story high building and Cllr. Crawford raised concern over light pollution.

 Cllr. Stevens said he was not yet on the development committee but will raise issues.

 With the enhanced budget for next year Cllr. Stevens hopes to be able to contribute at least ½ the cost of the new notice boards.

CR has invited Little Bradley residents and also Mr Clifton-Brown to attend the lighting of the beacon for the Jubilee Celebration – no objection from the Council.

 Cllr. Sugg asked if there was any information regarding the proposed solar panel installation of approximately 2,800 acres on the outskirts of Newmarket by Sunnica?

 There is to be an official protest on 20th March 2022 at Mildenhall with Matt Hancock (MP) in attendance. The plans which include a huge battery storage area are deemed to be of National interest.

7.1 The Parish Council thanked Cllr. Stevens for the grant for notice boards, the price of which has risen due to increased costs of materials.

 Cllr. Sugg asked if the bench could soon be removed from the village shed? Cllr. Spires said that Penny Lewis, PC, is waiting to hear from CR re installing the bench and transferring the plaque from the old bench to be transferred to the new one.

8 **Suffolk County Council – report from Councillor Bobby Bennett**

*Deferred to next Meeting*

9 **Highways**

 There is unfortunately no budget from B. Bennett (Police) for the Auto-Speed-watch Equipment. Cllr Spires said that there may be savings to be made re The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations as CR is hosting the Beacon Event and grants maybe forthcoming. As the Parish Council had initially budgeted £2,500 for Jubilee Celebrations, any savings could perhaps be used to purchase the equipment.

 NB Parish Council would need to budget for annual subscription charge.

10 **Public Footpaths**

 Hedge at Hareview still overgrown – no update.

11 **Speed-watch Group**

 No update.

12 **Planning – any applications received to date and any shown on the West Suffolk Council website up to the date of this meeting**

 None

13 **Correspondence – any received to date**

 Cllrs Bennett and Sugg offered to help with refreshments at the barn on Thursday’s jubilee celebration if needed. No help required at present.

 Peter Smith’s grandson ‘Ollie’ has agreed to play ‘Majesty’ on the bugle at 9.40 on Thursday evening prior to the lighting of the beacon.

13.1 Email received from Charles and Alice Ryder who have agreed to judge the children’s contributions to the time capsule competition. Clerk P. Lewis to announce activities on Thursday 2nd June in the Bugle and as host CR to put out an invitation to the Beacon Lighting event in the May edition.

 Cllr. Spires has agreed to light the beacon so that it will be in full flame at 9.45pm

13.2 Trophies have been purchased for all the competitions (artwork and puddings) which include consolatory medals for children entries.

13.3 Email from Robert Cameron – official application for tree planting at Mill Farm to go ahead.

14 **Recreation Area**

 Steve George’s ‘Sleep Out’ taking place this weekend to raise funds for
The Royal British Legion.

14.1 Cllr Bennett reported that the playing field looked a mess with tall grass growing around equipment. We only have 3 cuts per year at present and Councillors agreed to increase budget to facilitate more, probably double. Clerk P. Lewis to be asked to write to Robin.

15 **Deposit of Historical Minutes in Suffolk Archive**

 Discussion and council agreed.

16 **Annual Village Meeting – 27 April. Event planning/to approve agenda**

*Deferred*

17 **Village Hall**

 An Inventory of hall items is underway along with a reassessment of storage facilities. Peter Smith has repaired the bookcase and bowls cupboard and tables should no longer be placed on the cupboard top. He sent a proposed plan to VH Committee to adapt the storage cupboard in the disabled toilet to accommodate the tables. VH Committee to discuss at next meeting.

18 **Village Newsletter (Bugle)**

 Council agreed to go ahead with digitalisation.

19 **Finance**

*Deferred*

20 **Project List**

 Queens Green Canopy – Waiting to hear back from Mr Vesty with regards to planting 7 silver birch trees on the recreation ground. Cllr. Spires has sourced an official green plaque with metal legs at a cost of £129. A waterproof case (time capsule) is to be kept in the church for the children’s contributions. Also looking at the possibility of having an official adult’s capsule.

20.1 Request from allotment holder for parish council to plant fruit trees at the allotment. Discussion followed and council agreed to ask Clerk to speak to JB as to who will maintain them and will the public have access to harvest the fruit?

21 **Village Events**

 Village hog roast booked – vegetarian option requirements must be pre-booked.

 Alison McClosky to ask Bradley Buddies to organise children’s games.

 Raye has agreed to do children’s face painting.

21.1 Village litter pick to take place on 20th March. Cllr. Sugg and Anne Smith to provide refreshments.

22 **Dates of next meetings:** 27th April (Annual Village Meeting), Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, 22nd June (approve accounts 2021/2022), 21 September, 23rd November (pre-budget planning meeting)

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.27pm.