**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th May 2011 at Great Bradley Hall

**Present**:

Councillors: Rowan Sylvester-Bradley, S Kiddy, Anne Smith. Two members of the public and Clerk John Barnett.

**Open Forum:**

The Chairman explained the background and workings of the Parish Council to the members of the public who had expressed an interest in the possibility of becoming a Councillor.

The Councillors present signed their Acceptances of Office

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| **Item** |  | **Action** | |
| 1 | **Election of Chairman:**  Councillor Smith proposed Councillor Sylvester-Bradley as Chairman and Councillor Kiddy seconded the proposal. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley was duly approved and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman. |  | |
| 2 | **Election of Vice-Chairman and other Offices:**  The following Offices were filled:  Vice-Chairman - Councillor Kiddy  Footpaths - Councillor Smith  Age Concern representative - Councillor Smith said that nothing has come through from Age Concern for some time and it was agreed to drop this position. |  | |
| 3 | **Apologies for absence:**  Councillors K Joyce and K Noakes and Police |  | |
| 4 | **Councillors Declarations of Interest in any item on the agenda:**  None declared |  | |
| 5 | **Minutes of the last meeting:**  The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 16th March 2011 were approved and signed together with the cheques approved at that meeting. |  | |
| 6 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**   1. Raising of the height of the Village Sign. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that he had based his estimates on 750mm of post underground, and raising the height of the sign by about 400mm. A cheap option would be to use the existing post and add angle irons for the sign but after discussion it was decided that this would not be appropriate, that the job should be done properly and that the post should be replaced completely. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said he had a quote from a sawmill in Ipswich for £125 (inc VAT) + £70 and hoped to find a nearer supplier. Councillor Kiddy said he knew of a nearer one.  Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that the Sign supplier, H-Signs, is to quote for the complete job. It was agreed by all to set a budget of £300 for this project to expedite it and expenditure up to that sum was approved. 2. Litter pick. Councillor Smith said that the turnout had been very good and also the publicity in the local papers. St Edmundsbury Borough Council came out the following day picked up the rubbish and cleared the litter on the hill as well. 3. Transport. Councillor Smith said that the Demand Responsive Transport initiative in our area has now been supplemented by a timetabled bus service to Haverhill 3 times a day for 6 days a week. This has not been advertised at all and this Council only heard about it by chance. It is hoped to be able to obtain more information about suitability etc from users of the new service. 4. Open weekend (Sportathon) 23/24th July. Councillor Smith said that Edward Fletcher of the VHMC is dealing with this. It is possible they are considering using an outside provider to organise this. It is hoped that full information on this will be available at the AVM next week. Councillor Smith said that surprisingly she is not routinely invited to VH meetings so it is difficult to keep up with what’s happening. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said he would contact the VHMC to say that the liaison with the VHMC was obviously not working as it should and needs addressing. 5. Millennium Oak area. Charles Ryder has offered the services of Colin Potter and Stephen Steward on the layout of the Millennium Area. This may need a digger and if this is the case it was thought the opportunity could be taken to take out the existing post for the Village Sign and put the new one in at the same time. 6. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley reported from a recent meeting he had had with Charles Ryder:    1. The hedges around the Recreation Area between Clarendale and Fox green are to be replaced this coming Winter. There needs to be a letter from the PC to residents explain this and that those that currently have private entrances onto the Recreation Area should not use them once the new, young hedging plants are in place. The letter will need to be approved first by the PC.    2. Footpath seats. Charles Ryder has said that a sculpted log seat could possibly be placed by Bradley Park Wood. Councillor Smith said that was an excellent position    3. Verges being worn down on lanes. Charles Ryder has said that he is looking to put another field entrance on the main B1061 beyond Mill Farm, to reduce farm vehicles traffic in Water Lane.    4. Bonfire night. Charles Ryder needs the date as soon as possible. It was decided to ask the AVM for preferences.    5. Dog mess on the Permissive Path. There appears to be a particular owner who allows their dog to foul this path. The owner is unknown and various methods were discussed to try to discover who it is.    6. Annual Village Meeting. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that he has borrowed a 6’ screen. A small table is needed. Councillor Smith said she could get one from the village hall and also offered to bring the projector stand. | | SK  RSB  RSB  RSB  RSB  RSB  AS |
| 7 | **Highways:**   1. Councillor Smith said that there were potholes in Hall Road. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that Charles Ryder had said that Farrans will make good any damage they have made to the Highway. It was agreed to leave it until the pipeline repairs are completed to see what remains to repair. 2. The Clerk said that a company was promoting the use of 30mph stickers for use on wheelie bins. They would appear to be quite expensive at around £1 each on the purchase of smaller quantities. It was agreed to ask at the AVM whether householders would like these and whether they would use them. | Clerk | |
| 8 | **Planning applications:**  Matthews Farm Barn - erection of Cartlodge and store/studio. The Clerk reported that this application had only just come in and comments from the owner of the next door property was still awaited. It was decided to postpone this matter to a further meeting which was agreed to be the on 18th May and because it will essentially be a very quick meeting it was felt it could be held after the AVM had finished. | Clerk | |
| 9 | **Correspondence:**   1. Suffolk County Council has advised that the street lights in Great Bradley timings are to be changed to ‘part-night lighting’ where the lights will go out at midnight and will come back on at 5.30am. This change will occur over the whole County over the next year. |  | |
| 10 | **Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Project grants:**  The Clerk said that the grants available under this project did not extend to Great Bradley but that in discussion with the grants administrator it would appear that the planned project of a footpaths map for Great Bradley could be possibly given a grant from another fund to a value of around £500. The Clerk has obtained a quotation from Greenbarnes in ‘man-made timber’, who supplied the Village Hall noticeboard, for an ‘Interpretation Panel’ sized at 1046mm x 760mm at £1010 + VAT. If this grant could be secured together with a similar sum from the pipeline grant then this would cover the majority of the cost of this panel with the PC covering the artwork cost. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley asked where the panel might be situated and Councillor Smith said that Charles Ryder had indicated an agreeable site.  The Clerk asked for authority to pursue both grants for the purpose of the footpaths interpretation panel. This was agreed by all. | Clerk | |
| 11 | **Village Hall:**  Email received from Amanda Troop with the following information:  *“I appreciate peoples' concern and interest, as does the whole committee. It's a shame there is no obvious way of doing a more frequent update for the Village but I will send something to the Bugle as there is now a little more to tell...  As you know, the Hall has been dried out now for some weeks, during which time we have been making investigations into the best way to get the plumbing uprated, mended and, as far as possible, protected from any future periods of prolonged, extreme cold. The plumber is going to do this work today. I have also had to chase up builders to come and provide quotes for the new floor and the redecoration. Yesterday the second firm came and so I hope that very shortly we should have two quotes with our Loss Assessor to present to the insurance company's Loss Adjustor. I have no way of telling how long this will take but will continue to press for progress.  I asked the building firm who came yesterday how long it might take them to complete the work if given the 'go ahead' and they reckoned at least 6 weeks.  As you can see, there is no way I can give any sort of meaningful date for completion at the moment. As soon as this changes we will let the P.C know.”*  Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that he was concerned that the new hall floor should be a high quality and attractive floor as the previous one had been. |  | |
| 12 | **Suffolk Association of Local Councils:**   1. The Clerk said that with many new Councillors likely in the Parish Councils in the surrounding area he had made enquiries with Suffolk Association of Local Councils regarding the possibility of holding local training as had been organised previously. Suffolk Association of Local Councils has replied to say that they still offer this as a bespoke service. There are to be 2 new Councillors in Great Bradley and the Clerk said there are 3 in Cowlinge and Little Thurlow Clerk has indicated 2 as well. Information is still awaited from Withersfield and Great Wratting Councils. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that local training was a good idea for all local Councils and Councillors new and continuing. Clerk to continue to liaise with the other local Councils and Suffolk Association of Local Councils with regard to training modules and dates 2. Survey. The received survey from Suffolk Association of Local Councils will be completed by the Clerk | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 13 | **Finance:**   1. Section 1 of the accounts 2010/11 were approved by all to go to the internal auditor. 2. New bank mandate. This is required as one signatory did not stand again at the elections. Given the few Councillors present at this meeting it was agreed to postpone this to another meeting. 3. Accounts for payment. Councillor Smith proposed the approval of 10 cheques and 1 Direct Debit for payment to a total of £1138.75, seconded by Councillor Kiddy and all approved. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk | |
| 14 | **Project List:**  Councillor Smith asked that the re-framing of the village maps currently being held at the Offices be put on the list. This was agreed. Councillor Smith wondered if the Council should offer some nominal rent for the storage of all the items from the Village Hall. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that Charles Ryder had offered the storage space and is unlikely to require a nominal rent for it.  It was thought a good idea to mention at the AVM that the archives are now down at the Offices. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley offered to do this. | Clerk  RSB | |
| 15 | **Village Events:**  The following events were notified:   1. Annual Village meeting - May 18 2. Coffee Caravan - May 19 3. Fete - July 10 4. Sportathon July 23/24 |  | |
| 16 | **Matters for consideration at the meeting in June:**   1. Letter from the Parish Council to residents adjoining the Recreation Area regarding the new hedges 2. Millennium Oak area 3. Village Sign | Clerk | |
| 17 | **Co-option of new Parish Councillors:**  The members of the public explained that the meeting had been very interesting and that one of them would very much like to become a Councillor but that they would need to discuss which one it should be before the next meeting. |  | |
| 18 | **Dates for next meetings:**  Annual Village Meeting 18th May followed by a Parish Council meeting, 29th June (approve 2010/11 accounts to meet the audit deadline of 30th June). The next date of 21 September was also agreed. |  | |

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and Mrs Ryder for stepping in at such short notice with such a pleasant venue and declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm