**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th March 2020 at the Village Hall

**Present**:

Councillors: P Spires (Chairman), H Bennett, N Pizey, A Smith and A F Sugg. Also Borough Councillor

P Stevens one member of the public and Clerk J Barnett.

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

A member of the public came to speak to the Council regarding the parking problems in part of Clarendale. At present in that section of road there are sometimes cars parked which could obstruct the passage of emergency vehicles. There was a suggestion that a small section of the green area with the trees could be used for parking perhaps at an angle together with the pavement section that runs down to the area. Councillor Stevens said he would check to see if it was possible to do this. It was agreed that this would be put on the Annual Village Meeting agenda to gauge the support for this.

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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| 1 | **Apologies for absence:**  None |  |
| 2 | **Councillors Declarations of Interest in any item on the agenda:**  None declared |  |
| 3 | **Open Forum for members of the public to raise any matter on the agenda:**  Nothing raised |  |
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| 4 | **West Suffolk Council:**  Councillor Stevens said that West Suffolk is taking over from the Police on 6th April responsibility for parking enforcement. Parking on pavements will be allowed providing a buggy/pram can get by without having to go into the road.  The development site suggestions that had been put to Parish Councils earlier will be considered and will come back to villages for further consultation at a later date.  The Brown bin collection cost had been held at £40 for 3 years but is now going up to £43.  West Suffolk is looking to see if there is anything they can do to assist High Street shops.  Councillor Smith said that nothing appeared to have been done on the clearance of overgrowing vegetation from the footpath beside the Recreation Area. Councillor Stevens said he would bring this up again. |  |
| 5 | **Minutes of the previous meetings:**  The minutes of the previous meetings of the Parish Council on 15th January, 18th February and 4th March 2020 were approved and signed together with the payments approved at those meetings. Also all the receipts and payments and the bank reconciliation to date were approved and signed. |  |
| 6 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**   1. Possible new street light in Evergreen Lane. Suffolk County Council has responded to the request by saying that there would be a charge to the Parish of £1,942.64 + VAT. This is the first time that a charge has been suggested for new street lights so clarification is required as to why this charge is being levied. 2. Possible new hard-standing in front of the basketball goal. A square of 5.5m dimensions should be sufficient for this. After discussions of the options it was decided that bonded resin surface might be ideal with a size of 5.5 metres. Councillor Pizey said she would make enquiries with her contacts at school. | Clerk  NP |
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| 7 | **Suffolk County Council:**  No report. No further news on the new Vehicular Activated Sign pole near Water Lane. |  |
| 8 | **New Parish Clerk:**  The Council went into confidential session at this point |  |
| 9 | **Planning applications:**  The Council ended their confidential session at this point.  No planning applications were reported. |  |
| 10 | **Correspondence:**  A quotation has been received for the proposed new pedestrian footbridge across the ditch in Matthews Lane to assist with safe passage along the Permissive Path to the allotments and/or a circular walk back down Matthews Lane into the village. The quotation was £250 + VAT and, if necessary, a handrail for £40 + VAT. The Council approved the purchase of the footbridge and also the handrail as a necessary safety feature. Clerk to organise. | Clerk |
| 11 | **Litter Pick:**  The annual pick is scheduled for 21st March. The posters are out and it is on Facebook. Councillor Smith will organise the refreshments as usual. Clerk said that he had organised more pickers and hoops for this year. | AS/Clerk |
| 12 | **Annual Village Meeting:**  Clerk to organise the event as usual with invitations to all the village organisations. Councillor Smith will organise refreshments also as usual. | Clerk/AS |
| 13 | **Community Event – new Outdoor War Memorial:**   1. The event is scheduled for the bank holiday Friday 8th May as the 75th anniversary of V E Day 1945. There will be an opening of the Memorial followed by light refreshments in the Village Hall. There will be display boards with archive pictures. Councillor Bennett said that the Hall was scheduled as a Polling station the previous day so could not be accessed then for setting anything up in advance. Councillor Spires said that the display boards could be set up well in advance and put at the far end of the Hall out of the way. Clerk suggested using the recording of the last post and Big Ben strikes as used at the WW1 and archive exhibition in 2018. This would mean an opening time of 10.30am to be ready for the 11am last post/Big Ben. Councillor Smith suggested the lowering and raising of the Union Flag on the flagpole. Councillor Pizey said she still hoped that her contact can come to officially open the Memorial. 2. The painted/decorated WW1 bench is to be ordered and it was agreed that it would go under the new Outdoor War Memorial on the front of the Village Hall and replace the wooden bench which was to be put in position around the back of the Hall where it will be a comfortable seat for pub nights etc. | Clerk/PS  AS/NP  Clerk |
| 14 | **Meeting with Vestey Estate Manager:**  Clerk reported a recent onsite meeting with Tim Barling where they walked round the allotments and the Recreation Area. He was:   1. very pleased with the conditions at the allotments 2. happy with a new smaller piece of play equipment for youngsters on the Recreation Area 3. pleased with the invitation to the VE Event on May 8th 4. happy with a small area of approximately 5.5mtr square hardstanding in front of the basketball net 5. accepted the increase of the grasscutting on the Recreation Area to £80 per cut 6. disappointed when he heard the Clerk was retiring but asked to have the contact details of his replacement when decided. | Clerk |
| 15 | **Recreation Area:**  Councillor Smith said that it appeared that the Willow structure had been vandalised. Councillor Bennett said that the grass under some of the outdoor gym equipment needs to be cut back but not strimmed. |  |
| 16 | **Village Hall:** Councillor Bennett said that the VHMC was likely to get £500 from Tescos from the token collections. They had had quotations for around £4,000 for new heating and £3,500 for new lighting. They had still to decide whether to proceed. A full electrical check has been completed together with PAT testing as required. They are applying for a TV licence and music license. The TV is to be boxed in. |  |
| 17 | **Noticeboard at Clarendale:**  The noticeboard is in need of refurbishment. Councillor Bennett said she would speak to a local handyman. | HB |
| 18 | **Finance:**   1. Accounts for payment. 15 payments to a total of £2769.11 were approved. 2. Final Budget update for the year. This showed that the final end year balance was predicted to be £11,796 against a budget of £11,443. | Clerk |
| 19 | **Project List;** The latest Project list was approved. |  |
| 20 | **Village Events:**  The following events were notified:  21st March litter pick  22nd April Annual Village Meeting  22nd May Portable Pint |  |
| 21 | **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**  New Parish Clerk |  |
| 22 | **Dates for next meetings:**  Dates of next meetings: 22nd April (Annual Village Meeting – not a Parish Council meeting but Councillors are asked to attend if possible), 13th May Annual Parish Council Meeting (this date has changed), 24th June (approve 2019/20 accounts), 16th September, 25th November (pre-budget planning) |  |
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There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.­­