**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th September 2013 at the Village Hall

**Present**:

Councillors: Simon Kiddy (Chairman), Karina Joyce (Vice-Chairman), Anne Smith,

Rowan Sylvester-Bradley. Also present County Councillor Mary Evans (part) and Clerk John Barnett.

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| **Item** |  | **Action** | |
| 1 | **Apologies for absence:**  Councillor Mike Parsons |  | |
| 2 | **Vacancies for 2 Councillors:**  No one has come forward to date. |  | |
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| 3 | **Councillors Declarations of Interest in any item on the agenda:**  There were no declarations of interest. |  | |
| 4 | **Minutes of the last meeting:**  The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council on 26th June 2013 were approved and signed together with the cheques approved at that meeting. |  | |
| 5 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**   1. Garden area. Sue Sylvester-Bradley has provided a list of suggested plants. Councillor Smith will provide pictures of the plants for the next meeting in order that decisions can be made.  Clerk to obtain an estimate for clearance of the area including the old seat slab together with rotavating incorporating soil improver/topsoil. The area is approximately 40sq m and would possibly need 4cu m of improver/topsoil. 2. Raising the village sign. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said he was researching a new 7" Oak post long enough to raise the height of the sign and also a 2' 6" metal socket to be sunk into the ground. The post and any associated in situ concrete for the existing sign needs to be removed and this could be easily done by any digger working in the garden area. Clerk to ensure this is incorporated in any estimate of works on the garden. 3. Interpretation Panel. The new leaflets are now in place. Councillor Smith has been advising the Clerk when they require topping up in the holder. During the Summer and Autumn they have been printed using ordinary paper but that may need to be changed to more water-resistant paper over the Winter. Councillor Joyce suggested that seasonal editions of the leaflets could be considered. 4. Website liaison. Clerk reported that the webmaster is happy with everything at present and doesn't need a meeting. | | AS  Clerk  RSB  KJ |
| 6 | **Suffolk Police:**  A report had been received. There were no crimes in the village since the last meeting. The Police would like to thank the members of the Speedwatch in the village for their efforts over the Spring/Summer period. The recent SNT priority setting meeting had decided upon 2 items - reducing speeding in villages and reducing crime in rural areas. |  | |
| 7 | **Highways:**  The footpath finger post sign at the entrance to the Recreation Area is missing. Clerk said that he had it safe in his garage ready to replace. | Clerk | |
| 8 | **Planning applications:**  None |  | |
| 9 | **Correspondence:**   1. Computer courses. Clerk reported that the second grant from Awards for All for £1,800 had been received. The courses had yet to be finalised. 2. Siting of the bottle bank. Councillor Kiddy reported that a resident had enquired if the new siting of the bottle bank was temporary as it was somewhat more noisy in that position. Councillor Smith said that a meeting of the Village Hall Committee was taking place next Monday at which there should be a idea of when the bell housing will be repaired after which the bottle bank should be returned to its original position. 3. SALC has sent information regarding a new NALC publication 'Local Councils Explained' which is for local councils in England and Wales. It explains the role of Parish Councils, their Councillors and Officers and how they work. The pre-publication price is £44.99 + £6.70 postage. The Council agreed to order a copy. 4. Charles Ryder has said that the Permissive Path issues had finally been resolved and that it would open as soon as the signs were ready. | AS/SK  Clerk | |
| 10 | **Pre-budget 2014/15 planning:**  Items for inclusion in the draft budgets were agreed as:   1. WW1 commemoration possibly with films and a get-together 2. Councillor Smith suggested a local brewery presentation 3. Summer 'event' 4. Village Hall reserve fund. This was suggested after advice from a SALC training course where Parish Council's were advised to have a reserve fund in case of difficulties with their village hall. 5. Waymarking village footpaths. All the paths need walking to identify what replacement waymarking needs doing. Suggestion that youngsters might be encouraged to help with this perhaps at half-term. | Clerk | |
| 11 | **Suffolk County Council:**  County Councillor Mary Evans said that there was to be a meeting at Thurlow V Hall on 8th November to discuss the speeding problem along the B1061. Matthew Hancock MP will be there. Mary said that 5000 school children were not claiming their free school meals which means that Suffolk is losing out on grants of £5m. In a recent meeting with the new Police Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore he said that West Suffolk has suffered loss of more Police than East Suffolk and this will be rectified. |  | |
| 12 | **Village Archives:**  Clerk said that he had been in contact with Mary Barnes from Little Bradley who indicated that she has less time to help now than she did but is happy to meet to talk it over. Clerk to organise a meeting. | Clerk | |
| 13 | **Village Facebook page:**  Clerk said that this idea had been suggested by Mike Brophy as a communication vehicle for the village. Clerk said he had coincidentally been to a networking day at SALC where the Parish Council insurers Came & Co had been giving a presentation and had advised that any Facebook page operated by the Parish Council should be moderated/checked every day to ensure any libellous comments are removed. If they are left on the site then Parish Council is deemed to agree with them and it would become liable. Clerk said that Thurlow had a good site - Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said he would have a look at that. It was to be put on the next agenda. | RSB  Clerk | |
| 14 | **Model Financial Orders:**  This is to go on the next agenda. | Clerk | |
| 15 | **Bonfire Night:**  The date is now to be Saturday Nov 9th. Clerk is to email reminders to everyone to ensure everything is completed on time. Clerk said he was going to the fireworks demonstration on 21st Sept and will place the order after that. Councillor Joyce offered to do the First Aid again. Councillor Smith has offered to do the hotdogs. | Clerk  Clerk  KJ/AS | |
| 16 | **Annual insurance renewal:**  Clerk advised the Council to take up the offer of the 3 year long term agreement from Came & Co giving a further 5% reduction. This was agreed. | Clerk | |
| 17 | **Recreation Area:**   1. Play equipment checks. The annual independent safety check (organised by St Edmundsbury Borough Council) had indicated some items needing attention. These mainly centred around the steel goals which were now rusting in places and the nets. These will be attended to. There was a recommendation for a sign beside the basketgoal but this was considered unnecessary. There was a reference to wear on the cradle seat attachments but the clerk said he had spoken to a monthly safety check inspector (also organised by St Edmundsbury Borough Council) and he had said they were fine. Clerk also said that he recommended trying a different cradle seat when the crutch straps need replacing again (which appears to be every 18 months - 2 years) as they may represent better value for money. This was agreed. 2. Glade seat and path area. The wooden edgings have now been replaced and thanks for this go to Stephen Steward and Colin Potter with occasional assistance from Pete Smith and John Barnett. Bark chips need to be topped up/renewed. There may be a possible local supplier for this. Clerk to organise. 3. Living Willow structure. Councillor Joyce said her research had shown that maintenance of these St Edmundsbury Borough Council need not be too onerous. Watering when new and weaving in when necessary. It can be a very good project to involve children. Councillors Joyce and Smith will bring a recommendation to the November meeting.   Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that the new hedge on the Recreation Area is growing well but some people are still going through from their houses with the possibility of damage to the hedge. Clerk was asked to mention it to Charles Ryder. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  KJ/AS  Clerk | |
| 18 | **Finance:**   1. The external auditor BDO has approved the 2012/13 accounts with no matters brought to the attention of the Council. 2. Accounts for payment. The proposal to make 18 payments to a total of £2618.23 was approved. | Clerk | |
| 19 | **Project List:**  The Project list was amended to remove the replacement seat in the Millennium Oak area as this has been completed. |  | |
| 20 | **Village Events notified:**   1. Bonfire Night Nov 9th 2. Quiz Night Nov 23rd 3. Possible children's Christmas party |  | |
| 20 | **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**   1. Set Budget and Precept 2. Facebook page 3. Model Financial Orders 4. Living Willow Structure - recommendation | Clerk | |
| 21 | **Dates for next meetings:**  The next meeting dates is 27th November (set budget and precept). Further dates of 29th January and 19th March 2014 were agreed |  | |

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.40pm

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