**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th March 2013 at the Village Hall

**Present**:

Councillors: Simon Kiddy (Chairman), Karina Joyce, Anne Smith, Sue Willington. Also present Clerk John Barnett. Mike Parsons was co-opted onto the Council at the beginning of the meeting.

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| **Item** |  | **Action** | |
| 1 | **Co-option of Parish Councillor:**  Mike Parsons offered his services again as Parish Councillor. He was unanimously approved and duly co-opted onto the Council. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took a copy of the Register of Member’s interests which has to be returned to the Clerk who needs to forward a copy to the Monitoring Officer at St Edmundsbury Borough Council within 28 days. | MP/Clerk | |
| 2 | **Apologies for absence:**  Police and Jane Midwood |  | |
| 3 | **Councillors Declarations of Interest in any item on the agenda:**  There were no declarations of interest. |  | |
| 4 | **Minutes of the last meeting:**  The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council on 16th January 2013 were approved and signed together with the cheques approved at that meeting. |  | |
| 5 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**   1. Coronation seat. Clerk said that he had to provide the insurers with 2 quotes for the seat and installation and garden repairs/renewals. He had several quotes for replacement seats but only one for the garden re-instatement from a local contractor and now needed a second quote. It was suggested that Pro-scape be contacted for this as they had done work on the garden previously. 2. Village Garden area and Millennium Oak area. Councillor Smith said there had been an on-site meeting with herself, Councillor Joyce, Charles Ryder and the Clerk to discuss the future of the garden and Millennium Oak areas. Charles Ryder said that he really didn’t want anything else in the Millennium area other than the new seat which would go well there and should sit on a concrete slab. In any event the whole area would be unsuitable as a replacement ‘garden’ for plants/shrubs due to the Millennium Oak tree which is already a good size and which would create too much shade for anything other than some naturalised bulbs. He proposed to reduce the height of the hedge looking down towards the river and remove the Sycamores in the ditch hedge. He would wish to retain the roadside hedge to maintain a virtual enclosed area.  There was agreement on-site at this approach.  The garden was discussed at the on-site meeting and it was felt that perhaps the current approach was too ‘urban’ and that more appropriate ‘country’ shrubs could be introduced in the revamp now necessary after the demolition of the area by the car. Use could be made of traditional shrubs native to the area with suggestions such as Guelder Rose and Spindle.  The Parish Council agreed with all these suggestions for the Millennium area and Garden area but Councillor Kiddy said that the Council should wait until any insurance payment is forthcoming before going ahead. 3. Interpretation Panel. Clerk said that the leaflets holder has been delivered. Councillor Joyce produced copies of the latest mock-up. It was agreed to increase the size of the map to 2 columns and move the landscape column to the inside and merge some of the wildlife columns. Clerk said he would try to source some waterproof paper to print the leaflets on. 4. Litter pick. Reminder to everyone of the litter pick date of 23rd March | | Clerk  KJ  Clerk |
| 6 | **Suffolk Police:**  No report |  | |
| 7 | **Highways:**  A pothole was reported at Evergreen exit. The flood on the road outside Bluebell Cottage was raised. The Clerk said he had spoken to the householders about this. Highways had jetted the drain very recently and cleared the blockage (which was reported to be a can) but it has already blocked again. The householder is engaged again with the authorities to clear it again. Their fence is suffering from the constant spray being thrown over it from passing vehicles. Councillor Willington asked the Clerk to also report the problem to give assistance to the householders. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 8 | **Planning applications:**  None |  | |
| 9 | **Correspondence:**   1. Home Security - information and advice evening at Clare Town Hall 20th March. Clerk said there would be a large number of security companies there together with the Fire Service, Crime Reduction Officers, Police and new Police Commissioner. 2. Coffee Caravan. A new schedule has been agreed of 18 April 2-4pm,  20 June 10-12noon, 22 August 2-4pm. 3. Community Support and Funding Roadshow Wickhambrook 17 April. Clerk said he would attend this as he was seeking further grant aid for projects. 4. Suffolk ACRE. Clerk reported that a new vehicle for a number of voluntary groups ‘Community in Action’ had been formed and that Suffolk ACRE was now part of that. He was concerned that their assistance would now be diluted and that in any event the Parish Council perhaps no longer benefited from being a member as they no longer use them for insurance and funding opportunities information was now being given by St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Suffolk Association of Local Councils. The one remaining relevant area of expertise is in village hall information and provided Great Bradley Village Hall Committee is a separate member then there is no longer any need for that. Clerk to find out if the Village Hall is still a member and report to the next meeting. 5. Letter received regarding farm traffic coming past Clarendale entrance. There was a recent incident where a trailer side-holding pin failed which resulted in damage to railings. The householder was requesting that a different priority system be requested by the Parish Council to give priority to those exiting from Clarendale. There was a considerable discussion on this but information was given that there used to be a white line across the entrance to Clarendale clearly indicating Matthews Lane priority. The Council felt that to change the priority there would be difficult whereas to reinstate the white line across the Clarendale entrance should be relatively simple. This would indicate to all road users and pedestrians that they should approach the junction from Clarendale with care. Clerk suggested trying to have all the ‘SLOWS’ painted on the roads in the village that have disappeared through wear and tear/resurfacing replaced at the same time. This was agreed. Clerk to make enquiries on the exact areas in the village where these markings were. Clerk to contact the householder with the decision of the Council. 6. Mobile Library. Clerk said he had come across the library by chance one day and went in to talk to the librarian. It would appear the service is not used. The librarian said that, since there had recently been a major review of the service and a stop at Great Bradley had been retained, the service to the village is likely to remain for a while. However the Council were concerned that may not continue if no-one uses it. An article is to go in the Bugle and it is to be put on the AVM agenda to remind/inform people. 7. A householder had reported a possible danger to the public of a house nameplate beside a pavement. The Council considered the risks at that location to be exceedingly low and decided it was not something the Council should become involved with. 8. Clerk reported he had attended the Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting the previous evening and the latest priorities for the Police had been set at burglaries and speeding in various villages. 9. Clerk reported that the Community Speedwatch team (which consists of members from Great Bradley and Cowlinge) was shortly to take possession of a portable Vehicle Activated Display Sign (VAS) in partnership with other teams nearby, most likely Hundon and Cavendish. The Clerk had been around the village with the Highways representative in charge of distributing these signs and agreed suitable sited where it could be deployed. The village would have the sign on a rolling 2-3 week basis the frequency of which would depend upon the eventual number of other teams we are involved with. 10. Councillor Willington said that the mirror in the hedge on The Street was broken and leaning across the pavement causing an obstruction. It needs moving back and securing better. Councillor Kiddy said that perhaps in this instance a personal chat with the owner might be best. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk | |
| 10 | **Dog fouling:**  Dog fouling. Clerk said that he had received another email from a householder complaining about the amount of fouling on the Recreation Area. Clerk said that a recent TV programme ‘Litter Wars’ had shown an individual had had great success with a combination of literally flagging up individually all foul piles on a footpath together with providing free bags and notices explain why people should clear up and dangers to children etc. She had reduced the fouling in 6 months from 75 piles to just 6. Clerk said flags could not be used on the Recreation Area as it would be a danger to users but that other people/Councils had used a vivid spray paint to do the same job. The Council agreed that this should be tried and flags could be used on the Permissive Path if everyone agreed. | Clerk | |
| 11 | **Annual Village Meeting:**  A draft agenda was produced by the Clerk. Councillor Willington said she would prefer the meeting to be less formal - it should be more of a quick reminder and thank you to everyone. There was general agreement that the meetings in the past had been too long and there was a definite need to shorten it. The PC presentation particularly should be considerably curtailed and there were too many charts. Perhaps handouts for everyone to take away with the more detailed information on would help solve the problem. A finish time of 9pm should be strictly adhered to.  Clerk said that Suffolk Association of Local Councils had suggested the avoidance of a ‘them and us’ or ‘talking to’ situation. It was the meeting for the whole village and everyone should feel welcome and able to speak. As part of this they suggest that the chairs be set out in an oval (rather than rows) so that people can talk directly to one another rather than being talked ‘to’.  The projector and position of the screen might make that a challenge but Councillor Kiddy suggested perhaps a ‘horseshoe’ shape might solve the problem. In any event if the number of charts is to be curtailed then the use of the projector may not be so important. |  | |
| 12 | **Computer courses:**  Clerk said that the second course was now virtually complete and both morning and afternoon sessions had been completely filled. The third course will start in April and, assuming the same numbers of students, the grant money should just about cover it perfectly. The WEA has apparently been impressed with the popularity of these courses and the availability of broadband in Great Bradley Village Hall so that there is a possibility that they will also run a follow on computer course here in June/July. Clerk said that the tutor has been able to upgrade the PC/Village Hall laptop from Windows Vista to Windows 8 for just £14.99 and has also purchased a protective case that it was lacking. |  | |
| 13 | **Recreation Area:**  Councillor Smith said that the Bee Orchids are growing again and need roping off including a new area where they have appeared also. Clerk will speak to Charles Ryder about the roping off. | Clerk | |
| 14 | **Finance:**   1. Projected end of year budget. Clerk went through the projected end of year situation against the budget. There is a deficit of £493 against a budgeted surplus of £453. There is some carry-over of items not completed from this year - computer courses and Panel leaflets. Given the very successful Jubilee celebrations which had been a much larger event than originally budgeted for the end of year balance in hand is still satisfactory. 2. Accounts for payment. The proposal to make 11 payments to a total of £1891.33 was approved by all. | Clerk | |
| 15 | **Project List:**  The Project List was updated and agreed. |  | |
| 16 | **Village Events notified:**   1. 23rd March - Litter Pick start at the Village Hall at 10am refreshments after. 2. 18th April - Coffee Caravan at the Village Hall 2pm - 4pm 3. 27th April - Bluebell Walk 10am Great Bradley Hall barn 4. 20th June - Coffee Caravan 10am - 12noon 5. 7th June - Presentation on the plans for the old RAF Stradishall area from Charles Ryder, Wildlife Trust, Lark Energy and others. Village Hall 6. 8th June - Farm Walk 4pm Great Bradley Hall barn 7. 22nd August Coffee Caravan 2pm - 4pm 8. September (date to be finalised) visit to the old RAF Stradishall airfield |  | |
| 18 | **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**   1. Coronation seat - insurance update | Clerk | |
| 19 | **Dates for next meetings:**  The next meeting dates are: 10th April (Annual Village Meeting), 15th May (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council) and 26th June (final date for approval of the 2012/13 accounts).  A further date of 18th September was agreed. | Clerk | |

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm