**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th March 2015 at the Village Hall

**Present**:

Councillors: Simon Kiddy (Chairman), Karina Joyce (Vice-Chairman), Helen Bennett, Nicky Pizey,
Anne Smith, Pat Spires, Rowan Sylvester-Bradley. Also County Councillor Mary Evans (part) and Clerk John Barnett.

**Open Forum:**

Nothing raised.

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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| 1 | **Apologies for absence:**None |  |
| 2 | **Councillors Declarations of Interest in any item on the agenda:**Councillor Joyce declared a personal interest in the planning application at Pond House. |  |
| 3 | **Minutes of the last meeting:**The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council on 21st January 2015 were approved and signed together with the cheques approved at that meeting.  |  |
| 4 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**1. Garden area. Two replacement plants still being sought. No replies to the Bugle article asking for someone to maintain the garden. Councillor Bennett said she could do the weeding and tidying up for now if there was nobody else to do it. Councillor Pizey said she knew someone who came from Thurlow who might be interested and will speak to him.
2. Living Willow structure. This has been planted and the lower stems have had to have protective collars put on as deer were already nibbling at them. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley wondered whether future maintenance had been decided but it was decided to let the structure settle in first and then see what was required.
3. Councillor Smith said that Mr Ryder's seat in the Glade was creaking somewhat.
4. Councillor Kiddy asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Russo for the excellent new seat.
5. Village Sign. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that the post should be ordered and delivered so that its measurements are known precisely before ordering the socket to fit. The hole for the sign should have shingle at the base for drainage and the socket should be concreted in ensuring the internal dimensions are kept clear for the post. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley has provided quotes and Councillor Pizey felt that her husband would not be cheaper than those. In that event it was agreed to go with the Milton Precision Engineering quote for a 4mm stainless steel socket at £225. The post is to be ordered first and once actual dimensions are known the socket can be ordered.
6. Village Hall manhole covers. Clerk reported that he had asked for a quote on the manholes. However, the Clerk said that when he examined the actual chambers himself they appeared to be intact. Therefore, the quote may only have to be for 2 heavy duty covers and frames.
7. New VAS (Vehicular Activated Sign). The 3 posts positions have been marked out by Highways and installation awaited.
 | HBNPClerkClerkRSBClerk |
| 5 | **Suffolk Police:**Police report received which states 'theft of a freezer which was insecure in a rear garden over 21/22 February'. Also there have been thefts from motor vehicles in Thurlow and Withersfield. |  |
| 6 | **Suffolk County Council:**County Councillor Mary Evans said there is now a new person in charge of the VAS. She will chase the order to see when delivery is due. Council Tax at Suffolk County Council has been frozen for a further year. At the forthcoming Parish Conference the new VAS unit will be there for demonstration.  |   |
| 7 | **Highways matters:**Nothing raised. |  |
| 8 | **Planning applications:**1. DC/15/0045/HH The Wrens, Matthews Lane amended plans. Clerk explained that Parish Councils do not receive paper plans for amendments and that the St Edmundsbury Borough Council website did not show these particular amended plans correctly despite requests to do so. The Council decided they could not make a decision without having sight of the amendments. Clerk to try to obtain the information and circulate to Councillors.
2. DC/15/0322/OUT Pond House. Outline planning permission for detached house after demolition of outbuildings and creation of garages. After discussion the Council decided that they agreed in principle with the application but that the height of the existing buildings/barns should determine the roof height of the new dwelling.
3. DC/15/0510/HH 30 Clarendale. First floor extension and replacement of front porch. The Council decided it had no objection to this application.
 |  ClerkClerkClerk |
| 9 | **Correspondence:** 1. New government legislation now permits as an alternative delivery method agendas and associated papers to be sent by email. All Councillors decided that they wished to keep the paper copies delivered as currently. However, last minute changes will be sent by email.
2. Coffee Caravan visit. It was decided to go with the option of June 18th which coincides with the bi-centenary of the battle of Waterloo. There were discussions concerning the possibility of having a further day of celebration on Saturday 20th (similar to the way the WW1/2 event was run last year) which would give more people/families the chance to attend. This could be run as part of the 'Big Lunch'. Councillors Joyce and Pizey volunteered to organise.
3. St Edmundsbury Borough Council 'Outreach' programme for young people with the possibility of a 'youth club bus'. There were concerns as to whether there were sufficient youngsters of an age suitable for this. Clerk was asked to obtain more information about the activities and targeted ages.
4. St Edmundsbury Borough Council Newstalk and Magpas have asked for donations towards their services. After discussion it was agreed to send £25 to Magpas.
 | ClerkKJ/NPClerkClerk |
| 10 | **Village allotments:**Clerk said that he had now put in a grant application to Havebury for £1,000 to assist with the purchase of the shed and lockers. There had been a reasonably good period of dry weather so the power-harrowing of the area should be able to get underway. The water is being connected and there will be 3 tanks for use. The latest date for availability of the allotments is around Mid April.  |  |
| 11 | **Recreation Area:**1. Clerk reported that he had now put in a grant application to St Edmundsbury Borough Council for £1,600 contribution for the new basket swing.
2. Dog fouling continues on the area. Clerk to purchase some fluorescent spray tins and mark out the offending patches.
 | Clerk |
| 12 | **New Parish Council printer lease:** The Council discussed the revised lease option from STP on more favourable terms albeit with reduced monthly page allowance for both colour and b/w. Clerk said that the in the early months of the lease the Bugle printing will have to be carefully considered to avoid going over the allowance as that would be expensive. Either some editions could be b/w entirely or partially. After a few months then a sufficiently large buffer of unused pages allowance should allow permit normal working. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley proposed the approval of the new lease, seconded by Councillor Smith and approved.  | Clerk |
| 13 | **Broadband contract at the Village Hall:**Councillor Smith said that there was to be a Village Hall Committee meeting tomorrow which would consider this. She also said that Wendy Mansfield had been to a funding seminar in Bury St Edmunds recently and 2 contacts will be coming out to the Village Hall to discuss options. Councillors discussed broadband supply to the Village Hall and there was agreement that it was a worthwhile service to the village. The Village Hall would lose valuable income should the service be terminated. Councillors decided that the new BT contract should go ahead and that discussions should continue with the Village Hall concerning the possible sharing of the cost.  | Clerk |
| 14 | **Annual Village Meeting pre-planning:**The agenda from last year was updated with new items. Clerk to ask all village groups to send a representative as usual.  | Clerk |
| 15 | **Election schedule:**Clerk gave all Councillors their nomination forms which must be filled in and be at St Edmundsbury Borough Council by 4pm 9th April latest. There was a concern that the Councillor's forms sent by St Edmundsbury Borough Council were different to the one demonstrated by the Clerk. Clerk to check that either form can be used. In light of those working Councillors who would find it difficult to get to B.S.E. the Clerk offered to take the forms himself. Councillors are requested to get their forms to the Clerk by 31st March latest and he will also fill in the required Electoral number/letters. Councillors were reminded that they must send in an expense return to St Edmundsbury Borough Council after the election. If they have incurred no expenses then a NIL return must be sent in.  | Councillors ClerkCouncillors  |
| 16 | **Finance:** 1. Projected end-of-year report. Clerk said that the balance at the end of the year had been budgeted at £12,232 but that the latest projection showed a final balance at around £11,526. Given the new unbudgeted items approved during this year of £450 for the new VAS and £350 for the new marquee for Bonfire Night/Fete this end balance was about right. Given that auditors generally advise around one year's expenditure for smaller Councils such as Great Bradley then this figure is slightly under that but quite acceptable.
2. The Council officially approved the Data Protection registration renewals now on automatic Direct Debit at £35.
3. Accounts for approval/payment. A total of 12 payments to a value of £1654.11 were all approved.
 | Clerk |
| 17 | **Project List:**The Project List was updated.  |  |
| 18 | **Village Events notified:**Litter Pick March 28th |  |
| 19 | **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**None required  |  |
| 20 | **Dates for next meetings:**The next meeting dates are 15th April (Annual Village Meeting), 20th May (Annual Parish Council Meeting - first meeting of the new Council after the elections), 24th June (last legal date before 30th June to approve 2014/15 accounts) and 16th September.  |  |

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.43pm