**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st September 2011 at the Village Hall

**Present**:

Councillors: Rowan Sylvester-Bradley (Chairman), Simon Kiddy (Vice-Chairman), Karina Joyce,

Kate Noakes, Anne Smith and Sue Willington. Also PCSO Kayla Packman (part) and Clerk John Barnett.

**Open Forum:**

Nothing raised.

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| **Item** |  | **Action** | |
| 1 | **Apologies for absence:**  County Councillor J Midwood |  | |
| 2 | **Co-option of Parish Councillor:**  Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that Councillors should keep talking to people to try to find someone. |  | |
| 3 | **Councillors Declarations of Interest in any item on the agenda:**  None declared |  | |
| 4 | **Minutes of the last meeting:**  The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 29th June 2011 were approved and signed together with the cheques approved at that meeting. |  | |
| 5 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**   1. Dog fouling. Clerk reported an email from the Animal Warden at St Edmundsbury Borough Council who had offered to put up further notices. It was generally agreed by the Council that people who allow their dogs to foul on a Recreation Area where children play or Permissive Footpath would be unlikely to follow instructions on any notice. Councillor Kiddy said that he felt that the main perpetrator was someone who walked their dogs very early. 2. Interpretation Panel. Councillor Joyce updated the Council from the last committee meeting. There is a feeling that the existing size quoted for may be too large for the likely location. Councillor Joyce said that the supplier had said they could change the size as necessary. There is now a need to talk to Charles Ryder and agree size and location. The suggestion is to have washed picture of the village behind the map with possible colours for footpaths and route walking times. There would be not too much text but pictures around the edge of the panel. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said he felt that the overall effect might be too ‘busy’ if the map he had in mind with contours etc was to be overlaid on a background picture.  The leaflet was discussed was an A4 folded DL size and would be more pictorial than the Kirtling leaflet. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley suggested making a list of everything needed on the leaflet. A deep holder perhaps with hinged top was needed to prevent the leaflets from blowing about.  Clerk reminded the Council that to meet the terms of one of the grant providers they must be given sight of the proposed layout/text in advance and that the panel must be purchased and in position within 6 months from now by the end of this financial year. 3. Local training from Suffolk Association of Local Councils. Clerk reminded the Council that training was due to take place on 19th October at Great Bradley Village Hall and at Great Thurlow Village Hall on 24th October from 7pm - 9.15pm. Councillors Noakes and Willington said they could attend on 19th but not 24th. Clerk said that detailed training modules for each evening and directions would follow in due course. 4. Seat at Langacre. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley asked about the status of this new seat. The Clerk said that the landowner had approved the siting of this. Councillor Smith said she would speak to Les Bunyan 5. Proposed diversion of Footpath 4. Clerk said that he had very recently spoken to the farmer who had confirmed he was keen to press on with presenting this possibility to the agents of the landowner. Clerk has the necessary paperwork from St Edmundsbury Borough Council and will pass it to the farmer together with a letter of support from the Parish Council. | | Panel  Committee  Clerk  AS  Clerk |
| 6 | **Highways:**   1. The large street nameplate at the entrance to Clarendale was reported as splitting away from its backing plate. 2. Clerk reported a number of yellow road repair markings on the B1061 first sighted about a month ago now fading and no work started. Clerk to write to remind Highways about this. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 7 | **Suffolk County Council:**   1. Councillor Midwood sent her report:   Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend your meeting this evening.  Following the departure of Andrea Hill, SCC has an Interim Chief Executive, Lucy Robinson who has been head of Environment and Transport for some years. The intention is to appoint a new Chief Executive before the end of this year, and the advertisements have already gone out. Salary will be considerably less than before.  The whole County Council staff structure is going through and immense reorganisation at the moment and, from a Councillors point of view, it is proving very difficult to know who to approach on any issue. I have asked for a new Staff Directory but as yet nothing has materialised. Some staff have transferred from St Eds BC to SCC and some have done the reverse.  The new West Area Highways manager, Steve Boor, has transferred from St Eds, Matt Riches the previous manager has taken on a different role within SCC and Mick Baker (pothole and general trouble shooter extraordinaire) stays in the same post.  On the 13th September I attended the first meeting of SCC’s Cabinet to be held outside Endeavour House, at West Suffolk House in Bury. The meeting was very well attended by members of the public and other councillors and many people had come to voice their views on the reorganisation into two tiers of the Catholic School pyramid in Bury (which involves Haverhill, Sudbury and Newmarket too) and to oppose the closure of St Louis Middle School. The Cabinet decided to support the Catholic Diocese’s intention to close St Louis and operate St Benedict’s Upper School on the two sites. This means that Haverhill, Sudbury and Newmarket pupils will transfer at the same age as those from St Edmund’s Catholic Primary in Bury.  I was not able to attend the recent Police Priority setting meeting at Chedburgh but I did go to the follow up meeting with the police to discuss the outcomes of that meeting. You will probably already know that St Eds Rural South SNT team has lost Sgt Kevin Horton and for the time being our area will have one Sgt – Kevin Jay from SNT Rural North, based at Ixworth. There may be more police reorganisation to come.   1. Local Foods Suffolk. Councillor Smith said that Health & Safety rules made this difficult and she wondered whether there would be sufficient interest. 2. Consultation on mobile library services. It was reported that there was no satellite connection to the mobile in Great Bradley. Clerk said everyone was urged to respond individually to this consultation. 3. Consultation on County Council budget cuts. Again Clerk said everyone was urged to respond individually to this consultation. | Councillors  Councillors | |
| 8 | **Suffolk Police:**  PCSO Kayla Packman gave her report. Since the last meeting there have been 2 reported crimes in Great Bradley. |  | |
| 9 | **Pre-budget planning:**  Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that he felt this was the most important thing that the Council does as it sets the projects and finance for the coming year. He asked for a wish-list from Councillors. Items suggested as follows:   1. Faster broadband connections at the northern side of the village. 2. Good mobile telephone signals 3. Better water pressure in Clarendale.   Events that the Council should support were discussed and agreed as:   1. Bonfire night/fireworks 2. Diamond Jubilee next year 3. Other events to support the community - such as Sportathon or similar   It was agreed that 2 or 3 gazebos could be very useful for village events and the Council should include these in the budget planning  After the new lower basketball hoop has been provided there was nothing further need at present for the Play Area  The football pitch and goals (despite some design flaws in the net supports) were agreed adequate for the current usage.  Improving the look of the village was being started this year.  A seat at the churchyard was discussed and it was agreed that one should be added to the budget planning list.  Bottle bank. Clerk reported useful income from the bottle and paper banks in Cowlinge. Clerk to make enquiries if it might be possible in Great Bradley. To check with VHMC first.  A further circular walk via East Green was discussed but the dangerous bends on Hall Road were a difficulty. It was suggested that a permissive path just inside the hedge could overcome this. Naturally this would have to be discussed with the landowner.  The purchase of a suitable Bar-B-Q by the Council for the use at village events was discussed and agreed as essential now that such events were now becoming regularly held each year.  It was agreed to include the following items in the pre-budget planning:   1. Bonfire Night/Fireworks 2. Sportathon (or similar) - support for 3. Diamond jubilee event 4. Bar-B-Q (later in the meeting approved to purchase this year) 5. Gazebos - 2 or 3 dependent upon size 6. Seat for the churchyard (need to get PCC approval for this) 7. Gas bottle annual budget | Clerk  RSB    Clerk/RSB | |
| 10 | **Planning applications:**  None |  | |
| 11 | **Correspondence:**   1. Draft National Planning Policy Framework - government consultation. It was suggested that everyone should respond individually to this consultation. 2. Viridor - invitation to the recycling facility at Gt Blakenham. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley expressed an interest. 3. St Edmundsbury Borough Council Parish Conference 20th Oct Gt Whelnetham VH. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said he would like to attend this 4. St Edmundsbury Borough Council consultation on budget cuts. Clerk said he had attended a workshop on this at Haverhill which had been very poorly attended. He recommended everyone should respond individually to this consultation also. | Councillors  RSB  RSB  Councillors | |
| 12 | **Village Hall representation:**  Councillor Smith said that she had thought of resigning her position as representative to the Village Hall but at meeting that was held last night she received a much more positive feeling from some of the other members. Therefore she will continue for the present and the situation will be reviewed again at the next PC meeting. | Clerk | |
| 13 | **Event to mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee:**  Councillor Smith said that at a recent hedgerow survey with Charles Ryder the question of the celebration of the Jubilee had come up and he had said he was keen on the possibility of a bonfire/beacon. There is the idea of a possible tea party on the Recreation Area and a Bar-B-Q in the evening. Need to liaise with the VHMC to avoid duplication of effort/ideas etc. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley will also write to Edward Fletcher to sound out the ideas. Clerk said that there was to be a ‘Big Jubilee Lunch’ on Sunday 3rd June 2012 across the country, participation in which could also be an idea. | AS  RSB | |
| 14 | **Proposal to purchase 2 new grit bins:**  It was agreed to purchase 2 new grit bins. Clerk recommended 2 bins currently on offer at £103.50 each but these were yellow and the Council asked for green which will be a higher cost.  It was felt that the triangle at the top of Hall Road may be too small for a bin and it may need to be further down Hall Road. The other bin is for the entrance to Clarendale. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 15 | **Proposal to consider the purchase of a Bar-B-Q for village use:**  Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that he had borrowed Charles Ryder’s Bar-B-Q at the fete and the overall design, speed of cooking and ease of cleaning had convinced him that the village should have one similar that could be used at all the events that were now being regularly planned. This was all agreed and a budget of £500 approved. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley will purchase this. | RSB | |
| 16 | **Letter to Anglian Water regarding the old mains pipe serving B1061 villages:**  Councillor Smith said that there had been a number of bursts in Great Bradley and also in Thurlow and recently a very serious one in Great Wratting that had flooded out the pub. It was suggested that the possibility of a joint letter from the Parish Councils along the B1061 asking Anglian Water to renew the pipework throughout. This was agreed. | Clerk | |
| 17 | **Oak Tree in Evergreen Lane:**  Councillor Smith said that the veteran tree that was thought to be dead is now showing signs of life. It was agreed to seek advice from Rod Pass. | Clerk | |
| 18 | **Recreation Area:**   1. Provision of lower basketball hoop for younger children. It was agreed to go ahead and purchase one of these. The clerk was given a budget of £250. Councillor Kiddy suggested that the use of an auger might help the installation. Clerk to check if Charles Ryder has one that might be available. It was suggested that the hoop should be positioned somewhere near the train. 2. Letter to households regarding the new hedge-work. The feedback has been generally positive. | | Clerk  Clerk |
| 19 | **Bonfire Night:**  The proposal to go ahead with the cost of a Temporary Event Notice for the sale of alcohol for £21 was approved. The Clerk said that the fireworks had not yet been ordered but that he was going to an evening in Chelmsford where a large number of individual fireworks were being fired as a demonstration by a local company and where discounts for early purchase were still available. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 20 | **Frequency of Parish Council meetings:**  There was a discussion on whether it was best to keep to the same frequency and risk time over-runs or increase the number of meetings per year and hope to have shorter meetings. It was felt that increasing the number of meetings would not necessarily result in shorter meetings. It was decided to maintain the existing frequency of meetings. | Clerk | |
| 21 | **Finance:**   1. Parish Council insurance. The Clerk presented the very competitive quotation from Aviva and it was all agreed to switch to the new supplier. 2. Clerk presented the option of having some of the Parish Council reserves in an interest bearing account now that these are beginning to become available again with some reasonable interest levels. The Cambridge BS was one option and the Clerk is to check further information on this. 3. Accounts for payment. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley proposed the payment of 14 cheques and approved 4 Direct Debit payments to a total of £2675.65 This was seconded by Councillor Smith and all approved. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk | |
| 22 | **Village Events:**  The following events were notified:   1. Coffee Caravan 22nd September 2. V Hall re-opening event in October |  | |
| 23 | **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**   1. Budget 2. Review of Village Hall representation | Clerk | |
| 24 | **Dates for next meetings:**  The next meeting dates are 16 November and 18January. 14 March was also agreed. Councillor Kiddy gave his apologies for the 16 November meeting and everyone agreed to move it to 23 November. |  | |

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 10.20pm

The meeting of 14th March 2012 was later changed to 21st March 2012