**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 29th January 2014 at the Village Hall

**Present**:

Councillors: Simon Kiddy (Chairman), Anne Smith, Rowan Sylvester-Bradley, Pat Spires (after co-option). Also County Councillor Mary Evans (part) and Clerk John Barnett.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** |  | **Action** | |
| 1 | **Apologies for absence:**  Councillor Karina Joyce, Suffolk Police |  | |
| 2 | **Co-option of Councillor:**  Councillor Kiddy proposed the co-option of Pat Spires, Councillor Smith seconded and all agreed. Councillor Spires signed the Acceptance of Office and was given the Register of Interests form to fill in and return within the requested 28 days. | PS | |
| 3 | **Suffolk County Council:**  County Councillor Mary Evans said that she was pleased to receive the picture from the Clerk showing the standing water continuing at the bottom of the Bradley Hill on the B1061 in spite of Highways insisting it was sorted. She said it was always preferable to report any items together with pictures if possible as it demonstrates the problem more precisely to Council officers. Please report all potholes as soon as known (again with pictures preferably) and copy her with the information so she can follow it up.  She has received an approximate cost for the new Vehicular Activated Sign (VAS) of £3,000 which would make it possible for her to be able to use her Locality Budget to assist the 5 Parishes likely to express an interest.  It is hoped that the better broadband meeting with the Minister may have resulted in some extra money for our area especially as we have such low levels of broadband speed and also poor mobile communications. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that as an example he had tried to send a file to his company in USA and it was going to take 3 days to send. Councillor Evans asked him to send her more details so she can use this as an example of poor speeds and cost to the rural business community.  Suffolk County Council has agreed total cuts of £38m this year. Schools and Fire Service will be ring-fenced against cuts. |  | |
| 4 | **Highways matters:**  Councillor Smith reported that the pavements around Clarendale were very slippery and in poor condition. They were due to be renovated 3 years ago but work was postponed and never rescheduled. Also the pavement on the B1061 outside Bluebell Cottage is slippery with algae. Clerk reported the relatively new sewer covers on B1061 half way towards Sipsey Bridge which are both loose and sinking. |  | |
| 5 | **B1061 Speeding Meeting at Withersfield:**  There was a poor attendance at this meeting with Great Bradley representatives making up 50%! Mary Evans said that besides the possible new VAS unit they were also looking at traffic calming at the village entrances although chicanes also presented possible problems with large vehicles or farming machinery. Safer driving stickers stating that the driver is someone who sticks to the lawful speed limit are also a possibility. Several Councillors said that they were often overtaken within the 30mph speed limit area by impatient drivers. Police speed checks have been done recently in Great Bradley and Thurlow and will continue. |  | |
| 6 | **Councillors Declarations of Interest in any item on the agenda:**  There were no declarations of interest. |  | |
| 7 | **Minutes of the last meeting:**  The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council on 27th November 2013 were approved and signed together with the cheques approved at that meeting. |  | |
| 8 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**   1. Garden area design and planting plan. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that Sue Sylvester-Bradley would like to have an informal meeting with some Councillors to go over her ideas before finalising them. Councillors Smith and Spires volunteered. Councillor Joyce to be asked also. 2. Village sign post and socket. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that he had been given prices of £50 for the metal socket and £70 for galvanising. He is hoping he may be able to improve on these. 3. New computer courses. Clerk said that it was likely that one of the new courses will be on Excel as there were at least 3 people expressing an interest but that he was waiting to hear from the tutor regarding his recommendations for the other course. It had been hoped to start the new courses in February but it was now more likely to be March. 4. Village archives. There is a meeting at Great Bradley Hall offices on 29th January for all interested parties to hear what suggestions archivist Wendy Barnes has for all the village files. There is a letter from Suffolk Local History Society requesting a Village Recorder for Great Bradley. This is to be brought up at the meeting tomorrow to see if there may be some interest in this. | | AS/PS/KJ?  RSB  Clerk  Clerk |
| 9 | **Suffolk Police:**  A report had been received. There were no crimes in the village since the last meeting. Other crimes in the area were also highlighted. Eleven Police speedchecks have been conducted on the B1061 recently with 2 fixed penalty tickets being issued. |  | |
| 10 | **Planning applications:**  None received. |  | |
| 11 | **Correspondence:**   1. Coffee Caravan. Information received from the Caravan suggested they are not planning any visits this year. Clerk had queried this and they have asked the question whether it really is required. Discussion ensued regarding the poor attendance last year but there was reluctance to give it up altogether. Clerk was asked to enquire whether the Caravan would come for just one visit this year in June (for hopefully better weather than last year). 2. Dog fouling. Letter received stating that fouling was again very bad. Councillor Smith wondered if the litter pick could be extended to include picking up dog mess. Clerk said that he felt as joint organiser it would not be sensible to combine the two as it may deter some volunteers especially the younger children that attend and enjoy it. It was also decided to try the alternatives that had been used in other Parishes i.e. spray marking of every mess heap and/or similarly marking with flags. This to be accompanied by information posters to explain what was happening and why. There had been a period last year where the problem had improved and it was felt that a further article in the Bugle should be inserted perhaps with pictures showing the marked mess heaps and the extent of the problem. Clerk to research best spray paints and flags for this. 3. Request for funding from Magpas. After discussion it was agreed to donate £25 to this service. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 12 | **Village Hall annual donation:**  After discussion it was agreed to donate the budgeted sum of £250. |  | |
| 13 | **Grasscutting contracts:**  Clerk reported that Charles Ryder had said that he would retain the same price for cutting the footpaths for 2014/15 but that perhaps a small increase may be entertained from the following year. The Churchyard and Recreation Area contractor has requested a small increase of £5 per cut (the first for 6years). After discussion it was agreed to continue with both the existing contractors. | Clerk | |
| 14 | **Litter pick:**  The date has been set for this year at Saturday 29th March. |  | |
| 15 | **Revised Financial Regulations:**  The council discussed the revised regulations and made some small changes which are to be incorporated in the new Financial Regulations for the Council. | Clerk | |
| 16 | **Recreation Area:**   1. Glade path. The new woodchips have been delivered and were put around the area by a young Parishioner and her friend as part of community work for her Duke of Edinburgh Award. 2. Living Willow structure. This was postponed to the next meeting. 3. Football goals net supports (back irons). Clerk said that he had attended to items pointed out in a recent annual play equipment report regarding the football goals. The missing net hooks had all been replaced, the net ties replaced and anti-rust paint purchased ready for application in better weather. The back irons are in need of replacement and are on the list for cheque approval at this meeting. | Clerk | |
| 17 | **Finance:**   1. Accounts for approval/payment. The proposal to make 12 payments to a total of £2573.78 was made by Councillor Kiddy, seconded by Councillor Sylvester-Bradley and all approved. | Clerk | |
| 18 | **Project List:**  The Project list was updated. |  | |
| 19 | **Village Events notified:**  None notified. |  | |
| 20 | **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**   1. Living Willow Structure - recommendation 2. Annual Village Meeting agenda items 3. Village Garden design and planting 4. Further meeting dates | Clerk | |
| 21 | **Dates for next meetings:**  The next meeting dates are 19th March, 9th April for the Annual Village Meeting, 14th May for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and 25th June to approve the accounts for 2013/14. |  | |

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm