**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 24th June 2015 at the Village Hall

**Present**:

Councillors: Simon Kiddy (Chairman), Helen Bennett, Nicky Pizey, Anne Smith. Also County Councillor Mary Evans (part) and Borough Councillor Jane Midwood (part) and Clerk John Barnett.

**Open Forum:**

Nothing raised.

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| **Item** |  | **Action** | |
| 1 | **Chairman to sign Acceptance of Office:**  Councillor Kiddy signed his Acceptance of Office of Chairman form |  | |
| 2 | **Apologies for absence:**  Councillors Joyce and Spires and the Police. |  | |
| 3 | **Councillors Declarations of Interest in any item on the agenda:**  None declared. |  | |
| 4 | **Minutes of the last meeting:**  The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council on 20th May 2015 were approved and signed together with the cheques approved at that meeting. |  | |
| 5 | **St Edmundsbury Borough Council:**  Borough Councillor Jane Midwood said that she had a small Locality Budget for one-off items or village events.  There was a new paperless system in place on a 3 month trial which was proving very difficult from a practical point of view.  Councillor Kiddy said that the replacement sign in Clarendale had been to the same very outdated design more suitable for an inner city 'Estate'. Councillor Midwood said that she would look into it. | |  |
| 6 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**   1. Big Lunch - Councillor Pizey said that it had been very successful and there was now a call to make it an annual event. At least 60 people turned up even though the weather was a bit drizzly and eventually turned into a downpour. Councillor Smith said that lots of good comments had been posted on Facebook with pictures. The Chairman thanked everyone for their hard work on the project. 2. Garden area. Clerk said he had met with Morrisons and they were to reinstate the garden after all the damage with their new pole and undergrounding of electric cabling. 3. Village sign. Clerk said that the concrete basework of the old sign had been removed thanks to Will Pallett and Stephen Steward. The new oak post had arrived and Rowan Sylvester-Bradley had measured it for the new stainless steel socket which he would order and should be available shortly. The socket will then be attached and Will Pallett had offered to use his JCB again to take the post/socket and position it whilst it was guyed/concreted. The Council agreed that given the lengthy delay on this project it should proceed as quickly as possible . 4. New Vehicular Activated Sign. The Council was shown the new unit. Clerk said it was somewhat heavier than had been anticipated (despite being lighter than the alternative supplier's option). The unit needs to be attached to each pole at some height and the safest and easiest option for the volunteers is to provide each pole with a permanent fixing bracket. The cost per pole (3 poles required) is £80 each. 5. New village Facebook page. This has proved to be a great success with over 90 people now signed up. | | Clerk |
| 7 | **Suffolk Police:**  Police report received which stated no crimes in the area since the last meeting but that residents were reminded to call in any suspicious vehicles/persons. |  | |
| 8 | **Highways matters:**   1. Councillor Smith said that the quality of the repairs to the pavements in Clarendale had been poor. In addition the footpath by the Recreation Area and through to the other end of Clarendale were also in poor condition. 2. Request for a 'No through road' sign for Evergreen Lane/Matthews Lane. This had been raised due to the significant numbers of vehicles transiting Evergreen/Matthews lane looking for a way round the recent road closure. This was discussed but it was decided not to go ahead with this at present as it was felt perhaps to be a problem only during the road closures which have now ceased. |  | |
| 9 | **Suffolk County Council:**  County Councillor Mary Evans said that the Youth Bus which was coming to Great Bradley fete had been coming to Clare weekly and had gone well.  With regard to the Vehicular Activated Sign Mary said that the Parishes had to pay for the insurance of the poles. Clerk asked if the brackets required for each pole could be a Suffolk County Council cost.  The white lining at Clarendale is imminent.  Mary offered to pay for the picnic tables from her Locality Budget and will send a form to fill out for this.  Councillor Smith raised the standard of remedial work done on the pavements in Clarendale. Clerk to forward to Mary pictures of the poor work and details of the youngster who fell. | Clerk | |
| 10 | **Planning applications:**  None |  | |
| 11 | **Correspondence:**   1. Clerk said that Great Bradley had been fortunate to secure a visit of the Youth Bus to the Fete as only one other small village (Stradishall) had been successful. 2. Clerk said that the new contract for the Village Hall broadband agreed with BT in February to commence in April had been mishandled by BT with a more than doubling of the cost. We are promised a refund of the cost and a reinstatement of the agreed contract. Only when the statement arrives at the end of the month will it be clear as to whether this has actually taken place. 3. Clerk said that there was a £4.7m government fund to assist Parishes with their compliance with the new Transparency rules. He advised to wait to see whether this would be available to parishes such as Great Bradley. | Clerk | |
| 12 | **Village allotments:**  Clerk said that one of the allotment holders had suggested that a first aid kit be available in the shed for any accidents. Clerk suggested a medium workplace compliant kit from St John Ambulance which caters for 25 - 50 people and includes a wall bracket. This was agreed.  The gate is now locked with a key operated padlock whereas it was supposed to be a combination lock. This makes it very difficult for machinery such as rotavators to be brought on site. Clerk will investigate. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 13 | **Annual Review of Parish Council Risk Assessment and Management:**  The revised Risk Assessment and Management presented by the Clerk was agreed. |  | |
| 14 | **Derelict property in Matthews Lane:**  Clerk outlined the situation with this property which is now in the hands of the enforcement team of the Planning Department at St Edmundsbury Borough Council. |  | |
| 15 | **Bonfire Night:**  Clerk outlined action required before the next meeting in September. The date was agreed at 7th November. Clerk to check this is ok with Charles Ryder. Clerk will go to the supplier's September demonstration as usual and apply for the Temporary Event Notice from St Edmundsbury Borough Council for the sale of alcohol. | Clerk | |
| 16 | **Recreation Area:**   1. The 2 new picnic tables have been very well received and were an extremely useful part of the Big Lunch celebrations on 20th June. 2. The new basket swing was installed on June 19th which was also excellent timing for the Big Lunch. 3. Consider larger dog bin near Fox Green entrance. The current size of bin at 25lt is too small as it is often overflowing. It was felt necessary to provide a larger bin to avoid discouragement to dog owners. A 40lt bin at a cost of £79.99 + £9.99 delivery was agreed. Clerk to order. | Clerk | |
| 17 | **Finance:**   1. The internal audit report from SALC has been completed and the accounts approved. The Council reviewed and the Chairman completed and signed the Annual Return for the 2014/15 accounts and it was approved to go to the External Auditor at BDO. 2. Accounts for approval/payment. A total of 14 payments to a value of £3,719.83 were approved. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 18 | **Project List:**  The Project List was updated. |  | |
| 19 | **Village Events notified:**   1. July 5th Fete 2. Nov 17th Bonfire Night |  | |
| 20 | **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**  Councillor Pizey said that the pathway at the back of the Glade was overgrown by the trees and making it difficult to get through. Councillor Smith said offered to cut them back. Also the wooden edging around the Glade seating area and path to the gate is rotting. Weeds are growing in the bark area in the Glade - Clerk to add this to contractor's weedkilling routine.  A gap next to the gateway to the permissive path was reported but it was not felt to be a problem at this time but to be kept under review.  Councillor Smith said she would remove 4 small oak trees that are growing in the path.  It was agreed to set a whole year of meeting dates for 2016 at the next meeting | AS  Clerk  Clerk  AS  Clerk | |
| 21 | **Dates for next meetings:**  The next meeting dates are: 16th September and 18th November (pre-budget discussions). A further date of 20th January 2016 was agreed. |  | |

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm