**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 22nd November 2023

at 7.30 pm

**Present**:

Councillors: A. F. Sugg, R. Sylvester-Bradley, P. Cook, G. Bailey, one Parishioner

**Apologies**:

Cllr. C. Boulton

**Open Forum for items not on the agenda:**

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| **Item:** |  | **ACTION:** |
|  | **Apologies for absence.**  Cllr. C. Boulton |  |
|  | **Receive Councillors Declarations of Interest regarding any agenda item.**  None. |  |
|  | **Forum - 10 minutes is set aside for members of the public to raise any village matter on the agenda.**  None |  |
|  | **Minutes of 20th September 2023**  Minutes confirmed without change, approved and signed by the Cllr. Silvester Bradley Acting Chair. |  |
| **5.** | **Matters arising from these minutes**   1. **Handrail wooden bridge southeast of Clarendale (“Anne’s Bridge”)**   The Council have received a quote from G. Chafer for £380.00 to repair the bridge at  Clarendale. Cllr. Cook Proposed and Cllr. Bailey seconded. All agreed to accept the quote.  The Clerk was asked to confirm this and to start on the work   1. **Replacement Trees on Clarendale**   The stumps remain to be ground down.  The Clerk contacted W.S.D.C. and S.C.C. about any plans for replacement Rowan Trees specifically to avoid reoccurrence of disease. No real progress has been made, so the Clerk was asked to correspondence with the W.S. Tree Inspector to gain an up- date. Cllr. Wijenayaka offered his support   1. **Printer Costs and Use**   Enquiries are still being made by the Clerk regarding the cost of printing the extra  “The Bugles” from the money saved by not leasing the printer. The Council discussed the viability of printing the 12 extra copies every two months and consideration was given to the viability of the online magazine – whether a paper copy should be provided every month. This is to be reviewed again at the beginning of the new financial year.   1. **Weeding**   Discussion took place about the best way of tackling this problem. Cllr Wijenayaka did suggest looking into having a regular contract, but the Council have decided to get together for a weekend to see if they can clear it and then looking ahead maybe make some enquires into getting it done on a regular basis – maybe two or three times a year. Cllr. Wijenayaka outlined that both Councils have ceased using glyphosate and are looking into other options. It was suggested that it has health risks, but there is no real evidence. Unless there is something found to replace it then they may well start using glyphosate again unless certain Parishes object.   1. **Wildflowers**   The Council discussed the possibility of leaving two metres the Recreation Ground to encourage Wildflowers and Orchids to grow displaying signs to notify people. Cllr. Wijenayaka explained that WS Council have introduced a scheme to encourage Wildflowers to grow. Fox Green is to be considered too.   1. **Ownership/Maintenance of Clarendale (Manhole cover)**   Discussion between W.S.D.C and S.C.C continues. The Clerk has chased S.C.C about who owns the Manhole, and has put in a request to repair. The Clerk is to follow up her enquiries with Havebury Housing who own the land and roundabout in Evergreen Lane. They have agreed to send someone to inspect it. We are now awaiting their response.   1. **Training for New Councillors**   Cllr. Cook expressed the view that the training she received was very beneficial. She discussed the possibility of reviewing what is on the Parish Council website and it was suggested that the Clerk then reports back to the web host on any possible alterations. Cllr. Cook mentioned it was suggested that all Councillors have official email addresses. Cllr. Silvester Bradley was going to look into this with the Web Host further.   1. **Speed -Watch group-update - Co-ordinator P Hart**   No report was provided and the Council was informed that Mr Hart had resigned. The Parish Council were informed that they are part of the S.C.C ANPR scheme. Cllr. Silvester Bradley suggested a review of our existing system is needed; with maybe the Police having a look at the villages present traffic/ speeding situation. He mentioned looking into having our own vehicle-activated speed-warning device although we already share with Cowlinge.  Cllr. Wijenayaka outlined that neighbouring parishes have similar concerns and it would  be beneficial to contact them. The Clerk was asked to make some enquiries along  with Cllr. Bobby Bennett.   1. **Consideration of a Bus Service**   Once again, the County Council are looking into the possibility of re-introducing a Haverhill - Newmarket bus service. Discussion took place and it was decided to contact the neighbouring parishes who have similar problems and gain feedback. The Clerk was asked to prepare a survey to circulate to all residents for their personal views. Cllr. Wijenayaka offered his support with any enquiries | Clerk    Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  SB/GB    Clerk    SB  Clerk  Clerk |
| **6.** | **West Suffolk District Council Report – Cllr. Indy Wijenayaka**  Cllr. Wijenayaka attended the meeting and reported to the Parish Council about the  Thermal Camera Scheme within W.S Council saying, that it is a device that connects to your phone allowing you to see where the heat from buildings/ houses etc escapes from. Indy thought it would benefit the village. It’s something that requires training and Cllr. Sylvester- Bradley mentioned that he had applied for it, but has yet hear. It was suggested that something should be put in The Bugle to inform residents.  He also outlined a new Future Chef Competition that is being launched at W.S College in Bury St Edmunds for 14yrs – 16 yrs olds to train as a Chief.  He then reported that the Bus Station Shelter was not closing but being closely monitored by security to stop any misuse and antisocial behaviour. This will continue until April 2024. | SB |
| **7.** | **Suffolk County Council Report – Cllr. Bobby Bennett**  Nothing to report, up - date by Cllr Bennett was sent via email and circulated to all  *(see Attached)* |  |
| **8.** | **Highways and Public Footpaths *(any matters to report)***   1. The Hedge near 12 Evergreen Lane is overgrown and obstructing the path to the Village Hall. The Clerk had notified Havebury Housing 2. The trees on the property of Yew Tree Cottage that were obscuring the Street lights therefore creating poor visibility on the opposite footpath, this has been reported to the Council / Highways with a request that they be trimmed. Still awaiting an update. The Clerk has been asked to chase once again.   **iii** Cllr. Silvester Bradley suggested that we review all the footpaths and Rights of Way in  Great Bradley and look at any alternative pathways that perhaps could be created  Cllr. Silvester Bradley is to write to ask the landowners if this is something they  would consider. The Clerk was asked to gain a map from The Right of Way Officer | Clerk  Clerk/SB |
| **9.** | **Planning Applications**  No Application have been received |  |
| **10.** | **Village Hall: any matters to report.**  Cllr. Sugg reported that the Fireworks on 4th November was a success and that the Village Hall Fund did well  She went on to discuss the possibility of replacing the defibrillator together with its box. This would cost about £1500. Provisions for this funding will be considered in the Budget at the January Meeting but this will be followed up in the meantime. | AS/CB |
| **11.** | **Recreation Area**: *To discuss any matters highlighted by the annual and most recent monthly report and regular checks of play and fitness equipment.*  It was reported that Hedges and Glade need trimming to maintain thoroughfares. The Clerk was given some contact numbers and was making enquiries.  Regular weekly check required by the insurance continue to be completed  The annual and monthly play area reports were received and assessed by Cllr. Boulton and the Council have decided unanimously upon a Spring programme ready for Summer to treat the wood, procure, fit and fix caps on nuts, ground bolts, picnic Table fixings. A quote has also been received to repair the handle on the exercise bike.  The extend the life of the Gym equipment, the Clerk has been asked to gain a quote for the service of all outdoor gym equipment together with the repair.  The Council agreed to carry on with R Stokes for the Grass Cutting, but are looking into budgeting to increase the number of cuts. | Clerk  Clerk |
| **12.** | **Finance**   1. Accounts for payment/cheques required to date.   Bank charges £18.00  R Stokes Grass Cutting £100.00  Peter Smith - Treatment of Path £45.00  GB village Hall Fund - Hire of Hall £ 96.00  CB Dynamic Fireworks - Fireworks £ 978.00  CB Azamon- Red Tape- Fireworks £26.65  CB Remembrance Wreath £40.00  SALC Conference Cllr SB £18.00  Red Side UP - Printing of Bugle £234.29  All Payments received, along with a Bank Reconciliation, was circulated to the Councillors and approved by all  Bank Form for New Parish Clerk has been completed  The Form was signed to enable Parish Clerk to be added on to the Bank Account  The Clerk has sent all relevant documentation to the Bank and is now waiting to hear.   1. The Budget 2024/25   A draft format of the Budget was circulated to all and a proposal for a provision was made for a defibrillator for outside the Village Hall and also for a Bulb planting scheme later on in 2024 Further discussions will take place in the January meeting along with approval of the budget and setting of the Precept. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk/CB  All |
| **13.** | **Correspondence**  **Risk Assessment - update**  This will now be considered and reviewed with all other policies at the meeting in January 2024. All Approved  **Village Projects**  Bulb Planting and Village Garden  The Councillors spoke about the Village Garden, the concerns for its upkeep and also how dangerous the positioning of it was. If it was to continue volunteers would be required However, it backs on to the land of The Ryder family and there is a memorial bench which was dedicated to Charles Ryder’s father there too. Therefore, the Parish Council have decided to seek Great Bradley’s residents’ views on what they seek from a Village Garden, its uses and maintenance. The Council would like to canvas the village in due course to gain opinions. In the mean-time it was agreed to write to Mr Ryder outlining the concerns of the existing village garden and ask for his opinion. There was also talk about planting bulbs in the Glade. | Clerk /CB    All  Clerk/CB |
| **14,** | **Matters for consideration for the next and future meetings**  Parish Council Policy Review  Budget and Precept Setting  Actions arising from the Internal Audit  Speed -Watch  Thank you to Cllr Silvester- Bradley for Chairing the Meeting in Cllr. Boulton’s absence also, many thanks to Cllr. Cook on supporting the Acting Chair with subject matters.  There being no further business, Cllr Silvester Bradley Acting Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 21:35. Pm | Clerk |